



January 1, 2024

Happy New Year! I hope everyone has had a wonderful break and is looking forward to a fulfilling and prosperous 2024.

As we enter the new year, I would like to express my gratitude to our leadership team throughout 2023. Our President, Mark Trier, FAIA, and our past-president, Rob Deal, AIA, have played a crucial role in positioning us strongly today. I would also like to acknowledge the exceptional contributions made by our Executive Director, Kelly Ives, AIA, and the AIA Kentucky Outreach Director, Casey Satterly, AIA. Their hard work is truly commendable. Furthermore, I extend my thanks to all the AIA Kentucky members who selflessly volunteer their time to enhance our organization. Through their leadership in committees, event organization, and innovative ideas, they continuously add value to our AIA Kentucky members and the community.

We have some exciting events to look forward to this year. The Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C., opening of the Gray Design Building, the first graduating class of Kentucky's Christopher Kelly Leadership Development Program, the Aspire Conference in Asheville and so much more! I eagerly welcome the chance to strengthen our bond as an organization and contribute to the growth of AIA KY.

The board will be touring the state once again this year, so I hope as many members attend our meetings and social events as possible. Advocacy will be at the forefront as we engage with legislators in Frankfort and Washington. Educational programs will continue to provide an avenue for growth and advancement. Our financial investments will feed a new generation of Architects as we develop a system of scholarships.

In summary, I am deeply grateful and privileged to serve as President for AIA Kentucky, and I warmly invite feedback and suggestions. With the unwavering support of our members, I am confident that 2024 will be an extraordinary chapter for AIA Kentucky!

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ben Barlage".

Ben Barlage, AIA, LEED AP

2024 AIA Kentucky President