

FALL 2025

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President's Message

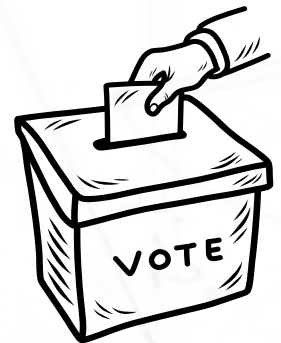
As we enter the first official days of Fall, it is satisfying to look back on a very busy season for AIA Ohio, and simultaneously look forward to the meaningful work yet to be done this year. As we embark upon the final quarter of the first year of our new strategic plan, I am inspired by the efforts of our member-led work groups who are turning ambitious goals into measurable progress in member engagement, government advocacy, organizational vitality, and public outreach. A heartfelt thank you goes out to every task force chairperson, member, and volunteer who has pushed this work forward.

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AIA Ohio 2025 Slate of Electors

AIA Ohio's 2025 Slate of Electors will be voted upon at the AIA Ohio Annual Meeting on November 5, 2025, at noon, via Zoom meetings. [Register](#) today to attend the AIA Ohio Annual Meeting. All AIA Ohio members are encouraged to attend.

[Click here to view the Slate of Electors](#)



The AIA Ohio Convention – Learning. Networking. Celebrating.

Members of the AIA Ohio community came together to learn, educate, and celebrate at the 2025 AIA Ohio "Integrate" Conference in Columbus on September 25th and 26th. The event was planned to provide members with full conference experience that maintained all of the key elements of a successful conference in a shorter, more efficient format.

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Government Affairs Update

The Ohio General Assembly is in its Summer Recess, due to return with a tentative Session schedule. The initial return date of September 23rd was cancelled both by the House and Senate. The full legislature is scheduled to return for a full week of floor Sessions on October 14th. Committees continue to meet for specific legislation testimony.

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Ohio Small Firm Exchange (SFx) Update

Ohio's Small Firm Exchange continues to meet monthly in 2025, with meetings hosted by chapters around the state and themed coffee chats. October 23 features Sam DeBasi, CPA of ArchiCPA exploring [Running a Profitable Architecture Firm: The Money Behind The Mission](#).

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Welcome to the Board!

At its Sept. 25 meeting, the AIA Ohio Board of Directors, the AIA Ohio Board elected two new members. Sarah Vala, Assoc. AIA, will serve as the AIA Ohio Early Professionals Director. Sarah earned her Bachelors and Masters in Architecture from Kent State University, with an urban design emphasis. She is currently employed as a Project Designer at IKM Architecture in Cleveland. Sarah will join Zach Herbst, AIA, from MSA Design in Cincinnati, who will transition to Senior EP Director. Her term will run from Jan. 1, 2026-Dec. 31, 2027.

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AIA Cincinnati Update

October programs include the conclusion of the [Ice Box Challenge](#) (10/10 reveal, 10/12 last day of Homearama®), CRAN Lunch & Learn featuring [CRANaward single family home winners](#) (10/14), Soapbox [Architecture Matters panel on new custom homes](#) (10/22), the annual [sporting clays event](#) (10/23), and the chapter elections featuring a [panel conversation with chapter Fellows](#) (10/28).

In November, the [Cincinnati Design Awards](#) take place (11/7), Urban Design is planning a tour (11/12), and CRAN has a contractor roundtable (11/18). The CRAN holiday party will be at Bromwell's (12/18).

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AIA Ohio & the AIA Ohio Foundation

Celebrate the 2025 Student Design Awards

AIA Ohio and the AIA Ohio Foundation have once again partnered in support of the 2025 Student Design Awards program. Students from across the state enrolled in one of the five schools with accredited architectural programs are eligible to submit projects for consideration. Funded through AIA Ohio, the AIA Ohio Foundation manages the awards program and assembles the statewide jury. This year, the Foundation was pleased to have 18 projects submitted, of which 5 were recognized for their excellence in design. The winning submissions were recognized at the AIA Ohio Awards Celebration as part of the 2025 AIA Ohio Conference.



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Changes to Construction Law Contained in HB96

With the passage of HB96, there are several changes in Ohio law that will impact construction projects. The Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) is providing the following guidance to public authorities to assist them in the implementation of these changes. Although AIA Ohio does not necessarily support some of these changes, they will be in effect beginning September 30, 2025 and members should be aware of the changes. Please make note of these changes to help ensure your projects, and the services provided, are in compliance with Ohio law.

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AIA Ohio Foundation Awards Grants

By Bruce Sekanick, FAIA, President, AIA Ohio Foundation

Earlier this year, the AIA Ohio Foundation released a call for its reimagined Grants Program. Designed around the Foundation's mission of providing outreach that supports the future of the architectural profession, the Grants Program funds accredited architectural programs, individual members, chapters and other organizations to provide programming that has a direct and positive benefit to the profession.



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