

September 26, 2025

# Report

from the Strategic Council

**From:**

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**To:**

AIA Hawaii, AIA Honolulu, AIA Maui  
September, 2025

**Mission:** *The AIA Strategic Council advances the architectural profession by informing the AIA Board and other Institute bodies about important professional issues, opportunities, and threats. The Council has an outward and forward-focused vision with an emphasis on long-term goals and outcomes.*

**What Does the Strategic Council Do?** *To learn more about the role and activities of the Strategic Council, click [HERE](#).*

## From the Moderator + Vice Moderator

We are in the home stretch for 2025 – all seven of our study groups have presented their preliminary reports to the full Council. We have posted those presentations to the AIA Leadership Exchange Hub – please connect with your state representative on the Council to learn more.

The AIA Board recently issued an Executive Order Action Plan, built on the foundation of work spearheaded by our Resilient Practice Model Study Group. This action plan can be accessed by all AIA members through the [AIA Member Exchange Hub](#) – a central location for members to find the latest on Board decisions, governance, and policy updates.

We are gearing up for our Fall Assembly at the end of September, where we will be prioritizing the recommendations from the Council to the Board. That will be followed promptly by orientation for our new 2026 Councilors, our virtual Big Think in early October, and a Council update on the Q4 AIA Leadership Exchange Calls.

**Jessica M. O'Donnell**, AIA 2025 Moderator + **Abigail R. Brown**, FAIA 2025 Vice Moderator  
*Special thanks to our **committee chairs** who help guide our work and inform our decision-making process: **Jeff Seabold**, FAIA (Best Practices Committee Chair), **Mary Womble**, AIA & **Marc Mondor**, AIA (Communications Co-Chairs), and **Mike Daly**, AIA (Elections Chair).*

## Institute News

### ARCHITECTURE WEEK 2026 COMPONENT GRANT

The American Institute of Architects is committed to inspiring K-12 students who will meet the future needs of an ever-evolving profession. With the Architecture Week Component Grant, the AIA will support state and local components, or their affiliated foundations, in their efforts to inspire K-12 students during Architecture Week. The application period is from August 15, 2025, through October 15, 2025. More information can be found [here](#).

### UPJOHN RESEARCH INITIATIVE CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The AIA Upjohn Research Initiative supports applied research projects that enhance the value of design and professional practice knowledge. The program funds up to six research grants of \$15,000–\$30,000 annually for projects completed within an 18-month period. Upjohn grant recipients' research findings and outcomes are published online by AIA. The call for submission is now open through October 15, 2025. More information can be found [here](#).

### GOVERNANCE TASK FORCE WORK UPDATE

The Governance Task Force convened for its sixth meeting in August to advance AIA's governance assessment and prepare for the development of formal recommendations. The task force is on track to present preliminary recommendations in Fall 2025 and will outline a stakeholder engagement plan to gather feedback on final recommendations.

Feedback and questions related to the Governance Task Force's work can be submitted through the [Governance Assessment Feedback](#) link.

### STEPHEN SWARNEY NAMED 2025 AIA COMPONENT EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to AIA Pennsylvania's Stephen Swarney, J.D., on receiving the Component Executive of the Year Award! The full press release can be found [here](#).

## Upcoming events

Date	Event	Location	Link
November 3-5	Women's Leadership Summit	Atlanta, GA	<a href="#">Registration</a>
December 3-5	AIA Governance Week	Washington, D.C.	

For more events, visit the AIA events page at: <https://www.aia.org/community/events>

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### Feedback

*We value your input! If you have questions or ideas for the Strategic Council, email us at [StrategicCouncil@aia.org](mailto:StrategicCouncil@aia.org). To learn more about the work of the Strategic Council, please visit the [Strategic Council webpage at AIA.org](#).*

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