

Report

from the Strategic Council

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To:
AIA Hawaii

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](#).*

Council news

FROM THE MODERATOR

February has been a busy month for the Council as you will see in the Study Group Updates.

If you were at AIA Leadership Summit in Washington DC, you may have been in a session led by a member of the Council.

- Maryland Representative Marcus Monroe, Assoc. AIA co-presented 'Blueprints for Power: Architects Serving in Elected Office'
- Virginia Representative Shawn Mulligan, AIA co-presented 'Maker to Manager: Supporting Mid-Career Professionals'
- Washington DC Representative Abi Brown, FAIA co-presented 'Advancing Fellowship through Chapter Leadership'
- At Large Representative Carl Sergio, AIA co-presented 'From Guidance to Growth: Tools for Inclusive & Impactful Mentorship Programs'
- At-Large Representative Jessica O'Donnell, FAIA co-presented 'Shape the Future through AIA Leadership.'

We also held a Council Assembly on February 18th where we had a presentation from the Governance Task Force, followed by robust discussion. Additional meetings will be set up to go into further detail.

We are gearing up for the March Leadership Exchange Calls where we will look for insights from AIA Leaders in attendance. A recap of that will be shared with our March Council Update.

Jessica M. O'Donnell, FAIA, 2026 Strategic Council Moderator

*Special thanks to our Moderator-Elect **Matthew Barnett**, AIA, and our **committee chairs** who help guide the Council's work: **Galen Lif**, AIA (Best Practices Committee Chair), **Marc Mondor**, FAIA (Communications Chair), and **Shannon Christensen**, FAIA (Elections Committee Chair).*

Strategic Council Study Group Updates

Below are snapshots of work in progress. We welcome insights, comments, and questions on these topics and encourage readers to reach out to their state representative on the Council or any of the Councilors.

HOUSING

This group reviewed past housing resources during AIA's engagements. The Chair met with leaders from the AIA Housing and Community Development Knowledge Community, who expressed interest in contributing to the study group. Their participation is expected to provide valuable insights, complementing AIA's Strategic Council efforts. Throughout the year, the study group will hold several meetings, including February's Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C., where the Chief Advocacy Officer will engage in housing discussions to highlight the national crisis. Input from experts, educators, practitioners, and policymakers is sought to understand the complexities and local issues in the U.S. and abroad.

NEUROARCHITECTURE

In January, Dr. Eve Edelstein spoke with the group, followed by Jean Hewitt author of PAS 6463 - both gave expert explanations of Neurodiversity and the Neurological effects of architecture. During February and March we are breaking into groups to explore *the metrics and legislation* within & missing from today's building codes that correspond to and support PAS 6463 and the RIBA Neurodiversity #28 checklist. Our present trajectory is 1st quarter of 2026 - Become aware of subject and body of knowledge of research, 2nd - quarter organize and report out strategic discussion points and relevant concerns for AIA and AIA membership.

PRACTICE

This group split into two sub-groups within Practice - the Career Group & Business Revenue Models group. The first meetings were to develop cadence of meeting schedules and identify any needed outside experts to bring into the conversation. The efforts are quickly moving into issuing invites to speakers or subject matter experts to join the conversation and areas of study. Next two months we will be speaking with experts to gather insights, discuss alternative pathways and then will distill data into innovative recommendations.

REGENERATIVE DESIGN

This group prepared a working / draft definition of regenerative design that was included in the strategic plan working sessions at the Leadership Summit. The group met with President Azaroff, FAIA to discuss Regenerative Design and received some feedback from the strategic plan commentary period that will refine their work.

VALUE

This group is in research gathering mode. They spoke with AIA government affairs team about new toolkits that will be released soon and conveyed the study groups desire to help AIA identify blind spots and improve the feedback loop between chapters and national on legal or undermining issues that arise. The group has connected with NCARB about potential collaboration on the topic of pay equity and the group has researched the Florida Fee calculator and how RIBA and Canada discuss pay equity, fee calculators, etc. to understand the issues they've run into or solutions they've created. Additionally, the group discussed North Carolina's new architecture PAC about a new way to compete on topics important to architects at the state and local level.

Institute news

AIA ELEVATES 78 ARCHITECTS TO THE COLLEGE OF FELLOWS

The AIA is elevating 78 member architects to its College of Fellows. Less than 3% of AIA members hold the prestigious FAIA designation, which recognizes exceptional work and contribution to architecture and society. Congratulations to all the new Fellows!

The complete list can be found [here](#).

AIA OPPOSES EPA RULING

AIA strongly opposes the Environmental Protection Agency's decision to rescind the 2009 Endangerment Finding and repeal associated greenhouse gas vehicle standards, a move that disregards science and undermines public safety.

The complete response can be found [here](#).

AIA GOVERNANCE TASK FORCE: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PHASE

The AIA Governance Task Force was established by the AIA Board of Directors to evaluate and strengthen AIA's governance framework—ensuring it remains clear, effective, transparent, and representative of the members it serves. The AIA Governance Task Force has developed a set of preliminary recommendations and is looking for member input to participate in upcoming town halls and to share feedback.

More information can be found [here](#).

AIA STRATEGIC PLAN 2026-2030

AIA's Strategic Plan 2026–2030 is designed to help architects succeed—with strong careers, resilient firms, and a profession equipped to shape a rapidly changing world. The plan was presented during the 2026 AIA Leadership Summit and is organized around four interconnected goals – PACE – that reflect what members told the AIA mattered most: practice, advocacy, climate, and equity.

More information and the full plan can be found [here](#).

2027 DECLARED CANDIDATES FOR AIA NATIONAL OFFICE

The following members have declared their intent to pursue the offices of At-large Director, Secretary, or President-elect at the AIA Conference on Architecture & Design 2026:

At-large Director (one will be elected): Samuel Duff Combs, AIA, Adam Viorel Pantelimon Negrut, Intl. Assoc. AIA, Jeff Pastva, FAIA, Dana A. Pomeroy, AIA, Sarah Woynicz, AIA

Secretary: Latoya Nelson Kamdang, AIA, Jonathan Matthew Taylor, AIA

2027 President-elect: Raya Ani, FAIA, Kenneth J. Filarski, FAIA, Kimball L. Hales, AIA, Joyce Owens, FAIA, David E. Sellers, AIA, Willy L. Zambrano, FAIA

More information about the candidates will continue to be updated [here](#).

AIA26 – CONFERENCE ON ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN AND THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Registration is now open for the AIA Conference on Architecture & Design 2026. More information can be found [here](#).

The AIA Annual Business meeting will be held on June 10th at AIA26 to consider amendments to the AIA bylaws and resolutions and candidates for national leadership positions.

More information can be found [here](#).

AIA POSITION STATEMENT ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The AIA AI Task Force is leading efforts to address the opportunities and challenges of artificial intelligence in architecture. By developing resources, guidance, and educational programming, the task force ensures architects can adopt AI responsibly, ethically, and innovatively while advancing the profession. The AI Task Force has released two resources to support this endeavor: the AIA Position Statement on Artificial Intelligence and the Guidance for the Responsible Use of AI by Architecture and Design Firms.

More information and the full plan can be found [here](#).

Upcoming events

Date	Event	Location	Link
June 10-13	AIA Conference on Architecture & Design 2026	San Diego, CA	Registration
November 1-3	Women's Leadership Summit	Kansas City, MO	
December 9-11	AIA Governance Week	Washington, D.C	

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

Feedback

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