

Hi folks,

I can't believe how fast this year has flown by. Is it really August? We've all been so busy since the flood gates opened and released the backlog of work that was delayed by the Pandemic. In addition to that, YAF and NAC have been busy as usual. Let's start with the National level where I have three things to report.

First, with the "So you Want to be a Citizen Architect?" webinar in the books, our YAF Advocacy group is focusing our efforts on the next webinar: ["So you want to Design for All?"](#) This webinar takes place **August 13th, 2021 2:30pm – 4:00pm EST** and will focus on what it means to foster a work environment or organization that makes its members feel like they belong. Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion are four important pillars that support an environment for all to thrive. This webinar will touch on all four of those topics and much more. The event is free to AIA members so if you want to sign up, click on the link below. Just make sure you sign up prior to the start of the event even if you plan on watching the recording after the 13th. If you sign up afterward, it will no longer be free to members.

Second, AIA recently voted to dissolve the current regions-based structure for both YAF and NAC regional directors. This results in no direct change for Michigan since we were already a single state region. But it will affect the members that serve either multiple states or portion of a state. More to come on this.

Third, Q2 of Connections has been published for all to view. This issue covers topics like Mentorship, Citizen Architects & 2021 Awards. For access to this issue, please click the link below.

[AIA YAF Connection 19.Q2 – Mentorship, Citizen Architects & 2021 Awards by AIA Young Architects Forum – issue](#)

Finally, I don't know about you, but I'm ready for some golf course walk'n and front porch rock'n. In other words, AIA Mid Summer Conference is upon us! Whether it's the new renovations, or the vacation hours that have been saved up over the past year, something is driving quite the crowd to this year's event. Last year was a success and I can't wait to see everyone in person to do it again this year. There is much to discuss this year, so I hope to see you there.

In closing, if I don't see you on the island, hopefully I'll see you at The Design Retreat in September. Whatever your plans are, please stay safe and enjoy what's left of your Summer.

Till next time,  
Jonathon

Jonathon Jackson AIA, CDT  
Project Architect  
Ghafari Associates LLC

**The American Institute of Architects**

AIA Michigan  
4219 Woodward Ave.  
Suite 205  
Detroit, MI 48201

T (313) 965-4100

[\*\*www.aiami.com\*\*](http://www.aiami.com)