



Minnesota Architectural Foundation – 2023 Annual Report

The MAF Board met monthly to review and oversee the operations of the board and the committees. Board members remained fully engaged in their committee work throughout the year contributing many volunteer hours to fundraising, administering funds, awarding scholarships and grants, as well as representing the MAF to the broader architectural design community.

The overall MAF finances remained strong in 2023. The aggregated investment portfolio at the end of September totaled \$1,601,01, up 11% from the same time last year. Donations lagged a bit this year in part due to some firm pledges being completed by the end of 2022. Total donations to date are \$45,630, down approx. 31% from 2022, but this does not yet include the generous annual contribution from the Minneapolis chapter golf outing. An additional push in fundraising efforts is already a part of the board discussions as we look to 2024.

The 2023 board members included:

President	Bartlett “Bake” Baker, FAIA - Mary Shaffer, AIA - President-Elect Shida Du, AIA - Past-President Steven Wolf, AIA - Treasurer Patrica Mutebi, Assoc. AIA - Secretary	Nancy Blankfard, FAIA Meredith Hayes-Gordon, AIA Paul May, AIA Dale Mulfinger, FAIA Anna Pravinata, AIA Leah Smith, AIA MN Allied Member
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The MAF Board was ably supported by AIA Minnesota staff throughout the year:

Mary-Margaret Zindren, CAE - Executive Director
Amber Allardyce, Hon. AIAMN, CAE - Deputy Executive Director
Stacey Johnson - Finance Director

Beverly Hauschild-Baron Leadership Fund

Committee Members

Mary Shaffer – Chair, Bake Baker, Paul May, and Ellie Ziaie, who joined the latter part of the year.

Committee Activities and Accomplishments

In 2022, we established an “ANNUAL ACTION PLAN” that we used to plan our activities for 2023.

- We added the tagline: “*Inspiring Our Future Leaders*” to the name of the BHB Fund during 2023.

- The MAF did not have a focused 2023 fundraising goal for the BHB Fund.
- The fund had approximately \$8,440.00 available to expend in 2023.
- As of the end of October 2023:
 - We awarded \$3,750.00 in Scholarships this year and have \$3000-4000 pending in sponsorship for an annual AIA-MN Conference keynote; for a total of \$7,750.00 awarded and pending.
 - To date the fund received no donations for 2023. however, donations for this fund typically come in during November and December.
 - Interest and Dividends increased the BHB Fund by a moderate amount, approximately \$3,600.00.
 - The ending fund balance for 2023 totals \$154,581.

Summary of the 2023 Scholarship and Sponsorship opportunities administered by the BHB Fund include:

- **AIA-MN Leadership Forum Scholarship:** two partial scholarships awarded in 2023 totaling \$750.
- **BHB Leadership Scholarship:** no scholarships awarded in 2023.
- **AIA-MN Conference Leadership Keynote Speaker Sponsorship:** The committee worked closely with the AIA-MN Programming Committee Chairs for the better part of the year and will sponsor one of the keynotes next month at the Conference.
 - Keynote by Phillip Bernstein from Yale (Architecture and Machine Intelligence in Theory & Practice - Yale Architecture).
- **WLS Scholarship:** The committee planned for the now Annual WLS Scholarship this year, starting in April. WLS was held September 12-14 in Boston, MA. We modelled the application after the 2022 WLS Scholarship.
 - Call for applications was posted May 22 and announced in Matrix in June.
 - 11 applications were received by the deadline of July 14.
 - Former WLS Scholars were invited to participate in the application review on August 2, 2023.
 - Three (3) scholarships each in an amount up to \$1,000 to attend the AIA Women's Leadership Summit, were awarded to: Alexa Deppeler, AIA, Jena Quast, Assoc. AIA, and Kaitlin Schalow, AIA
 - All three recipients presented a short summary of their experience at our October 10, 2023, MAF meeting. They also gave feedback that will be considered for the process in 2024

2024 Goals:

January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New chair, committee members named. • 2024: establish meetings in February, April, May, June, August, October. • <i>No January Meeting</i>
February	<p>Committee Meeting Review past year's accomplishments, activities for the year, fundraising ideas, rework the WLS Scholarship Applications based on feedback from 2023. 2024 Goal: increase fundraising efforts; send out WLS Scholarship Applications in April 2024.</p>
March	<i>No March Meeting</i>
April	Committee Meeting

	Brainstorm ideas for AIA MN Conference keynote speaker(s). Understand AIA booking timeline. 2024 Goal: coordinate with AIA-MN Conference Programs Committee from April thru August; open application period for WLS in April.
May	Committee Meeting Check in with Leadership Forum (LF) Committee, investigate ways to engage past LF cohorts; fundraising ideas; WLS planning (annual since 2022) 2024: coordinate with Leadership Forum Committee; AIA WLS applicant review in May/June 2024.
June	Committee Meeting Women's Leadership Summit (WLS) planning/follow-up; announce scholars. 2024: announce WLS Scholars.
July	<i>No July Meeting</i>
August	Committee Meeting Potential Leadership Forum past cohort event; potential September event or event in conjunction with AIA-MN Conference in November; finalize AIA-MN Keynote Sponsorship. 2024: coordinate with Leadership Forum Committee for event date.
September	<i>No September Meeting</i>
October	Committee Meeting Women's Leadership Summit: WLS scholars report back at MAF October Board Meeting. Chair: Create annual committee report for the AIA-MN Annual Meeting to document scholarships, sponsorships, donations and relative activities to be included in the BHB Fund archival history. 2024: update annual report
November	BHB Scholarship Recipients and Leadership Forum gathering 2024: plan event around the A'24 AIA-MN Conference. <i>No November Meeting</i>
December	Chair: Update archival history for the past year. <i>No December Meeting</i>

Thomas F. Ellerbe Scholarship

Committee Members

Nancy Blankfard – Chair, Bake Baker, Jon Buggy

Purpose and Vision

The purpose of the scholarship is to support graduate students as they conclude their academic degree program and commence with their professional career. As a competitive scholarship program, the intent is to reward students for their rigor of design, depth of integration of other disciplines into their design presentations and clarity and resolution of the challenges as represented in their submittals. Additionally, the timing of this scholarship program is to prepare students for their final Masters' project and subsequent professional career interviews.

Recognizing excellence in spirit and dedication of final-year graduate students in architecture and engineering.

Committee Activities and Accomplishments

- We distributed \$12,000 in Scholarships this year; \$3,000 each to:
 - Julia Friedrichsen
 - Marshall King
 - Anukriti Misra
 - Isaiah Scharen
- The fund saw moderate growth with donations for 2023 totaling \$2,000. Donations for this account also see an uptick in November and December months.
 - The ending fund balance for 2023 totals \$239,853
 - Available funds for distribution in 2024 are \$12,000
- The Committee worked with University of Minnesota School of Architecture to award and make minor improvements to the application for 2024. UMN representatives were William Weber and Greg Donofrio.
- Improved the Personal Statement prompt on the application to be:
 - *Personal Statement: A narrative not to exceed one page (600 words maximum) introducing yourself and the projects in your application. In the spirit of Thomas F. Ellerbe, explain how your portfolio demonstrates excellence in design, rigorous systems integration, and your viewpoint about architecture. Applicants are encouraged to reflect on how the work in their portfolio illustrates the trajectory of their architectural education and career aspirations.*
- Recommend mid-January due date for applicants and award in February.
- To reflect Ellerbe’s original intent to award the scholarship to both architecture and engineering students, the committee continued to make connections to the School of Engineering. A firm connection to engineering students planning to go into the built environment is not strong.
- Developed a new tagline for the scholarship: “Recognizing design rigor in the capstone year”.

2024 goals:

January	Confirm committee members Convene jury to review applications
February	Committee Meeting Announce Scholarship winners
March	
April	Committee Meeting Incorporate any suggested application improvements
May	
June	Committee Meeting Share next year’s application with MAF for review and approval
July	
August	
September	
October	Committee Meeting Update MAF annual report Confirm funds available to distribute in following year

November	Issue application to eligible students Introduce Scholarship to eligible UMN students so direct contact with students is less transactional. (Consider Alex Maymind's theory course)
December	

Finance Committee

Committee Members

Steven Wolf -Treasurer and Chair, Bake Baker, Mary Shaffer, Shida Du

Committee Activities and Accomplishments

The Committee met quarterly and as well as several additional times throughout the year to address specific issues. In general, these were attended by committee members, AIA MN staff, representatives from our auditing firm, and representatives from an investment firm, per the agenda for that meeting.

- Annual Budget Review: Stacey and Amber prepared a preliminary draft annual budget for 2023 in January 2023. The Committee reviewed and recommended approval of the annual budget to the Board for approval in February 2023
- Financial Planning Review: Oversee financial planning during the budgeting and strategic planning processes, working closely with staff.
- Financial Record Oversight: Stacey Johnson has provided helpful financial reports to the Committee throughout the year. A consolidated (AIA MN and MAF) auditor's report was reviewed in June and approved.
- Coordination with AIA MN Finance: Continued to share information and processes between MAF and AIA MN including charters, investment policies, audits and ESG investing.
- Audit Filing Update: The MAF and AIA MN moved to a bi-annual versus annual audit due to the tightening AIA MN operational budget. AIA MN and MAF audits are combined and must be filed jointly due to the shared executive leadership of both entities. The audit expense portion for MAF will be included as an additional admin/General Fund expense item every other year.
- Financial Policy and Check Signing Update: A recommendation and move was made to update check signing procedures to ease staff operations and have a plan in the event of an EVP absence. An update to the check signing policy now reads: Individual check signing authority for the Deputy Executive Director, up to \$10,000, with the Executive Director remaining as primary signatory and the Deputy Executive Director acting as signatory in the absence of the Executive Director.
- RBC Update: Discussion related to RBC investments and manager performance have been ongoing. The consensus of the committee was to start actively seeking another brokerage firm to manage the MAF fund accounts.
- Wigington Scholarship Budgeting Update: The Wigington Scholarship committee increased the number of scholarships by two (increasing the total to 3) with the understanding that an additional scholarship is to be held for one year for a student on hiatus.
- The Committee continues to provide meeting notes for each committee meeting to include an attendance record, copy of the agenda and summary of topics discussed.

Fundraising Committee

Committee Members

Paul May, Chair, Bake Baker, Michael Grage, Leah Smith, Barb Thomson, Steven Wolf, Shida Du, Meredith Hayes Gordon

Committee Meetings

The Committee met monthly on the first Wednesday. Attendance was consistent. Minutes were prepared and distributed to all members, and MAF leadership officers.

Committee Activities and Accomplishments

- The fundraising committee led the efforts to create “tag lines” for each of the MAF funds. The intent was to have a greater description of the fund’s intended use, as the fund names are not sufficient for most audiences. The names developed with each fund committee resulted in the following:
 - Beverly Hauschild Baron - Inspiring Our Future Leaders
 - Clarence Wigington– Advancing Equity and Inclusion within Architecture
 - Women In Architecture - Advancing Women in Architecture
 - Ralph Rapson - Design Discovery Through Travel
 - Ellerbe - Recognizing Design Rigor in the Capstone Year
- AIA golf outing was held, with MAF sponsoring 2 holes, one on each course. Money was raised through localized games at each hole.
- The AIA – Mn conference activities included:
 - Creation and staffing a booth
 - Selling raffle tickets for donated prizes. This year the raffle items included restaurant certificates, Mn Twins tickets, St Croix River Cruise, 3D printer, Lego set, FAIA signature wine basket, 3-day Cabin weekend, Minnesota architect book collection, registration & lodging for the Lake Superior Design Retreat
 - Introduction of Keynote speaker sponsored by the BHB fund
- The Committee continues to discuss options or additional outreach to Allied Partners, AIA-Mn firms, AIA members, & construction-related companies for more funding options.

Nominating Committee

Committee Members

Shida Du – Chair, Bake Baker, Mary Shaffer

Committee Activities and Accomplishments

The committee is currently meeting to identify a proposed slate of officers and new board member candidates for 2024.

Ralph Rapson Traveling Scholarship Award

Committee Members

Bake Baker – Chair, Toby Rapson, Eric Amel, Shida Du

Committee Activities and Accomplishments

The committee met in the late Fall to review the developing RRTSA Task Force Recommendations. The Task Force completed their report in January of 2023 which included

many concrete and specific improvements to be implemented. There was discussion about skipping the competition in 2023 due to the compressed time frame between the completion of the Task Force report and the desired competition time window.

Concurrent with the Task Force efforts conversations were being held with the Reconnect Rondo community organization in St. Paul regarding the possibility of using the Rapson competition as a vehicle for envisioning a new community innovation center in the Rondo neighborhood. It was decided to proceed in this direction, but last-minute concerns by Reconnect Rondo leadership caused a shift in the development of the brief to reimagining a future school at the Maxfield School site in St. Paul.

A brief was quickly developed, a jury was recruited, and the competition was held from April 27 to May 9, 2023. The final jury was held on June 1. The jury included: Keith Baker - Reconnect Rondo, Tom Parent – Architect, Ex. Director of Facilities, St. Paul Public Schools, Amy Artates Carroll – Architect, Pope, NOMA, and Judy Hoskins – Educational Planner, Cunningham. Five finalists were identified in the initial jury session on May 18. On June 1 those five made presentations and a winner was announced. A celebratory dinner was held for the finalists and jury members. Each finalist received a stipend of \$500 and the winner was awarded \$15,000 for the Ralph Rapson Traveling Scholarship.

- Winner:
 - Jesse Zien, AIA
- Finalists:
 - Chris Laabs, AIA
 - Sarah Hill, AIA
 - Teddy Gustafson, AIA
 - Aarón Regla Breton, Assoc. AIA, NOMA
- A few key Task Force recommendations that were able to be implemented in 2023 include:
 - Longer competition duration (10 days)
 - More diverse jury (2 women, 2 men, 2 people of color)
 - Relevant project brief (reimagining urban school of the future)

2024 Goals:

- Implement the remaining Task Force Recommendations. A few highlights include:
 - Broaden the input into the brief ideation and development
 - Expand participation in the competition with enhanced publicity via social media, pre-competition information session, “accessible” brief, etc.
 - Continue to broaden/diversify jury makeup to better represent the architectural community
 - Schedule the competition at a more convenient time for competitors in mid-winter or early spring

Clarence Wigington Architectural Scholarship

Committee Members

Patricia Mutebi – Chair, Bake Baker, Dale Mulfinger, Ellie Zaie, Mary Shaffer, Michael Grage, Keon Blasingame, Stephanie McDaniel, Matt Finn

Purpose and Vision

Advancing diversity in the architectural profession, this fund aims to firmly launch the careers of promising black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) students by providing focused and sustained financial support through scholarships. The scholarship provides tuition support for BIPOC students who wish to pursue a professional education in architecture at an accredited school of architecture in Minnesota (currently the University of Minnesota and Dunwoody College of Technology), and who hold promise for succeeding in an architectural career.

Committee Activities and Accomplishments

Scholarship Recipients:

- Mateo Gonzalez, a Dunwoody College of Technology architecture student headed into his third year of the Architecture program.
- Mia-Rose Peters, a student at Dunwoody College of Technology with two years remaining in her Bachelor of Architecture program.
- Esther Oluwalowo, a first year Master of Architecture student at the University of Minnesota.

Events:

- Fall Scholars Event
 - An annual event geared towards celebrating scholars was established this year. The inaugural event was held on September 20th at BKV Group.
- Wigington Mentorship Program
 - Ellie Ziaie, a former scholar of the AIA Next to Lead Program had her Capstone project geared towards developing a mentorship plan for the Wigington Scholars. After several meetings with the board and the students, a structured mentorship as set in place and will be run by the Committee Chair.
 - The Program kicked off will be held on 1st November at the University of Minnesota in the Rapson Hall.
- Tag line for MAF Funds: A follow up to the MAF Board retreat was the desire/need to help clarify the identity and purpose of each of the MAF committees. The Wigington committee settled on the tagline, “Advancing Equity and Inclusion within Architecture”.

Women in Architecture Fund

Committee Members

Meredith Hayes-Gordon – Chair, Leah Smith, Anna Pravinata, Teresa McCormack

Committee Activities and Accomplishments

Four grant applications were received. The committee met to discuss the 2023 grant award submittals. Some additional conversations with several of the applicants were required. The 2023 grant award process is still in progress.