



Karen Lu, AIA – President
Wednesday, December 2, 2020 12:00 pm – 1:45 pm

BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

Presenters

1. **Welcome & Call to Order**
 - Sponsor Recognition: Mortenson

Karen Lu, AIA
Mary-Margaret Zindren, CAE
2. **Recognition**
 - Committee & Knowledge Community Leaders
 - Newly Licensed Architects
 - Architecture 2030 Signatories

Karen Lu, AIA
3. **U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar**
4. **Reports & Calls to Action**
 - Government Affairs Committee Report
 - Minnesota Architects Political Action Committee and
 - Minnesota Architectural Foundation
 - Regional Directors' Report
 - Regional Associate Director Report
 - Secretary's Report
 - Treasurer's Report

Bob Shaffer, AIA
Elizabeth Turner, AIA
Michelle Mongeon Allen, AIA
Meredith Hayes Gordon, AIA
Jody Andres, AIA
John Horky, FAIA
Jonathon Jacobs, Assoc. AIA
Mary Shaffer, AIA
Steven Wolf, AIA
5. **Proposed Bylaw Amendments**

Karen Lu, AIA
6. **State of the Association**
 - Executive Vice President's Report

Mary-Margaret Zindren, CAE
7. **Leadership Transition**
 - Outgoing President's Remarks
 - Nominating Committee Report & Elections
 - Remarks from President-Elect

Karen Lu, AIA
Eric West, AIA
Anna Pravinata, AIA
8. **Conclusion & Adjournment**

Karen Lu, AIA

In all operations and activities of AIA Minnesota, members must avoid any discussions or conduct that might violate state or federal antitrust laws, or even raise an appearance of impropriety regarding topics of: prices for products or services, or prices charged by competitors; costs, discounts, terms of sale, profit margins or anything else that might affect those prices; allocating markets, customers, territories or products with competitors; limiting production; whether or not to deal with any other business; or any competitively sensitive information concerning a member's own business or a competitor's.

Committee & Knowledge Community Leaders

Thank you for your work to advance a vital profession, vibrant communities, and architecture that endures. Thank you for your leadership in AIA Minnesota!

Architecture Licensing Advisory Committee

Co-Chair: Matt Wingard, Assoc. AIA

Co-Chair: Gary Demele, FAIA

Architecture in the Schools Committee

Co-Chair: Angela Wolf Scott, AIA

Co-Chair: Zoe Yuan, Assoc. AIA

Architecture MN Committee

Co-Chair: Monica Hartberg, AIA

Co-Chair: Jeff Swiontkowski, AIA

Co-Chair Elect: Amy Nash, AIA MN Allied

Building Codes Knowledge Community

Co-Chair: Mark Haugen, Assoc. AIA

Co-Chair: Gerhard Guth, AIA

Committee on Design

Co-Chair: Samantha Turnock Mendiola, AIA

Co-Chair: Adam Ariano, AIA

Co-Chair Elect: Ligeia Cholensky, AIA MN Allied

Committee on Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

Co-Chair: Mary Shaffer, AIA

Co-Chair: Rachel Usher, AIA

Co-Chair Elect: Jennifer Christiaansen, AIA

Committee on the Environment

Co-Chair: Alan D'Souza, AIA

Co-Chair: Marco Vincent, Assoc. AIA

Co-Chair Elect: Simona Fisher, AIA

Conference Continuing Education Committee

Co-Chair: Sarah St. Louis, Assoc. AIA

Co-Chair: Jim Butler, AIA

Council of Firms Knowledge Community

Co-Chair: Scott Neal, AIA

Co-Chair: Daniel Kodet, AIA

Co-Chair Elect: Amy Williams, AIA

Emerging Professionals Committee

Chair: Molly Ellis, AIA

Government Affairs Committee

Co-Chair: Robert Shaffer, AIA

Co-Chair: Elizabeth Turner, AIA

Co-Chair Elect: Mark Kalar, AIA

Health Design Knowledge Community

Co-Chair: Kirsten Staloch, AIA

Co-Chair: Rebecca Lewis, FAIA

Co-Chair Elect: Choy Leow, AIA

Housing Advocacy Committee

Co-Chair: Corey Mollet, AIA

Co-Chair: Jeremy Stock, AIA

Co-Chair Elect: Chris Palkowitsch, AIA

Lake Superior Design Retreat Committee

Co-Chair: Linn Bjornrud, AIA

Co-Chair: Cheryl Fosdick, Assoc. AIA

Co-Chair Elect: Amber Sausen, AIA

Leadership Forum Committee

Co-Chair: Amy Meller, AIA

Co-Chair: Tim Guyette, AIA

Co-Chair Elect: Puneet VEDI, AIA

Minnesota Design Team Committee

Co-Chair: John Workman

Co-Chair: Steve Roos, AIA MN Allied

Co-Chair Elect: Katie Kangas, AIA

Residential Architecture Committee

Co-Chair: Chris Christofferson, AIA

Co-Chair: Peter Hagstrom, AIA MN Allied

Co-Chair Elect: Katharine Leaf, AIA

Technology in Architecture Practice KC

Co-Chair: Adam Wilbrecht, AIA

Co-Chair: Brandon Pike, Assoc. AIA

Co-Chair Elect: Rachel Riopel, AIA

Women in Architecture Committee

Co-Chair: Heather Whalen, AIA

Co-Chair: Jill Vowels, AIA

Co-Chair Elect: Mollie O'Connor, AIA

Newly Licensed Minnesota Architects

September 2019-October 2020

Douglas Bergert AIA

Josh Capistrant

Alexa Carlson AIA

Sishir Chang AIA

Carleton Crawford

Steven Danilowicz AIA

Matthew Enos AIA

Andrew Gardner AIA

Michelle Gerner AIA

Anastasia Gulinskaya AIA

Matthew Huntress AIA

Kaitlyn Janisch AIA

Elissa Juhnke AIA

Nicole Kastern

Logan Kern

Philip Larsen AIA

Sarah Lembke AIA

Jason Lord

Cierra Mantz AIA

Kenneth Martin AIA

Erin McDonough

John Northrup AIA

Samuel Olbekson AIA

Micheal Owen

Kyle Palzer AIA

Benjamin Partridge AIA

Jason Perius

Maria Petrova AIA

Anthony Rabiola

Leah Saari

Megan Schires AIA

Scott Schlotthauer

Jyotsna Sivaguru AIA

Sophia Skemp

William St Germaine AIA

Meghan Strunk AIA

Nathaniel Tollefson AIA

Nicholas Wallin AIA

Eric Winter AIA



Investing in Excellence, Leadership, Discovery and Equity in the Profession of Architecture

The Minnesota Architectural Foundation benefits the community by funding crucial growth opportunities that educate, inspire and support emerging architects. Through its scholarship and fellowship programs, the MAF invests in the architectural community to promote excellence, encourage discovery, foster equity and advance leadership in the architectural profession.

During 2020, the Foundation and our communities at large were challenged by a number of impactful events. Through those challenges, the Foundation continued to support our community with nearly \$50,000 in scholarships and fellowships to support the future of our profession.

Created in 1992 as the Minority Architectural Scholarship, this fund was renamed the **Clarence Wigington Minority Architectural Scholarship** to recognize the extraordinary professional and civic accomplishments of the first African American municipal architect in the United States and the first licensed African American architect in Minnesota. This fund provides tuition scholarships to black, Indigenous and students of color who wish to pursue a professional architecture degree in Minnesota with the intent of becoming a Registered Architect. For the past several years, this scholarship has been enhanced through a special gift of \$1,000 from AIA's Component Matching Grant Program. The Clarence W. Wigington Minority Scholarship has provided tuition scholarships for eight students of color since its inception. In 2020 as the Dunwoody College of Technology architecture program became accredited, the Foundation added students of that program to those who would be eligible for the Wigington scholarship. Prior scholarship recipients Laichee Yang and Jordan Strickland who are in their second- and third-year graduate studies respectively continue to be supported this year. In addition, two new students, Faize Duale from Dunwoody and Samuel Fleming from the University of Minnesota also received scholarships in 2020.

In 2018, the MAF launched the **Women in Architecture Fund** to promote equity in the architecture profession through grants that address challenges that women face over the course of their careers. Applicants are encouraged to present entrepreneurial, innovative, and/or research-based ideas. The vision of this fund is to support the advancement of women in the profession of architecture by increasing the diversity of perspectives in design processes thereby leading to more inclusive design solutions. The Women in Architecture Fund held one grant cycle in 2020 and is funding two grantees at \$2,500 each. Outside the Box Architecture Programming will fund curriculum development and project materials for a Spring 2021 workshop in Duluth aimed at engaging underrepresented populations of middle school students. The second grant have been awarded to Precipitate to fund research on COVID-19 and the equity of impact on workers in architecture.

First awarded in 1989, the **Ralph Rapson Traveling Study Fellowship** honors Ralph Rapson, FAIA. Based on a weekend juried design competition, this partially endowed fellowship

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Minneapolis, MN 55401
(612) 338-6763
MinnesotaArchitecturalFoundation.org

Thomas F. Ellerbe Scholarship
Ralph Rapson Traveling Study Fellowship
Clarence Wigington Minority Architectural Scholarship
Beverly E. Hauschild-Baron Leadership Fund
Women in Architecture Fund

awards young Minnesota architectural graduates or practitioners a stipend to advance their architectural education. The Ralph Rapson Traveling Study Fellowship has provided \$284,000 in funds since 1989 to advance 26 individual's education in architecture through foreign or domestic travel-study. The Rapson Fellowship Competition was held in March with the final jury selection delayed but eventually held virtually in September. Five finalists were selected from a field of 36 entries. The jury awarded a \$12,000 fellowship to Matthew Tierney, AIA who is planning to travel along two river systems to study the ways architecture, infrastructure and people interact with water.

The **Beverly E. Hauschild-Baron Leadership Fund** was established in 2001 to recognize Beverly Hauschild-Baron's 25 years of service to AIA Minnesota. Its purpose is to help develop ongoing leadership for AIA Minnesota by providing financial support for AIA Minnesota members and AIA Minnesota staff pursuing leadership training. This year the fund providing one scholarship for a 2020 Leadership Forum participant. While sponsoring a keynote speaker at the AIA Minnesota Conference on Architecture has been a typical expenditure of this fund, the virtual nature of the conference in 2020 greatly reduced the overall need for financial support. The fund committee is currently exploring alternate opportunities to support leadership development in our community in 2021.

The **Thomas F. Ellerbe Scholarship** was endowed in 1981 by the Ellerbe firm In honor of Thomas F. Ellerbe, FAIA. This fund annually awards two or more scholarships to exemplary architectural and engineering students In the final year of their master's program. To date, there have been 17 engineering and 62 architectural recipients receiving over \$184,000 in awards. Due to the unique circumstances of this year, no scholarships were awarded in 2020. The intent is to reactivate this scholarship program in 2021.

This year, the Foundation looked for unique opportunities to support our community through the challenges of the ongoing pandemic. The difficult economic conditions that new or recent college graduates have faced this year became a focus for a new ARE Support program. Using General Fund dollars, the Foundation provided almost \$12,000 to support members of our community who are pursuing licensure but are laid off, furloughed or currently unemployed by financially supporting access to ARE study materials.

Moving into 2021, the Foundation will continue to concentrate fundraising efforts on the Wigington Fund to push towards the ability to provide more significant financial support to a greater number of students each year. Our fundraising goals are ambitious, but already in the second half of 2020 we have received several meaningful contributions and pledges.

The MAF fundraising efforts remain vital to our mission, and we are so grateful for your continued support. Thank you to all who have supported the MAF through your generous and tax-deductible contributions. Visit www.MinnesotaArchitecturalFoundation.org for more information on our funds, scholars and mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "MEREDITH HAYES GORDON". The signature is stylized with a large, bold "M" and "G".

Meredith Hayes Gordon, AIA



North Central States - Strategic Council Report

November 25, 2020

MISSION OF THE STRATEGIC COUNCIL

The Strategic Council advances the profession by informing the AIA Board of Directors and other Institute bodies of important professional issues and opportunities.

The Council is charged with surveying the profession to identify opportunities and threats, and engaging in strategic planning to inform future goals, objectives, and strategies of the AIA.

2020 WORK OF THE STRATEGIC COUNCIL

The Council and Board completed a new strategic plan for the Institute. The newly adopted 2021-2025 strategic plan is available at [AIA.org](https://www.aia.org).

We are very pleased with the progress the Council has made this year. We adjusted in response to the pandemic's challenges to us gathering, and we continued to meet virtually, including:

- Virtual Assemblies in Spring and Summer, highlighting mental health and the rural agenda
- The Knowledge Leadership Assembly (KLA) Summit collaboration in August, which included Beyond 2030, the Board Knowledge Committee and the AIA's numerous Knowledge Communities. The KLA Summit's virtual nature provided the opportunity to expand to a wider audience, inviting four times the number of leaders to participate. It has been a goal this year to continue collaboration amongst the knowledge communities and the regional representatives.
- September's Virtual Assembly included presentations from each study area's topic through the lens of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
- December's Governance Week will highlight the work of Technology's Impact on Practice (TIP), rounding out this year's study areas' presentations

AREAS OF FOCUS

Work groups are formed at the beginning of the year by Councilors, to further the study of focused areas of the Institute's objectives and the Council's strategic plan. This year, the Council focused on the following areas for the board's consideration:

AFFORDABLE & EQUITABLE HOUSING

The building industry is increasingly unable to meet rising demand for attainable housing. Socioeconomic factors such as population growth, increasing economic disparity, climate change, and new challenges to community health and wellness have exacerbated community inequities. Such disparities diminish economic, educational, health, and resilience prospects for individuals in these communities. As the nation recognizes the need to address social justice and climate change, the time has come for equitable housing to be considered as an essential infrastructure element for healthy and resilient communities and the nation as a whole. A community that does not successfully integrate equitable housing is not positioned to thrive in the fast- evolving environmental and economic context. Architects have a primary responsibility in the effort to affirm the right to housing and develop a pathway to achieving this right.



MENTAL HEALTH + ARCHITECTURE INCUBATOR

The Mental Health + Architecture Incubator aims to address how architecture and design have an impact on personal and social mental health. This impact can be either negative or positive, and it is important for all architects to understand this. This is critical to the design of our buildings, neighborhoods, and cities; and this topic is in support of the AIA's plan for urgent and sustained climate action, which includes an emphasis on design justice and equitable communities. By addressing the leadership role of the AIA and its members as collaborators within communities, we have an opportunity to:

- encourage a broader understanding of the relationship between mental health and design;
- listen to our clients and communities for whom we design regarding the mental health impacts of their built environments;
- foster productive dialogue surrounding the mental health benefits of good design; and
- collaborate with thought leaders to improve our designs from this perspective.

THE RURAL AGENDA INCUBATOR

With 68% of the world's population expected to live in cities by 2050 (a figure currently at 55%), cities will devour ever-larger areas of land to support the ever-larger demands of their citizens. As dramatic as the change to the urban world, so shall be the impact on architecture, sustainability, economies and the populace of the rural landscape. The symbiotic relation between urban and rural is challenged. Our objective is to study 'the other side of the coin' of urban growth and its effect on the rural landscape. Our goal is to create a 'lens' by which the AIA can be a leader by supporting members, partners and the public engage and prioritize responses to challenges of equity and responsive design.

BEYOND 2030

Our group has honed our focus on Climate Action, per the board's "Big Move." We have gathered topics of concern, filtered through that lens, that will impact architects and the practice of architecture in the decade to come, and into the future. We have also gathered ideas about planning for an unknown future.

TECHNOLOGIES IMPACT ON PRACTICE

To investigate, analyze and make recommendations to AIA Strategic Council and Board on the current and future impacts that technology has on the practice and business of architecture and the role that AIA should play in this transformative period.

THANK YOU

We have sincerely appreciated the opportunity to represent our region on the Strategic Council. We have had many great experiences and opportunities to bring our regional thoughts and ideas to the national level of the Institute!

Please do not hesitate to contact either of us with your thoughts or questions.

Jody Andres, AIA
Strategic Council, Class of 2021
jodyandresaia@gmail.com

John Horky, FAIA
Strategic Council, Class of 2022
jhorky@kahlerslater.com

North Central States Region Emerging Professional Committee Report

The committee has continued to strengthen its regional bonds over the last year with monthly working calls taking place between the four states of Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. This year, each call had a specific theme and was led by an emerging professional from each state. The annual Regional EP Summit will be a virtual gathering.

This year the committee acted on the following initiatives:

- www.aiancsr.com was launched, a new Emerging Professional focused website which provides resources, blogs, and recognition geared specifically for this AIA member category.
- The regional Emerging Professional Friendly Firm Award was introduced last year. It recognizes firms that do an outstanding job supporting young professionals. The second round of awarded firms are listed below. We are in the process of collating this year's application data into a comprehensive report to share with our region. Firms interested in applying can do so at www.aiancsr.com/ep-friendly-firm-award.

Minnesota

BWBR
Cunningham Group
ISG
JLG Architects
Kodet Architectural Group
Peterssen/Keller Architecture
Ryan Companies
Snow Kreilich Architects
Stone Group Architects
TSP
Alliance
ESG
LHB
Perkins & Will
RSP

North Dakota

JLG Architects

South Dakota

ISG
JLG Architects
Stone Group Architects
TSP
Architecture Incorporated
FEH Design
MSH Architects
VanDeWalle Architects

Wisconsin

BWBR
ISG
Kahler Slater
OPN Architects
Ryan Companies
FEH Design
Flad
Legacy Architecture
LHB

A special thanks to Katie Kangas, AIA for all she has done for the North Central States Region. She will be missed and we hope she finds ways to remain involved. As her term ends, we look forward to welcoming Ryan Welke, AIA to serve as the Young Architect Regional Director.

Jonathon Jacobs, Assoc. AIA
National Associates Committee
Regional Associate Director
Term: 2020-21
jonathon.j.jacobs@gmail.com

Katie Kangas, AIA
Young Architects Forum
Young Architect Regional Director
Term: 2019-20
katie@pasque.studio



2019 MEMBER CONGRESS MEETING MINUTES

November 12, 2019

Prepared by Amber Allardyce, Deputy Executive Director

Welcome and Call to Order

President Eric West, AIA welcomed attendees and thanked staff, member volunteers, student volunteers, speakers, exhibitors, sponsors, and Conference Program Committee co-chairs and committee members. Executive Vice President Mary-Margaret Zindren thanked the event sponsor: Mortenson. West called the meeting to order at 12:23 pm.

Reports and Calls to Action

Secretary's Report

Secretary Anna Pravinata, AIA reviewed the 2018 Member Congress meeting minutes highlighting the motions.

A motion to accept the 2018 Member Congress meeting minutes included in the 2019 Annual Report was made, seconded, and passed by the membership.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Michael Schellin, AIA provided a summary overview of the financial report included in the 2019 Annual Report.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made, seconded, and passed by the membership.

Regional Directors Reports

North Central States Regional Representative Matt Johnson, AIA provided a brief report on our representatives work on with The Strategic Council and efforts within our region. North Central States Regional Associate Director Kyle Palzer, Assoc. AIA shared an update on efforts, engagement, and events of the North Central States Region Emerging Professionals Committee.

AEISLAGID Board Update

Doreen Johnson, Executive Director of the Minnesota Architecture, Engineering, Land Surveying, Landscape Architecture, Geoscience, and Interior Design (AEISLAGID) Board provided an update from the state licensing board.

Minnesota Architectural Foundation Report

Minnesota Architectural Foundation (MAF) President Amy Kalar, AIA relayed a brief overview of the five named funds and recipients in MAF's history and encouraged attendees to invest in excellence, leadership, discovery, and equity in the profession of architecture.

Center Task Force Report

Meredith Hayes Gordon, AIA and Angela Wolf Scott, AIA gave an update on the work of the Center for Architecture Task Force in 2019 and what's anticipated for 2020.

Government Affairs Committee/Minnesota Architects Political Action Committee

Government Affairs Committee leaders Ann Voda, AIA and Bob Shaffer, AIA along with Minnesota Architects Political Action Committee (MAPAC) representative Michelle Mongeon Allen, AIA provided a report, asked for membership engagement, and sought financial support for MAPAC.

Recognition

West recognized Committee and Knowledge Community leaders for their contributions to help strengthen the architecture community and the built environment in Minnesota. In addition to serving on committees, task forces, boards, and other AIA Minnesota groups, scores of volunteers offered their time throughout the year. Congratulations were issued to individuals who recently became licensed in the state of Minnesota. Lastly, West took a moment to celebrate members of AIA Minnesota who have been a part of the organization for 50 years.

State of Association

Executive Vice President Mary-Margaret Zindren provided her annual State of the Association report highlighting perennial efforts, unplanned opportunities, and challenges of 2019. She also outlined significant plans for 2020 that bring more member value.

AIA Minnesota – Minnesota Design Team Merger

West welcomed Minnesota Design Team (MDT) co-chairs John Workman and Jeremy Stock, AIA to speak about MDT's work and mission. Zindren presented the proposed Articles of Merger and the Plan of Merger.

A motion to approve the proposed Articles of Merger was made, seconded, and unanimously passed by the membership.

A motion to approve the Plan of Merger was made, seconded, and unanimously passed by the membership.

Leadership Transition

Outgoing President's Remarks

West shared some of his learnings, experiences, opportunities, and appreciation from serving as president in 2019. He closed by sharing his excitement about what is possible.

Nominating Committee Report and Elections

Past President Nathan Johnson, AIA presented the Nominating Committee report and the recommended slate of candidates for 2020:

Anna Pravinata, AIA – President-Elect

Mary Shaffer, AIA – Secretary

Steven Wolf, AIA – Treasurer

Nicole Bauknight, Assoc. AIA – Associate Director

Karen Lu, AIA by virtue of being elected to the position of President-Elect in 2018, will become the AIA Minnesota President for 2020.

A motion to accept the AIA Minnesota slate of candidates for 2020 by acclimation was made, seconded, and approved by the membership.

Remarks from President-Elect

President-Elect Karen Lu, AIA shared her goals for 2020 and asked members to join her in leveraging our collective talents and expertise to advocate for a better built environment.

Conclusion and Adjournment

West thanked the event sponsor, presenters, volunteers, staff, and attendees for their engagement and commitment to AIA Minnesota. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:21 pm.

In all operations and activities of AIA Minnesota, members must avoid any discussions or conduct that might violate state or federal antitrust laws, or even raise an appearance of impropriety regarding topics of: prices for products or services, or prices charged by competitors; costs, discounts, terms of sale, profit margins or anything else that might affect those prices; allocating markets, customers, territories or products with competitors; limiting production; whether or not to deal with any other business; or any competitively sensitive information concerning a member's own business or a competitor's.



AIA MINNESOTA Historical Financial Trends

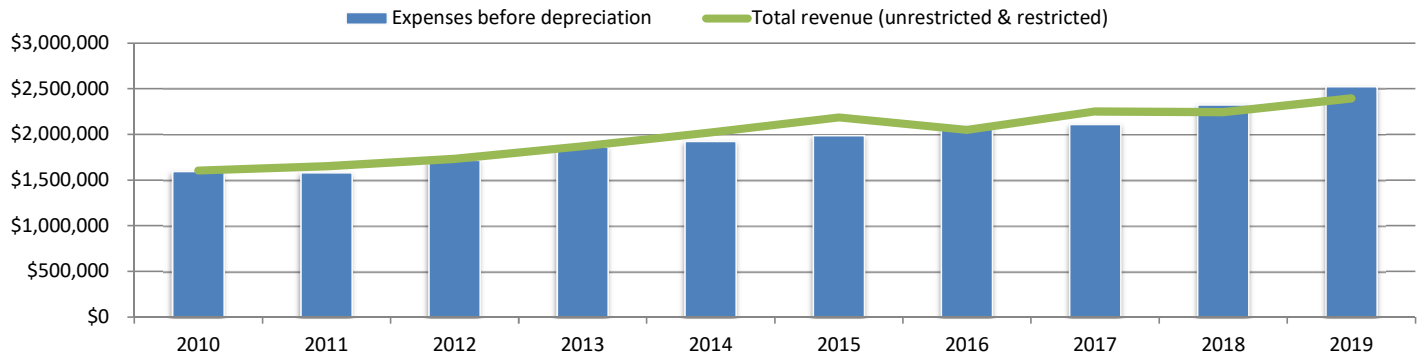
Summary & Overview

Current Months of Cash	Current Months of Cash + Investments	Past 5-Year Total Surplus (2015 - 2019)	Average Annual Growth Rate (2015 - 2019)	Revenue Less Expenses (2019)
0.9	3.7	\$ 106,436	5.6%	\$ (125,431)

Financial Activity Summary

Revenue and expenses are steadily increasing as AIA Minnesota increases programming initiatives. Revenue exceeded expenses in 2019 as AIA offices transitioned into the Crown Roller Mill building. For this move close to \$300,000 shifted from investments to fixed assets/ property improvements.

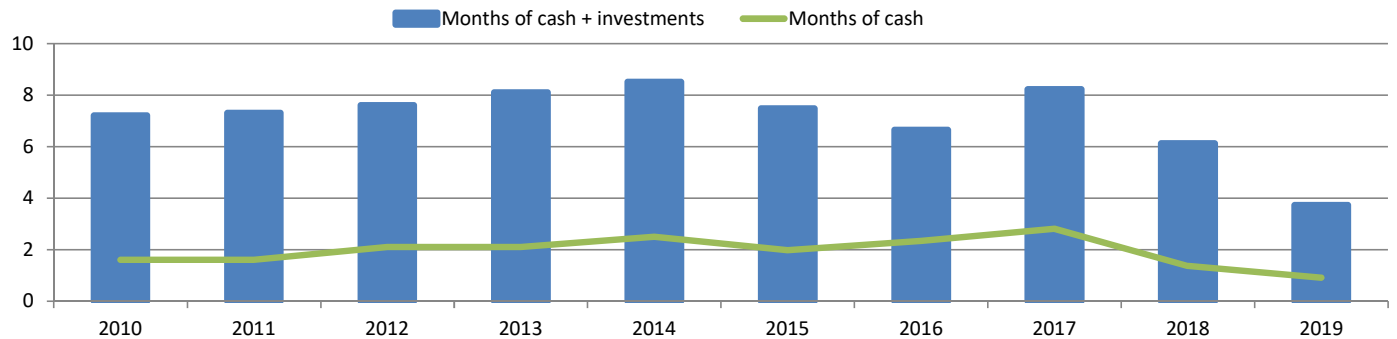
Total Revenue and Expense Trend



Financial Health Summary

Combined cash and investments have decreased over the last three years as investments were made in a new property, support was provided to the Hip Hop Architecture exhibit, and consulting costs were incurred for the Architecture MN Magazine redesign. At the end of 2019 cash and investments total \$781,577.

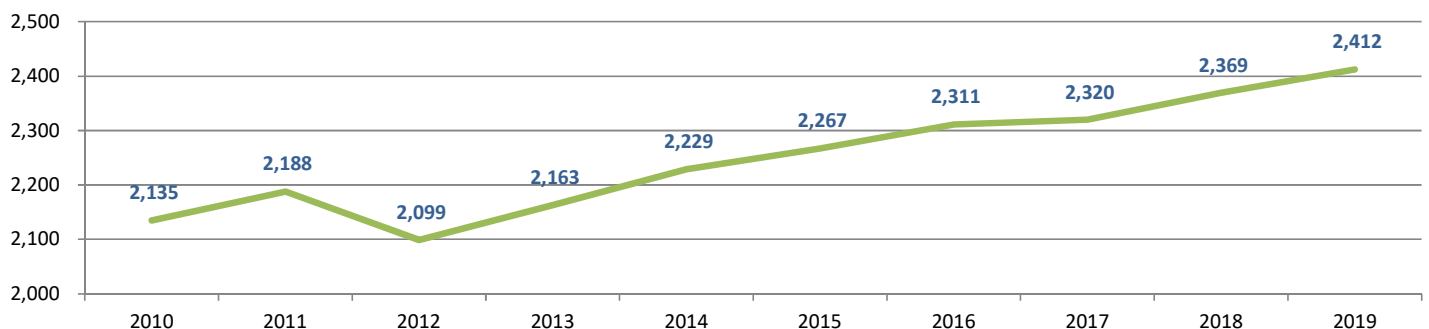
Months of Cash and Investments Trend



Membership

AIA Minnesota provides a range of services to members annually and produces content and events to enhance the architecture profession. AIA Minnesota's membership count from 2018 to 2019 increased by 43 people.

Membership Trend





AIA Minnesota

AIA Minnesota 2020 President
Letter to the Membership

Welcome to the 2020 AIA Minnesota Annual Meeting & Member Congress. Thank you for attending and for contributing to the many valuable activities and programs that AIA Minnesota has delivered this year. Thank you for being a member and for staying engaged during a period fraught with personal and professional challenges.

2020 has been an emotional and exhausting year. Yet, it has also proven to be remarkably productive and promising. The strategic priorities that we began the year with - to build and mentor the profession, and to make architecture accessible, understandable, and highly valued – have found even greater significance due to a global pandemic and the harsh inequities that it has exposed. To fulfill our mission to “advance a vital profession, vibrant communities, and architecture that endures,” we must prioritize equity and the environment. A better built environment for all demands a comprehensive approach to design that integrates multiple needs, contexts, and constituencies into a singular whole. Due to the significant contributions of dedicated staff and volunteers, AIA Minnesota remains well-positioned to support our members in delivering on this vision.

The year began with a number of positive accomplishments: Jennifer Yoos, FAIA, was named Head of the University of Minnesota School of Architecture after a national search; the addition of an NAAB-accredited architecture program at Dunwoody College; an AIA Grassroots conference in New Orleans emphasizing activism; and a sold-out Lake Superior Design Retreat. In March, everything changed as we were confronted with new and unexpected circumstances brought about by a global pandemic. Firms and employees were faced with remote working conditions and economic uncertainty. And then, just a couple of months later, police killed George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Our community responded to these formidable events with empathy and action. Even as we adapted to working physically apart, we worked together to heal and to forge ahead towards our common goal of positively impacting the built environment. AIA Minnesota members brought their experience and expertise to bear both locally and nationally. We shared means for addressing pandemic-specific issues, and we continued to make progress toward climate action and racial justice in both very specific (proposing building energy code revisions and implementing intercultural development training), and broadly ambitious ways (sharing and applying the 21st Century Development framework, and shaping and presenting the outcomes of the Culture Change Initiative). AIA Minnesota is known for being a leader among AIA chapters, and its members are known for the quality of their work. As we strengthen our expertise and resources in these areas, we must also leverage our agency to advocate for a better built environment.

In this tumultuous year, thank you to the AIA Minnesota Board of Directors for your collaboration, commitment, and integrity. Thank you to the MSP NOMA board for your partnership and support. And thank you to AIA Minnesota staff for your collective and individual work – you are deeply appreciated.

It has truly been an honor and privilege to serve you this year. I look forward to continuing our work together toward a more authentic, equitable, and collaborative profession, and a better built environment for all.

Sincerely,

Karen Lu, AIA, NOMA
2020 President



AIA Minnesota

AIA Minnesota 2021 President Letter to the Membership

2020 – what a year! From the COVID-19 pandemic to the murder of George Floyd followed by many civil unrests, this year has brought so many challenges to each one of us, both personally and professionally. These two major events have changed how we work, how we approach design, and how we interact with each other. The COVID-19 pandemic has helped us reduce our carbon footprints by working from home, increased our awareness of indoor air quality, and made us seek nature more than ever. The George Floyd murder has revealed the many levels of systemic racial injustices in this country.

President Karen Lu stated clearly in her November 2020 Matrix column that AIA Minnesota's direction is to define the Future of Design (through broader understanding of AIA Framework for Design Excellence) and Future of Practice (through our very own AIA Minnesota Culture Change Initiative). Defining our future, creating a new normal seems overwhelming, frightening, and even unattainable and it makes you want to stay in your comfortable corner. But I encourage you to go out of that comfortable corner and take the first step in joining our journey.

These are my first steps:

When I started to work from home in March, I looked at the COTE Super Spreadsheet, picked one principle (Design for Ecosystems) and started analyzing our home. What I found was the amount of lawn I have does not contribute positively to the environment. I started replacing lawn with native plantings little by little around our yard, the biggest one will come this winter where I will take out our lawn in the backyard and broadcast native plant seeds. Yes, it will take three years for the prairie to establish, but I am sure it will be worth the wait.

As a woman of color in a profession that is white male dominant, I have endured and survived numerous stereotyping, injustices, and micro-aggressions while staying quiet and going about my own business. But staying quiet does not help to define the Future of the Profession. Therefore in 2021, I promise myself to set aside time to visit firms and other partner organizations to explain what the AIA Minnesota Culture Change Initiative is about and ask people to join in our Community of Practice.

The process of defining the future and creating the new normal heightens our need to interact with each other because it is our collective efforts that will get us there. We know that the virtual A'20 MN Conference has been appreciated by Greater Minnesota members. The social hours at the end of the day provided opportunities to connect. But we missed the in-person interactions. In 2021, we will redefine what our normal for our annual conference will be and hope to capture the best of both worlds (virtual and in-person).

As I look forward to 2021, I will lead AIA Minnesota by helping you stay relevant to your clients and communities as well as facilitate meaningful interactions between members. With a sigh of big relief, I bid adieu to 2020 and welcome 2021 with open arms.

Sincerely,

Anna Pravinata, AIA, NOMA, LEED AP