



AIA Ohio Conference | Sept. 25-26, 2025 | Columbus, OH

Schedule of Events

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025

4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. – **LUs & Brews**, Location: Strongwater Events

Join us at Strongwater for this fun event that includes snacks, drinks, and learning units! Participants choose to visit with different sponsors during the two-hour event, for 15 minutes at a time, earning a nano CE credit and a drink ticket with each visit. By the end of the event, attendees earn up to 2.0 LUs and have tasted a variety of drinks. It's a win-win!

6:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m. – **Awards Celebration**, Location: Strongwater Events

6:00-6:30 p.m. – Cocktails

6:30-7:15 p.m. – Dinner

7:15-8:15 p.m. – Keynote featuring Carol Ross Barney, FAIA

8:15-9:00 p.m. – Awards Presentation

Friday, Sept. 26, 2025

7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. – **Registration Open**, Location: The Junto

8:30 a.m.-9:15 a.m. – **Welcome Breakfast**, Location: The Junto

9:30 a.m.-10:20 a.m. – Conference Educational Sessions, Location: The Junto

Title: Refabricating History: 21c St Louis YMCA Pool

This session will explain the innovative restoration of the original and much-loved pool at the historic downtown St. Louis YMCA. As part of the overall transformation of the building into a boutique hotel in 2024, the pool was maintained and reimaged as a hotel amenity. This required substantial efforts from the design team, manufacturers, and contractors to create a space that met hotel brand expectations, accessibility requirements, MEP system requirements, and historic standards. Attendees will gain an understanding of tile fabrication techniques, explore the differences between historic and contemporary building technology, and understand how restoration can balance new and old in a cohesive new architecture.

Presenter(s): Andreas Lange, AIA | Senior Associate, PWWG Architects

Title: Integrated Living: ADUs as Catalysts for Community & Sustainable Growth in Columbus

This presentation explores the multifaceted integration of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) within Columbus' urban fabric. We will examine how ADUs serve as a critical tool for addressing housing affordability, fostering intergenerational living, and promoting sustainable community development. Through an exploration of current architectural approaches, technological innovations in design and construction, and their profound social impact, we will discuss how ADUs are challenging traditional housing models and shaping a more integrated, resilient built environment in Columbus.



Presenter(s): Paul Fatkins AIA, NCARB | Principal / Co-Founder / Architect, Arcfluence ; Nick Karakaian | Principal / Co-Founder, Arcfluence

Title: Early Design Decisions: Priming Mass Timber Projects for Success

Mass timber is a unique, non-commodity building material and, to lay the groundwork for success, certain critical decisions must be made as early as possible. These decisions can have a big impact on cost and can either increase or limit opportunities later in design. There are many cases of project teams that want to realize the full benefits of mass timber, but, because they base their designs on traditional building practices instead of optimizing them for mass timber, end up with avoidable price premiums. This presentation will walk through early project decisions and design steps, focusing on how to optimize projects for mass timber and how one early decision can influence others.

Presenter(s): Anthony Harvey | Regional Director, Woodworks

9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. – Tour #1, Location: Depart from The Junto

More information coming soon!

10:30 a.m.-11:20 a.m. – Conference Educational Sessions

Title: Beyond the Building: Reimagining the Architect's Role in Community Development

In an era where communities seek not just structures but transformation, architects are uniquely positioned to serve as catalysts for deeper change. This session explores how architects can move beyond traditional project roles to become strategic partners in revitalization efforts—especially in small towns and rural regions. Through real-world examples from Revival's work across Ohio, we'll examine how interdisciplinary collaboration, long-term visioning, and a willingness to engage outside the usual boundaries of design can drive meaningful impact. Attendees will gain insight into new models of practice that integrate architecture, economic development, storytelling, and community empowerment to shape places that are not only beautiful-but resilient, inclusive, and alive.

Presenter(s): Cally Lange, AIA, NCARB, Fitwel | Revival

Title: Reimagining Progressive Field: A Grand Slam Home Run

In 2022, the Cleveland Guardians embarked on a multi-year initiative to reimagine the iconic Progressive Field, aiming to enhance fan experiences, improve player amenities, and optimize operational facilities. Serving as the Architect of Record, Moody Nolan collaborated with the lead design architect (MANICA), a joint venture construction management team, and several partners to deliver transformative spaces that have redefined the ballpark experience for contemporary fans and athletes. Representatives from Moody Nolan and the Cleveland Guardians will discuss the effective processes that aligned all stakeholders towards a common goal, ensuring that the Guardians' priorities were met without compromising the gameday experience for fans. The team will share valuable lessons learned and highlight the significance of the Cleveland Guardians' commitment to a Community Benefits Agreement.



Presenter(s): Robert Donaldson, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP BD+C, FitWel Ambassador | Project Manager/Architect, Moody Nolan

Title: Acoustics for the Built Environment

Presented by acoustical consultants, this session will cover three key areas: interior acoustics, sound isolation, and mechanical noise control. We'll examine how design choices impact the acoustical experience within spaces, outline best practices for integrating acoustical goals early in the design process, and provide practical strategies for avoiding common pitfalls. Whether designing classrooms, worship spaces, offices, healthcare facilities, or multi-family housing, this session offers architects actionable insights to enhance acoustical performance across the built environment.

Presenter(s): Logan Dodson, NCAC, INCE, ASA | Acoustical Consultant, Design 27

10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. – Tour #2, Location: Depart from The Junto

More information coming soon!

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. – Conference Educational Sessions

Title: Many Forms, Many Futures: A Flexible ADU for Cleveland Heights

Cleveland Heights has long been celebrated for its diverse architectural heritage-an eclectic blend of styles shaped across the 20th century. Today, the city stands at the threshold of a new housing chapter with the introduction of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). This talk will present ADÜ, the winning entry in the city's ADU design competition: a forward-looking, sustainability-focused prototype that reimagines small-scale residential living.

This session will detail the design process, performance goals, and potential policy impacts of the ADÜ initiative. Attendees will learn how a thoughtful ADU strategy can serve as a catalyst for economic development, workforce training in sustainable construction, and gentle density in legacy neighborhoods.

Presenter(s): Jonathan Novak | Vice President, Design, Onyx Creative

Title: The Push and Pull of Design: A Roadmap for Integrated Architectural and Interior Practice

Successfully integrating interior design into architectural projects is essential to creating cohesive, functional, and inspiring spaces-but it's not always easy. This session explores how early, intentional collaboration between architecture and interior design teams - whether in-house or external - can transform project outcomes and reduce coordination headaches.

Presenters will cover the advantages of in-house integration, including multi-discipline coordination, as well as the added complexity of working with outside interior design consultants. After the 30 minute presentation, a panel discussion will be held with architects and interior designers to review key takeaways. Attendees will learn best practices for defining expectations, navigating different software platforms, and setting clear ownership in construction documentation to avoid liability and misalignment.



Presenter(s): Darren Spensiero, AIA, NCARB | Architect, Meyers+Associates

Title: Achieving Platinum: An Integrated Approach to Transforming the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

The Cleveland Museum of Natural History's recent transformation stands as a powerful example of how integrated design can elevate not only a building's performance, but its cultural and civic impact. Led by DLR Group's Cleveland studio, this LEED Platinum-certified project exemplifies a holistic approach to architecture-where sustainability, storytelling, and community engagement converge. This panel brings together the core design team-including the Lead Designer, Project Manager, High-Performance Designer, and Interior Designer-to unpack the collaborative process behind the museum's reimagining. Together, they will explore how interdisciplinary coordination and shared values shaped a space that is both technologically advanced and deeply rooted in place.

Presenter(s): Mark Morris, AIA | Design Leader, DLR Group

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. – Tour #3, Location: Depart from The Junto

More information coming soon!

12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m. – **Lunch break**, Location: The Junto

1:30 p.m.-2:20 p.m. – Conference Educational Sessions

Title: Learn. Design. Implement. The Youth CoLab: A New Model for Engaging Youth with Design

How can we reimagine the traditional internship? In 2023, the Neighborhood Design Center (NDC) in Columbus launched the Youth CoLab, a paid summer internship that empowers high school students to learn, design, and implement site-specific urban interventions with local community partners. Centered on social justice, equity, and opportunity, the program challenges conventional design education by making young people co-creators in shaping the future of their neighborhoods.

This session invites firms, practitioners, and organizations to rethink how they structure internships-not just as training opportunities, but as vehicles for social impact. Through a multi-media experience-including video and audio testimonials, project documentation, animation, and insights into the program's structure-participants will explore how to create internship models that are inclusive, community-driven, and transformative.

Attendees will walk away with tools, strategies, and inspiration to reframe youth/student engagement in design practice-and to harness internships as a catalyst for equity and change in the built environment.

Presenter(s): Kaleb Duarte, NOMA | Architectural Designer, Neighborhood Design Center

Title: University-Community Design Engagement: Architectural Education as a Win-Win Scenario



In 2022 and 2023, Kent State University's ARCH 30101: Third-year Architectural Design Studio-- Site Design worked with Warren, Ohio on projects of urgent community interest. While each project was speculative and without funding, the city stood to gain by receiving independent and visionary design ideas. The students gained by having a real-world client and community, instead of the typical hypothetical project. The University gained through good press and satisfying one of its key strategic priorities: community impact.

This presentation by the various partners involved reflects on lessons learned from an educational model where design is conceived as a service to society. Simply put, architecture is always more than shelter: they represent the aspirations community. Winning is the courage to take a leap of faith, partner up, and see design as a collective community vision.

Presenter(s): William Willoughby, AIA | Associate Professor, Kent State University

Title: Integrating Historic Buildings with Contemporary Urban Development

Architects face increasing opportunities to work at the intersection of historic preservation and new construction in urban contexts. This session explores key strategies developed through the Madison White-Haines project, where three vacant historic buildings were renovated and then connected to a new 15-story development in Downtown Columbus. This session provides practical insights for architects working on adaptive reuse projects, especially those involving connections to new construction. We'll share lessons learned from coordinating multiple stakeholders, solving technical challenges, and creating architecture that serves both preservation and revitalization goals.

Presenter(s): Allison Iven | Director of Marketing, Meyers+Associates

1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m. – Tour #4, Location: Depart from The Junto

More information coming soon!

3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. – Keynote featuring Germane Barnes