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Report

from the Strategic Council

From:

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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? [Learn more about the role and activities of the Strategic Council.](#)

From the Councilor

August seems to have gone by in a flash. The Council started the month with internal elections. I had several one-on-one video conferences with candidates. I'm excited about the energy they bring to the Council & the Board. Watching the presentations made by the other Study Groups really showed how much collective effort has been put forward by the Council in diving into these 5 subject areas. Final written reports are being submitted for presentation to the Board as I write this message.

The Leadership Exchange call was quite informative. Presentations about activities to date were made by groups including the Government Task Force, Strategic Council, College of Fellows, YAF, NAC, & SFx.

From the Moderator

As we wrapped up our final internal study group report outs, we also participated in the August AIA Leadership Exchange calls where we shared our internal election results, relayed some informative metrics, and received insightful input from participants. Presentation slides from the Leadership Exchange calls are attached to this report.

Congratulations to our two new **At Large Representatives to the Council** - **Darguin Fortuna, AIA** and **Jeff Jenö, AIA**; our **2027 Moderator-elect / 2028 Moderator Jamie Crawley, AIA**; and the **At-Large Director that the Council elected to the AIA Board - Jessica O'Donnell, FAIA!**

As a reminder, our **2027 Moderator Matt Barnett, AIA** was elected by the Council last year and will officially transition from 2026 Moderator-elect to 2027 Moderator at Governance Week in December. The application period for these elections typically opens with the AIA call for Volunteers, so keep an eye out for your opportunity to apply in Q2 of 2027.

2026 Council by the Numbers shows:

- the Council composition is close to reflecting the broader AIA membership, but we appear to need more Associate AIA members to serve as Councilors;
- while not all Councilors have a connection to their state AIA component, at least 63% do;
- About 35% of Councilors work in large firms, 24% in medium firms, and 27% in small firms. 4% work in government entities and 10% work in non-traditional practices.

Our poll results showed the majority of respondents believe focusing on ‘communicating the value of architects’ is the most important topic for Council to study in 2027 to advance the work AIA does to support its members. This was followed by Regenerative Design, Housing, Practice and Neuroarchitecture with some additional suggestions.

The Council has a virtual assembly on 9/1/26 to prioritize our 2026 recommendations to the Board and we look forward to providing an update to you on that later this year.

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).*

Institute news

ARCHITECTURE WEEK 2027 GRANTS ARE OPEN!

With school back in session, this a great time to start planning for Architecture Week 2027, April 11–17. [Chapter grants are open](#), with a completion deadline of October 15. The new [ArchWeek Guidebook](#) includes tips, support, and lessons learned from past ArchWeek initiatives. Contact [Devon Davis](#) with questions.

AIA AI FIRM TOOLKIT

Wondering where your firm stands on AI? The [AIA AI Firm Toolkit](#) is a free, interactive resource developed by the AIA AI Task Force to help firms of every size adopt AI responsibly. Take the five-question maturity assessment, explore AI literacy resources, and download a sample firm AI policy — all at no cost.

Upcoming events

Date	Event	Location	Link
October 1-2	Firm Management Symposium	Washington DC	https://www.aia.org/community/events/firm-management-symposium
November 1-3	Women's Leadership Summit	Kansas City, MO	https://www.aia.org/community/events/womens-leadership-summit
November 16-18	Government Affairs Forum Summit	Washington, DC	
December 9-11	AIA Governance Week	Washington, DC	

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.

[Learn more about the role and activities of the Strategic Council.](#)