



2025 ANNUAL MEETING

**2025 BOARD**

**Officers**

Melinda Joseph-Dezarn, AIA  
*President*

Chris Bowling, AIA  
*Vice President/Pres-elect*

Tina Ash, Assoc. AIA  
*Treasurer*

Eric Zabilka, AIA  
*Secretary*

Ben D. Barlage, AIA  
*Past President*

**Directors**

George Donkor, AIA

Joe Dye, AIA

Elisabeth Hunt, AIA

Senait Kassa, AIA

Brittany Leneave, AIA

Dave Marchal, AIA

Dave Mayo, AIA

Arein Natour, Assoc. AIA

Alex Short, Assoc. AIA

Garlan Vanhook, AIA

Michael Wolff, AIA

**Staff & Consultants**

Kelly E. Ives, AIA, CAE  
*Executive Vice President*

Josh Ives, AIA  
*Outreach Coordinator*

Greg Brotzge  
*Lobbyist*

Andrew Brotzge  
*Lobbyist*



## AGENDA

### 2025 AIA Kentucky Annual Meeting

October 24, 2025

Zoom Meeting ID 899 2190 0001; Passcode 712157

- I. ANTI-TRUST COMPLIANCE STATEMENT  
"It is the practice of The American Institute of Architects and its members to comply strictly with all laws, including federal and state antitrust laws, which apply to AIA operations and activities. Accordingly, this meeting will be conducted in full compliance with those laws."
- II. MINUTES
  - a. 2024 Annual Meeting
- III. TREASURER'S REPORT (TA)
  - a. 2024 Year-End Accountant's Review
- IV. SECRETARY'S REPORT (EZ)
  - a. Membership Status Report
- V. PRESIDENT'S REPORT (MJD)
  - a. Election of 2026 Officers
  - b. Appointment of 2026 Northern KY Section Director
  - c. Appointment of 2026 Young Architect Director
  - d. Appointment of 2026-28 Strategic Council Representative
  - e. 2026 Dues Adjustment
  - f. State of the Chapter / 2025 Key Achievements
- VI. PRESIDENT-ELECT'S 2026 FORECAST (CB)
  - a. Member Value – Megan McCombs, AIA
  - b. Legislative/Advocacy – Eric Steva, AIA
  - c. Career Development – Kyle Spurgeon, AIA
  - d. Outreach & Community Engagement
  - e. Member Q&A
- VII. NATIONAL DIRECTORS' REPORTS
  - a. AIA Strategic Council – Richard Polk, AIA, Megan Stone, AIA
  - b. AIA Small Firm Exchange (SFx) – Craig Chamberlain, AIA
  - c. Young Architects Forum – George Donkor and Jessica Farmer
  - d. National Associates Committee – Arein Natour, Assoc. AIA
- VIII. OLD BUSINESS
- IX. NEW BUSINESS
- X. ADJOURNMENT

MINUTES  
2024 AIA Kentucky Annual Meeting  
October 25, 2024  
Teleconference Via Zoom Meeting Software

The meeting was called to order at 11:32 AM by President Ben Barlage, AIA. Approximately 20 members were in attendance. A quorum was present.

#### ANTI-TRUST COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

Mr. Barlage acknowledged that the meeting would be conducted in compliance with the chapter's Anti-trust Compliance Statement: "It is the practice of The American Institute of Architects and its members to comply strictly with all laws, including federal and state antitrust laws, which apply to AIA operations and activities. Accordingly, this meeting will be conducted in full compliance with those laws."

#### 2023 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Motion made by Elisabeth Hunt, AIA to accept the 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes, and seconded by Melinda Joseph-Dezarn, AIA. Motion passed.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Chris Bowling, AIA, reviewed the Treasurer's report for the two years ending December 31, 2023 representing final numbers reviewed by an independent accountant. Chris explained items that varied between 2022 and 2023 and reported that the chapter is financially strong.

Mr. Bowling noted that AIA Kentucky has been conservative in the last couple of years and is good financial standing. He reviewed the balance sheet and shared that AIA Kentucky has more than 75% of operating expenses in reserve, in accordance with the chapter's reserve policy. He also noted the accounts that are savings dedicated for the East Kentucky Section.

Elisabeth Hunt made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Melinda Joseph-Dezarn seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT

Tina Ash, Assoc. AIA reviewed the Membership Report. The membership as of October 15, 2024 is 719 members, a net gain of 14 members since our last Annual Meeting in October of 2023. Membership has grown approximately 25% aggregate since 2013. Numbers are broken down by chapter and section as follows: CKC-304 EKC-376, NKY-39. Emeritus membership is 9% of total. About 27% of members are Associates, and 23% of membership is female (a 1% increase over the previous year).

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ben Barlage, AIA reviewed the following items for 2024, including action items requiring quorum review and/or approval for implementation:

##### Report on Election of 2025 Officers:

President – Melinda Joseph-Dezarn, AIA  
President-Elect – Chris Bowling, AIA  
Treasurer – Tina Ash, Assoc. AIA  
Secretary – Eric Zabilka, AIA  
Past President – Ben Barlage, AIA

166 votes were cast, which is a relatively average response for AIA KY. Voting by the members has closed and the slate has been accepted by the board of directors.

Motion made by Brittany Leneave to accept the Election results, seconded by Dave Marchal. Motion passed.

The Board of Directors has appointed Michael Wolff, AIA to serve as the Northern Kentucky Section's Director for 2025. No action required.

The 2025-26 Associate Director will be Arein Natour, Assoc. AIA. No action required.

Richard Polk, AIA will again serve as the State Director to serve on AIA Strategic Council.

George Donkor, AIA was appointed last year to a 2-year term as Young Architects Representative to serve on AIA Young Architects Forum for 2024-25.

2025 Dues adjustment: Bylaws Section 3.02, Amount of Annual Membership Dues and Emeritus Fees – allows for automatic increase annually in dues in the amount equivalent to the consumer price index as of May 31 of the current year, but not more than 5%. Per the Department of Labor's reports, there was a 3.3% increase in the cost-of-living between May 2023 and May 2024. The Board of Directors took no action and therefore this increase will automatically go into effect for the 2025 membership year.

Local chapter dues are unchanged for 2025.

#### 2024 Highlights - Key Achievements:

##### Member Communications & Support

- NEW in 2024 – Member Firm access to Legal Help Line through subscription
- Monthly E-newsletters
- Oversight of Association Health Plan through KY Construction Industry Trust
- AIA IN/KY Fellowship mentorship committee – 1 new FAIA in 2024 and 2 KY applicants for 2025
- Maintaining postings through AIA KY Job Board
- Maintain growth and support of Allied Membership program
- Maintaining website links to the UK and Filson Historical Society Archival Departments for members desiring to create their paper/digital/oral legacy.

##### Continuing Education & Career Development – 25+ LU's | 11.5 HSW

- Rehabilitating Historic Buildings w/ State/Federal Tax Credit Incentives, Jan. 18
- Site Visit Guidelines for Managing Risk, April 10
- US Capitol Dome Project Tour in Washington D.C., June 6
- AIA KY/HBC/CAAK Code Workshop on Accessibility/Usability + Means of Egress
- AIA Aspire Conference in Asheville – September 15-17
- Artificial Intelligence in Design & Construction – coming December 18
- Awarded 2 rounds of ARE grants for a total of \$4,000
- Launched a second class for the Christopher Kelley Leadership Development Program!

##### Advocacy – Regulatory & Legislative

- AIA Leadership Summit in Washington DC – advocated legislation regarding tax credits, professional fees, and GSA design standards
- Coordinating with DHBC on review and possible adoption of the 2024 IBC
- AIA KY Legislative Day held February 15 – Jointly hosted by IIDA KY | OH
  - Lobbied to require regular review of the Kentucky Commercial Building Code
  - HB 256 – on the construction of stronger homes was signed into law (Supported)
  - HB 34 - to allow universal recognition of occupational licenses and government certifications was not heard in committee (Opposed)
  - HB 296 – dealing with temporary structures was amended with language provided by AIA Kentucky and died in committee. AIA Kentucky was not in favor of its passage.

- **HB 727** – extended sunset of the two-year moratorium on mandatory plan review by the Department of Education from HB 678 (2022). During this time, the Department will continue efforts to update/streamline its procedures.

#### Committee Activity

- Committee on Architecture for Education – Chaired by Steven Ward, AIA
- Building Codes Committee – Reviewing 2024 IBC for HBC Code Task Force
- Disaster Preparedness Committee, Chaired by David Marchal, AIA – developed op-ed on disaster preparedness for select media outlets
- AIA Small Firm Exchange – KY rep Jim Guthrie, AIA
- Hosted annual Summer Social including Golf and Corn Hole Tournament on May 13
- Membership Value Pillar Group launched new Equitable Firm Award

#### UK College of Design Engagement

- Applications for FREE AIA membership provided to all graduates
- Annual Presentation to ARC 642 at the UK College of Design
- 5-year pledge to name the Student Organization Seminar in new Gray Design Building
- Continued funding for annual AIA KY and Janet Pike scholarships
- Annual stipends for AIAS
- Volunteer support for CoD's Mentorship by Design program
- Regular meetings between ExCom and CoD Dean/ SoA Director

#### Governance/Operations/Administration

- 5th Annual Virtual Membership Meeting
- KY Directors attended AIA Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C.
- A '24 Conference on Architecture in Washington, D.C.
- CACE Annual Meeting in Minneapolis
- Finance & Investment Committee overseeing Chapter Reserve Portfolio
- Continued MOU between AIA KY and Local Components
- Helps ensure delivery of Core Member Services
- Administrative support for local components (80-100 hours/yr)

#### Community Outreach & Engagement

- New in 2024 - Developing traveling exhibit of 2024 Design Award Submissions
- New in 2024 – Kentucky Architecture Foundation (KAF)
- Membership Directory & Firm Profile
- Business First of Louisville Ad Pages 5 x year – supported by KY firms
- Annual contribution to Governor's School for the Arts
- Awards Programs:
  - 11 Design Awards recipients
    - 7 Service Awards recipients
    - Publication mailed to members statewide
    - 4-page spread in Louisville Business First

#### **PRESIDENT-ELECT'S REPORT**

Melinda Joseph-Dezarn, AIA, President-elect thanked Ben Barlage, AIA for his leadership as President and expressed her intent to maintain the momentum gained in the last year. Goals for 2025 include renewal of the chapter's strategic plan, increased engagement in advocacy and outreach, increased support for the Political Action Committee, and strong representation at the national AIA conference in Boston.

#### Pillar: Member Value and Engagement

Goal Champion: Megan McCombs, AIA

Megan McCombs reported that the Equitable Firm Award was launched earlier this year, and the first recipient was Schmidt Associated. RossTarrant and Hub + Weber were noted as runners up, and Megan expressed a desire to highlight each of these firms' stories.

Megan also shared that a small committee is working with CGI digital to develop some promotional video content for the website, which is hoped to be complete in early December. The video topics of 'Discover AIA,' 'Why Join,' and 'The Power of Architects' are designed to showcase a more relatable and approachable side of the organization.

#### Pillar: Advocacy and the Voice of Architecture

Goal Champion: Eric Steva AIA

Eric Steva was not present, so Kelly Ives reported on his behalf. She noted that the Legislative Committee is working to develop the legislative agenda for 2025 and was scheduled to meet with the Associated General Contractors legislative committee next week. She also shared that the Political Action Committee is seeking two new board members – a Vice Chair and an Assistant Treasurer for 2025.

#### Pillar: Career Success and Professional Development

Young Architects Director: George Donkor, AIA

Associate Director: Libby Lamb, Assoc. AIA

Mr. Donkor reported that he began his term in January by attending the joint annual meeting of the Young Architects Forum and the National Associates Committee. At that meeting, his passion for reaching K-12 students was reignited and he focused a lot on student outreach this year – especially during Architecture Week in April when he visited local elementary schools in Lexington. George also held a meet and greet for Lexington Emerging Professionals in the spring and hopes to follow-up with/engage several of the members who attended.

George also shared that he and Libby are in the early stages of researching and developing a proposal for a Kentucky Architectural Mentorship Program (KAMP), and Ben Barlage commended Mark Trier for his leadership in the planning of this year's Aspire Conference.

#### Pillar: Community Outreach & Community Engagement

Goal Champion: David Marchal, AIA

Dave Marchal noted that he sees opportunities for realignment as AIA Kentucky renews its strategic plan in 2025. He shared that the Outreach Pillar conducted a survey to assess what AIA KY members are already doing within their own communities and they found that there needs to be more outreach in the rural areas of Kentucky.

put a lot of emphasis on engagement with the UK College of Design this year and reported that there are joint programs planned to take place in Louisville and East Kentucky (Hindman) this fall. There are also hopes to hold a program in Western Kentucky in the Spring.

In addition, this pillar group discussed the need for increased engagement with community leadership around climate action and disaster preparedness. As a result, the committee developed a white paper about how the AIA can be a resource to communities.

#### **NATIONAL DIRECTORS' REPORTS**

##### AIA Strategic Council – Richard Polk, AIA

Mr. Polk gave an overview of the Strategic Council's purpose, goals, and the structure of its various workgroups. Richard has been serving on a group dedicated to studying strategies for water conservation. Recent highlights include the SC's election of three new at-large directors on the AIA Board in September, and the publication of AIA's most recent demographics report, which illustrates slow but steady growth of diversity and equity within the profession.

2025 will be Richard's final year on the council so AIA KY will need to recruit and appoint his successor. He plans to increase his engagement with our local components during the final year of his term in 2025.

##### Young Architects Forum (YAF) – Geroge Donkor, AIA

Mr. Donkor shared an overview of the YAF's 3 priority areas.

KENTUCKY SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS,  
THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, INC.  
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
DECEMBER 31, 2024 and 2023

ACCOUNTANT REVIEW #'S;  
2025 WILL BE ADDED UPON  
COMPLETION OF THE YEAR  
AND RESULTANT REVIEW

**ASSETS**

	2024	2023
<b>Current assets:</b>		
Cash - Central Bank - checking	\$ 230,181	\$ 190,928
Cash - Central Bank - savings	30,429	31,793
Cash - Central Bank money market	78,846	76,407
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>339,456</u>	<u>299,128</u>
Certificate of deposit	26,118	25,000
Investment portfolio	145,325	132,901
Prepaid income taxes	11	-
Accounts receivable	-	7,882
Total current assets	<u>510,910</u>	<u>464,911</u>
<b>Fixed assets:</b>		
Furniture and office equipment	6,223	6,223
Less: accumulated depreciation	<u>(6,223)</u>	<u>(6,223)</u>
Net fixed assets	-	-
Total assets	<u>\$ 510,910</u>	<u>\$ 464,911</u>

**LIABILITIES AND  
NET ASSETS**

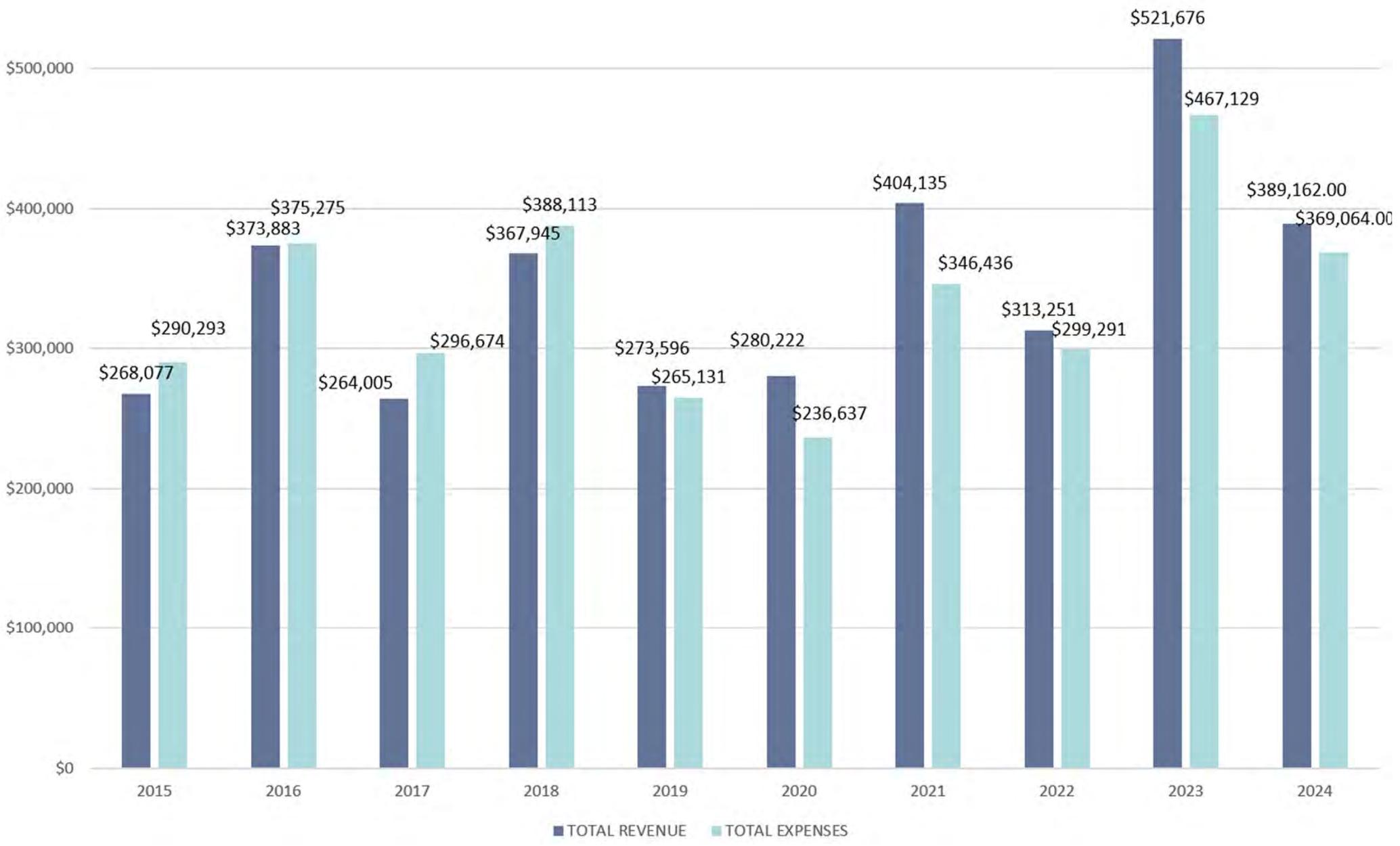
<b>Current liabilities:</b>		
Accounts payable	\$ 5,529	\$ 621
Dues received in advance	<u>64,823</u>	<u>43,829</u>
Total current liabilities	<u>70,352</u>	<u>44,450</u>
<b>Net assets:</b>		
Without donor restrictions	<u>440,558</u>	<u>420,461</u>
Total liabilities and unrestricted net assets	<u>\$ 510,910</u>	<u>\$ 464,911</u>

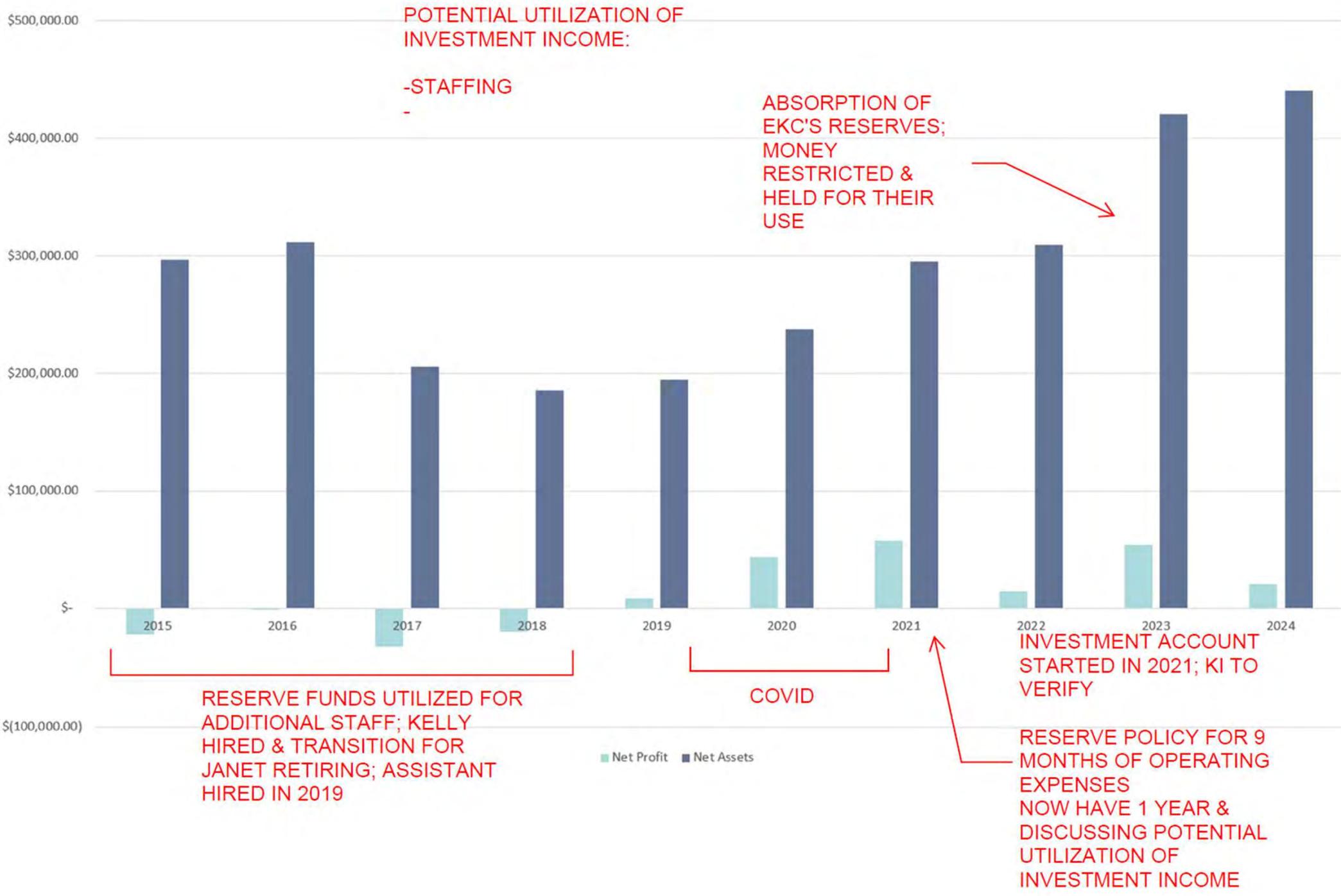
The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

KENTUCKY SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS,  
THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, INC.  
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024 and 2023

	2024	2023
<b>Support and revenue: (Schedule I)</b>		
Dues	\$ 197,185	\$ 217,592
Meetings	21,555	23,289
Grant	1,500	1,500
Programs	70,052	55,772
Convention	12,531	146,957
Interest	3,049	450
Dividends	746	-
Realized gain / loss on investments	937	-
Unrealized gain / loss on investments	10,463	11,053
Other income	<u>71,144</u>	<u>65,063</u>
Total support and revenue	<u>389,162</u>	<u>521,676</u>
<b>Expenses: (Schedule II)</b>		
Executive office overhead	149,140	148,051
Executive office expense	12,209	13,592
Officers' expenses	10,929	6,883
Meetings	30,720	34,465
Programs	67,339	50,691
Convention	3,988	123,395
Legislative and lobbyist	31,584	31,311
Committees	16,263	9,616
Other expense	<u>46,892</u>	<u>49,125</u>
Total expenses	<u>369,064</u>	<u>467,129</u>
Change in net assets	20,098	54,547
Net assets without donor restrictions, beginning of year	364,499	309,953
Net assets without donor restrictions from AIA Northern Kentucky	866	866
Net assets without donor restrictions from AIA Eastern Kentucky	<u>55,095</u>	<u>55,095</u>
Net assets without donor restrictions, end of year	<u>\$ 440,558</u>	<u>\$ 420,461</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.



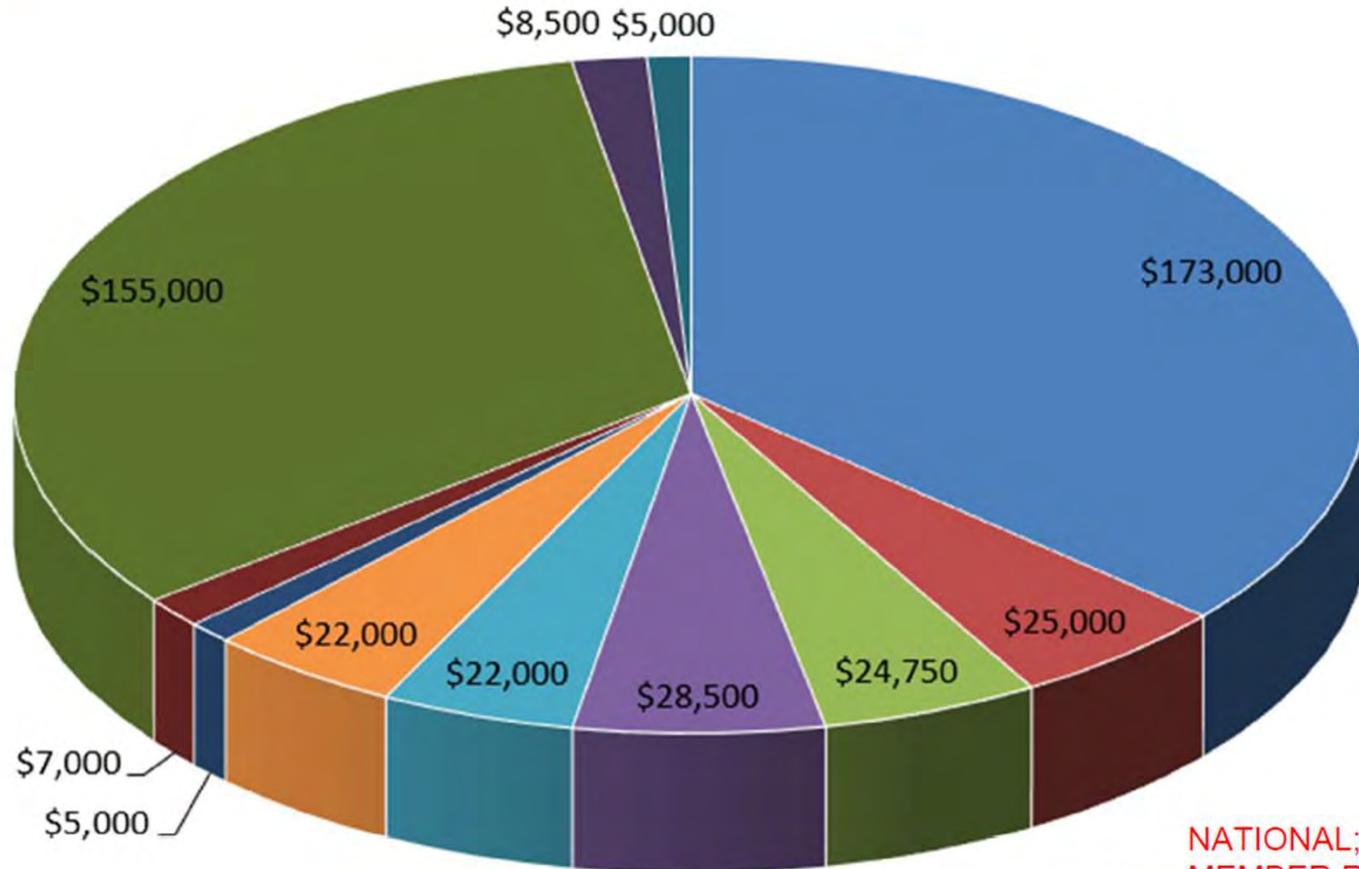


PROJECTED BUDGET

2025 REVENUE BY CATEGORY

POTENTIAL WAYS TO INCREASE INCOME:

-ANNUAL CONVENTION



MEMBER DUES INCOME

CHRISTOPHER KELLEY PROGRAM

CONVENTION INCOME

ALLIED DUES INCOME

GOLF & SUMMER SOCIAL

INSURANCE PROGRAM FEES

AIA REVENUE SHARING

HONOR AWARDS INCOME

OTHER - Ads, Grants & Bookkeeping

CE PROGRAMS

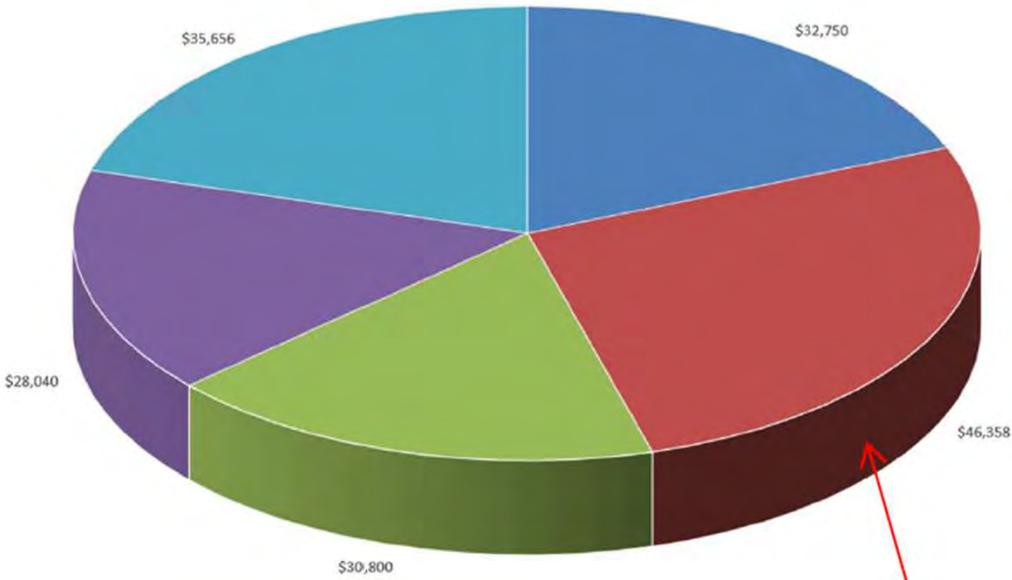
INVESTMENTS & INTEREST

NATIONAL; NOW FLAT PER MEMBER RATE; QUARTERLY INSTALLMENTS

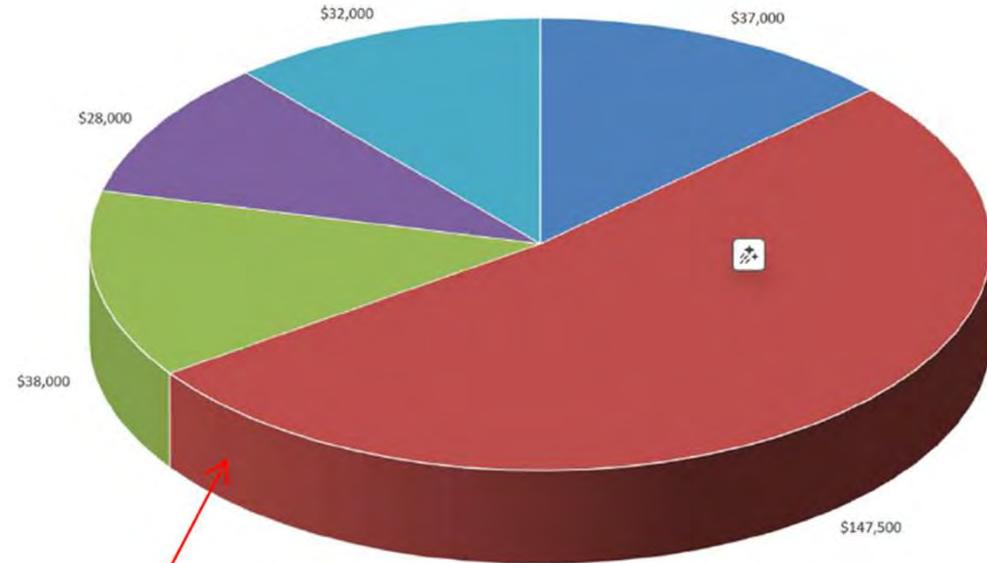
POTENTIAL TO INCREASE PER STRATEGIC PLANNING

POTENTIAL TO HOST ANNUAL PER STRATEGIC PLANNING

2024 Expenses by Pillar



2025 Expenses by Pillar



- ADVOCACY: Lobbyist, Legislative Committee Expenses
- CAREER SUCCESS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Scholarships, ARE Grants, EPs, CE Seminars, Convention, CKLDP
- COMMUNITY OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT: Honor Awards, AIAS, REYNOLD's BLDG, GSA, KET
- MEMBER VALUE: Lottery, LegalLine, Mtgs & Parties, Golf, Directory, Newsletters, etc.
- ASSOC STRENGTH & LEADERSHIP: Officer Funds, Committees, Staff Development, Accounting & Legal

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HOST YEAR FOR BI-ANNUAL CONVENTION DRIVING THE DIFFERENCE

POTENTIAL TO UTILIZE INVESTMENT INCOME TO FURTHER PURPOSE/GOALS PER STRATEGIC PLANNING

**AIA Kentucky 2025 Annual Meeting  
Membership Report  
as of October 8, 2025**

HISTORY	1/2/2013	1/2/2014	1/5/2015	1/1/2016	1/1/2017	1/1/2018	1/1/2019	1/1/2020	1/1/2021	1/1/2022	1/1/2023	1/1/2024	1/1/2025	10/8/2025
Central	262	275	266	284	289	302	317	310	313	306	293	311	310	305
East	274	276	275	282	298	308	304	303	303	326	342	365	383	381
Northern	41	40	39	37	38	39	42	42	42	48	40	46	41	37
<b>AIA KY</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>663</b>	<b>655</b>	<b>658</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>675</b>	<b>722</b>	<b>734</b>	<b>723</b>

**2025 Allied Members**

	Dues	Number	AIAKY Dues	Local Share
Benefactors	\$ 1,500.00	*10	\$ 9,450.00	\$4,000.00
Sponsors	\$ 750.00	**28	\$ 14,850.00	\$5,400.00
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>38</b>	<b>\$ 24,300.00</b>	<b>\$ 9,400.00</b>

\*one in-kind

\*\*one in-kind, plus 3 discounted packages

compared to 2024                      38 \$ 25,300.00 \$ 9,200.00

compared to 2023                      38 \$ 25,300.00 \$ 9,200.00

	Assoc.	Arch.	EM	
<b>Members by Chapter 10/8/2025</b>				
CKC	62	216	27	305
EKC	135	214	32	381
NKC	6	21	10	37
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>723</b>
	28.0%	62.0%	10.0%	
<b>Members by Gender 10/8/2025</b>				
Male	100	333	64	497
Female	62	96	3	161
Unknown	43	22	0	65
	205	451	67	723

	2025	2024	2023	2022
Male	69%	70%	73%	75%
Female	22%	23%	22%	21%
Unknown	9%	7%	5%	4%

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT



**Melinda Joseph-Dezarn, AIA  
2025 President**

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## ELECTION - 2026 SLATE OF OFFICERS

- Action Requested: Ratification of Election Results
- 141 votes cast (of 723 eligible)
  
- *Past-President: Melinda Joseph-Dezarn, AIA  
Fayette County Public Schools, Lexington*
  
- *President: Chris Bowling, AIA  
GBBN, Louisville  
(elected on last year's ballot)*
  
- President-Elect : Tina Ash, Assoc. AIA  
Champlin | EOP, Lexington
  
- Treasurer : Eric Zabilka, AIA  
Omni Architects, Lexington
  
- Secretary: Dana Zausch, AIA  
Lockett & Farley, Louisville

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## 2026 BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

- Northern KY Section Director, 1-Year (2026):  
**Ben D. Barlage, AIA**
- State/Territory Associates Representative (STAR), 2025-26:  
**Arein Natour, Assoc. AIA**
- Young Architects Representative, 2026-27:  
**Jessica Farmer, AIA**
- State Director to serve on AIA Strategic Council, 2026-28:  
**Megan Stone, AIA**

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 2026 DUES

## LOCAL CHAPTER DUES - NO INCREASE FOR 2026

Architects - \$63  
Associates - \$37

## AIA KENTUCKY DUES – Board Voted August 26, NO INCREASE FOR 2026\*

Architects - \$286  
Associates - \$101

## NATIONAL DUES - INCREASE FOR 2026

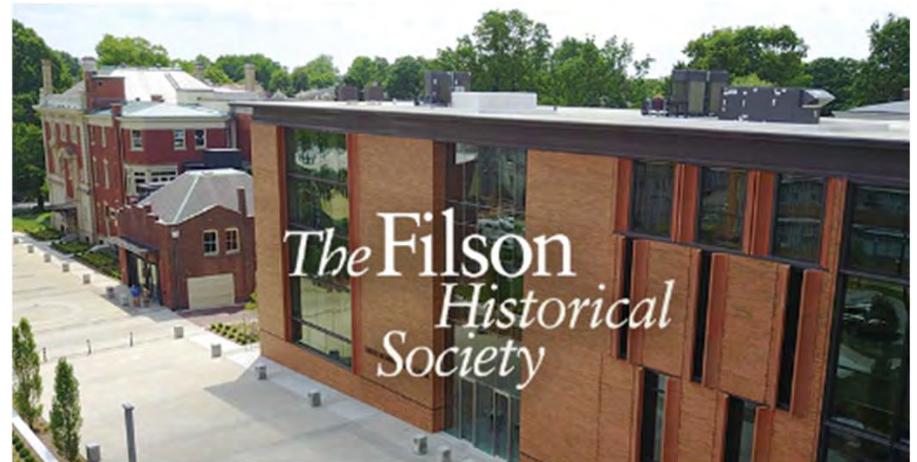
Architects - \$341 (Increase of \$11)  
Associates - \$148 (Increase of \$5)

\*Per the Department of Labor's reports, there was a 2.3% increase in the cost-of-living between May 2024 and May 2025. AIA Kentucky bylaws specify that "dues shall automatically increase annually in the amount equivalent to the consumer price index as of May 31 of the current year, but not more than 5%. The Board of Directors may elect to waive the increase for any year by 2/3 majority vote which must be conducted prior to September 1 of each calendar year for the subsequent year."

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

## Member Support and Engagement

- Member Firm access to Legal Help Line through subscription
- Monthly E-newsletters
- Oversight of Association Health Plan through KY Construction Industry Trust
- AIA IN/KY Fellowship mentorship committee
- Maintaining postings through AIA KY Job Board
- Maintain growth and support of Allied Membership program
- Maintaining website links to UK and Filson Historical Society Archival Departments for member desiring to create their paper/digital/oral legacy.
- Annual Holiday Party coming to the Kentucky Castle on December 18!



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

## Career Development–

- Awarded 2 rounds of ARE grants for a total of \$4,000
- **Christopher Kelley Leadership Development Program – now in Year 3!**

## Continuing Education – provided 27 LU's | 8 HSW

- Risk Management for Communications & Construction Administration , April 16
- AIA KY/HBC/CAAK Code Workshop on Height/Area + Fire/Smoke Separations
- Cyber Security & AI in Your Practice – **coming in November!**



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

## Continuing Education – AIA KY | IN Convention, Sept 18-19 in Lexington

- 462 Total Attendees
- (17) Educational Sessions
- (7) Off-Site Walking Tours,
- (3) Stellar Keynotes,
- Icebreaker Celebration
- Trade Expo
- Design & Service Awards
- Fun & Fellowship!



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

## Advocacy – Regulatory & Legislative

- **AIA Leadership Summit in Washington DC** – advocated legislation regarding tax credits, professional fees, housing policies, and federal design standards
- Coordinating with DHBC on review and adoption of the 2024 IBC
- **AIA KY Legislative Day** held February 13 – Jointly hosted by IIDA KY | OH
  - Lobbied to require regular review of the Kentucky Commercial Building Code
  - **HB 133** - to allow universal recognition of occupational licenses and government certifications was not heard in committee (Opposed)
  - **HB 160 / SB 59** – dealing with affordable housing policies (Supported)
  - **HB 163** – dealing with public school restroom facilities (Neutral)



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

## Committee Activity

- Committee on Architecture for Education – Chaired by Steven Ward, AIA
- Building Codes Committee – Reviewing 2024 IBC for HBC Code Task Force
- AIA Small Firm Exchange – KY rep Craig Chamberlain, AIA
- Hosted annual Summer Social Golf / Scramble on May 16



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

## UK College of Design Engagement

- Annual stipends provided for AIAS and NOMAS
- AIAS/NOMAS Participation in AIA KY Legislative Day
- Applications for FREE AIA membership provided to all graduates
- Annual Presentation to ARC 642 at the UK College of Design
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- Volunteer support for CoD's Mentorship by Design program
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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

## Governance/Operations/Administration

- 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Virtual Membership Meeting
- KY Directors attended AIA Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C.
- A '25 Conference on Architecture in Boston
- Finance & Investment Committee overseeing Chapter Reserve Portfolio
- Continued MOU between AIA KY and Local Components
  - Helps ensure delivery of Core Member Services
  - Administrative support for local components (80-100 hours/yr)



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

## Community Outreach & Engagement

- **New in 2025** – AIA KY Exhibit at the KY School Counselors Convention
- Visits with Elementary school students during Architecture Week in April
- Traveling exhibit of 2024 Design Award Submissions – 2025 now available
- New in 2025 – Kentucky Architecture Foundation (KAF) Scholarship Contribution
- Annual contribution to Governor's School for the Arts
- KET Summer Celebration Sponsorship
- Business First of Louisville Ad Pages 5 x year – supported by KY firms
- Awards Programs:
  - 8 Design Awards recipients
  - 7 Service Awards recipients
  - Publication mailed to members statewide
  - 4-page spread in *Louisville Business First*



# PRESIDENT ELECT'S REPORT



**Chris Bowling, AIA  
President-elect**

# PRESIDENT ELECT'S REPORT



**VISION 2025**  
2021 - 2025

**Mission** – Advancing the profession of architecture.

**Vision** – Empowering architects to create a better environment and society.

Adopted  
01-19-21

<b>Advocacy and the Voice of Architecture</b> Pillar Champion: Eric Steva	<b>Career Success and Professional Development</b> Pillar Champion: NAC & YAF Reps	<b>Community Outreach &amp; Engagement</b> Pillar Champion: Dave Marchal	<b>Member Value and Engagement</b> Pillar Champion: Megan McCombs	<b>Association Strength and Leadership</b> Pillar Champion: Board & Staff
Advancing design and architecture through advocacy and political influence at all levels of government.	Delivering the education and resources to elevate careers from entry to emeritus.	Positioning architecture as integral to quality design and communities.	Supporting and uniting professionals so that they are enabled to impact society.	A model of excellence in the AIA federated structure.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Lobbying Influence</b> – Protect the practice act and promote design and sustainability through crafted relations with the lawmakers and regulators.</li> <li>➤ <b>Fundraising</b> – Maintain a highly respected PAC by increasing architect understanding and contribution levels.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Virtual Platforms</b> – Maintain the technology and innovation to deliver education to members in formats they prefer.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Local Associations</b> – Rely on chapters and section to engage with local government through grassroots efforts; asking them to monitor and serve as resource to officials.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Connections &amp; Conversations</b> – Use innovation and varied tech platforms to connect members in order to enhance and enable their architecture experience through AIA.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Governance</b> – Ensure the governance structure and documents are effective. Invite and train thought leaders to serve in AIA KY.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Access</b> – Recognize the changing political landscape, and challenges caused by the pandemic, to be strategic in positioning AIA and architects in smart relations with government officials. Ensure all political districts have relations with AIA KY members.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Mentorship</b> – Facilitate strategic opportunities for interns and emerging professionals to connect with and benefit from knowledgeable practitioners.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Rural Expansion</b> – Increase membership in underrepresented geographic areas to enhance advocacy influence and connect with municipalities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Allied Members</b> – Revamp events and opportunities to engage them and provide value; including minority businesses.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Resources</b> – Steward association resources to be of maximum benefit to the profession. Support staff and their professional development needs.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Municipalities</b> – Build relations with municipalities to monitor, influence and educate on energy, sustainability, and architects as stewards of the environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Adaptability</b> – Identify educational and career needs of professionals, adapting to external influences and partnering with universities and allied organizations for efficient delivery.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Civic Engagement Projects</b> – Facilitate opportunities to engage architects in giving back to their communities, i.e. design, Habitat for Humanity, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Recruit and Retain</b> – Maintain market share of at least 60 percent of potential members statewide</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Performance</b> – Maintain an active board that relies on strategy and performance measures to serve the profession, members and the association.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Citizen Architects</b> – Encourage and support members who are willing to serve on an elected or appointed public board.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Path to Licensure</b> – Support the career progression from students to career entry to career development through connections and shared knowledge.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Climate Action</b> – Position architects as trusted leaders on environmental responsibility.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Accountability</b> – Ensure the AIA leadership, chapters and section sustain an inviting relationship with members and prospects through conversations, meetings and listening.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Equity &amp; Diversity</b> – Foster a professional culture of inclusion &amp; innovation</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Public Advocacy Awards</b> – Recognize persons who excel in advocacy and civic contributions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Academic Engagement</b> – Offer resources that expose students to the profession and ease transitions from the academy to the practice.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Awareness</b> – Promote and build awareness of member projects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Recognition</b> – Celebrate career milestones and professional achievements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Component Alignment</b> – Maximize member benefit through alignment of state and local resources and activities</li> </ul>

## 2021-2025 Strategic Plan

# PRESIDENT-ELECT'S REPORT

## WHAT'S AHEAD IN 2026

- **Voice** – Advocate for Architecture
  - Increase advocacy and political influence at all levels of state/local government
  - Increase support for the KSA Political Action Committee
  - Strong participation: Legislative Day in Frankfort,
  - Expand attendees at AIA Leadership Summit, Washington, D.C. Feb 11-14
  - Communicate advocacy issues and engage more with members
- **Value** - Career Success and Professional Development
  - Growth – Work with the KBA statistical information to help us recruit and better serve all members
  - Continue CEU programs and social engagements
  - Equity – EPs, AIAS, NOMAS, Kentucky Women in Architecture, etc.
  - Quarterly Board Happy Hours in city near you!
  - AIA '26 Conference on Architecture in San Diego, June 10-13
  - Summer Code Seminars with Code Administrators Association of KY
  - KY Conference – TBD
  - Continue the Christopher Kelly Leadership Development Program.
  - Continued engagement with the UK College of Design, Western KY University, and KCTCS

# PRESIDENT-ELECT'S REPORT

## WHAT'S AHEAD IN 2026

- **Value** - Continued
  - Financial support for student materials at UK College of Design
  - Monitor Reserve Portfolio to maximize resources for implementation of plan
  - Look for avenues of income based on services
  - Build strong relations with KY Foundation for Architecture and KSA PAC.
  - Establish and nurture relationships with adjacent industry boards and associations.
- **Visibility** - Community Outreach and Engagement
  - Grow our Social Media outlets to be consistent and frequent
  - Continue building relations with KY School Councilors
  - More grassroots engagement with local governments
  - Make awards more public
  - Provide educational programs for civic organizations, public, and industry partners.

**2025 BOARD****Officers**

Melinda Joseph-Dezarn, AIA  
*President*

Chris Bowling, AIA  
*Vice President/Pres-elect*

Tina Ash, Assoc. AIA  
*Treasurer*

Eric Zabalka, AIA  
*Secretary*

Ben D. Barlage, AIA  
*Past President*

**Directors**

George Donkor, AIA

Joe Dye, AIA

Elisabeth Hunt, AIA

Senait Kassa, AIA

Brittany Leneave, AIA

Dave Marchal, AIA

Dave Mayo, AIA

Arein Natour, Assoc. AIA

Alex Short, Assoc. AIA

Garlan Vanhook, AIA

Michael Wolff, AIA

**Staff & Consultants**

Kelly E. Ives, AIA, CAE  
*Executive Vice President*

Josh Ives, AIA  
*Outreach Coordinator*

Greg Brotzge  
*Lobbyist*

Andrew Brotzge  
*Lobbyist*



## AGENDA

### 2025 AIA Kentucky Annual Meeting

October 24, 2025

Zoom Meeting ID 899 2190 0001; Passcode 712157

- I. ANTI-TRUST COMPLIANCE STATEMENT  
"It is the practice of The American Institute of Architects and its members to comply strictly with all laws, including federal and state antitrust laws, which apply to AIA operations and activities. Accordingly, this meeting will be conducted in full compliance with those laws."
- II. MINUTES
  - a. 2024 Annual Meeting
- III. TREASURER'S REPORT (TA)
  - a. 2024 Year-End Accountant's Review
- IV. SECRETARY'S REPORT (EZ)
  - a. Membership Status Report
- V. PRESIDENT'S REPORT (MJD)
  - a. Election of 2026 Officers
  - b. Appointment of 2026 Northern KY Section Director
  - c. Appointment of 2026 Young Architect Director
  - d. Appointment of 2026-28 Strategic Council Representative
  - e. 2026 Dues Adjustment
  - f. State of the Chapter / 2025 Key Achievements
- VI. PRESIDENT-ELECT'S 2026 FORECAST (CB)
  - a. Member Value – Megan McCombs, AIA
  - b. Legislative/Advocacy – Eric Steva, AIA
  - c. Career Development – Kyle Spurgeon, AIA
  - d. Outreach & Community Engagement
  - e. Member Q&A
- VII. NATIONAL DIRECTORS' REPORTS
  - a. AIA Strategic Council – Richard Polk, AIA, Megan Stone, AIA
  - b. AIA Small Firm Exchange (SFx) – Craig Chamberlain, AIA
  - c. Young Architects Forum – George Donkor and Jessica Farmer
  - d. National Associates Committee – Arein Natour, Assoc. AIA
- VIII. OLD BUSINESS
- IX. NEW BUSINESS
- X. ADJOURNMENT



2025 ANNUAL MEETING