

Sep 16, 2026

Report

from the Strategic Council

From:

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To:

AIA Virginia
OCT Board Meeting

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

This month we've been focused on two big tasks: Prioritizing the recommendations from our 2026 Study Groups so we can present them to the AIA Board, and preparing for next year's Strategic Council work. Q4 is budget and planning season for the AIA – and the AIA Board is considering which priorities to dedicate resources to (staff, time, and money).

I'm encouraged by the alignment between the AIA Strategic Plan's new focus on improving Practice, and the Strategic Council's work – on Housing, Value, Regenerative Design, NeuroArchitecture – and my groups recommendations based on our study of the Future of Business and Practice. These are exciting times for architects and the profession – and I'm thankful that dedicated leaders who help AIA plan for the future.

From the Moderator

As we wrap up Q3 of 2026, the Council held an assembly to prioritize 2026 recommendations which were presented to the AIA Board on September 16, 2026. Work has begun on our Year in Review Journal, which will contain executive summaries from each study group's efforts, which is slated for release in Q4 of 2026.

October is slated to be a very busy month. Council will be part of the AIA Budget review process, several members of the Council will be attending the AIA Regenerative Design Summit, and AIA Leadership Exchange calls. We are also planning an October Council assembly where we will be finalizing our 2027 study groups. The internal transition period for the Moderator-Elect is underway with Matt Barnett, AIA gearing up planning efforts for the Council's activities at Governance Week in December.

We look forward to sharing updates from our activities in upcoming monthly reports.

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

CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR AIA LEADERSHIP SUMMIT 2027 – DUE OCT 9

Shape the conversation at AIA Leadership Summit 2027-the premier advocacy and leadership training event for AIA chapter leaders-February 10–13 in Washington, D.C.

This is your opportunity to share your expertise, innovative ideas, and best practices to help strengthen chapter success. We're seeking dynamic, forward-looking sessions that equip chapter leaders with practical tools, reinforce core principles, and inspire action. Experienced presenters, first-time contributors, chapter staff teams, and volunteer members are all invited to submit a proposal.

Proposal topics include:

- Association management best practices
- Leadership development strategies
- Advocacy and local influence initiatives
- Fresh approaches to chapter programming

Don't miss your chance to make an impact – [submit your proposal by October 9!](#)

UPDATES TO THE AIA CODE OF ETHICS & PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

At our 2026 Conference on Architecture & Design, the Board of Directors approved amendments to the AIA Code of Ethics, following the Health and Wellbeing Policy Resolution passed at the 2024 Annual Business Meeting. The National Ethics Commission reviewed and approved these updates, which are now live on this [website](#).

MEET THE AIA LEADERSHIP TEAM

Want to know more about your AIA volunteer leaders and Senior Leadership team members?

Click on the headshots for any individual to learn more about them: [Meet AIA's Leadership Team](#)

We are also happy to share some exciting new roles within the AIA Team including:

Michele Russo, Hon. AIA, LEED AP, Vice President, Research
Jennifer Schlueter, CAE, Vice President, Chapter Engagement
Elite Shi, Vice President, Finance & Accounting
Matthew Welker, Assoc. AIA, Vice President, Member Experience

Upcoming events

Date	Event	Location	Link
October 1-2	Firm Management Symposium	Washington DC	https://www.aia.org/communitiy/events/firm-management-symposium
October 20	Public Architecture Symposium 2026	Washington DC	Event Overview

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.](#)