

Dear AIA Minnesota firm leader,

We hope this message finds you and your loved ones well. 2022 has been both a challenging and successful year – one where, despite the lingering impacts of the pandemic, AIA Minnesota has worked to bring value to your firm, to Minnesota’s architectural community, and to the broader public on your behalf.

AIA Minnesota membership numbers are trending up again, recovering from the impacts of the pandemic-induced recession on the AEC industry; this is consistent with the cycle of past recessions for AIA Minnesota (our own financial impact and recovery tends to lag that of our members). We are optimistic that membership numbers will further recover in 2023, as many firms are in a more favorable financial position and better able to support employees’ professional development.

Member dues and the Firm Assessment – your support – makes possible all of this and more:

- The 2023 legislature is poised to move forward a combination of **bonding and cash investments in capital projects** that exceeds the 2020 bonding bill (the largest in state history). We have continued to partner with others in the AEC industry on these and other efforts. And our advocacy focused on climate action and housing have resulted in AIA Minnesota and our members being regularly called upon by powerful legislators to inform and push for legislative and administrative change.
- We have facilitated the establishment of a **partnership with [BuildingGreen](#)** to provide free access to their Knowledge Base for one year – 2023 – to all AIA Minnesota members. Firms that are currently paying for subscriptions to BuildingGreen will receive a benefit of \$199 per subscriber, and will have the opportunity to expand access throughout the firm to leap forward in the number of architects, designers, and collaborators who are integrating sustainable, resilient, regenerative design approaches into their work. This effort is led by AIA Minneapolis, with support from AIA St. Paul and AIA Northern Minnesota, thus making it available to all Minnesota members of the AIA. This is a partnership unique to Minnesota. Please watch for communications in January to ensure your firm receives the maximum benefit of this partnership.
- The **Minnesota Conference on Architecture** returned to be in person in 2022 and had the feel of a joyful reunion. The carbon footprint of the conference was dramatically reduced and we welcomed back exhibitors and partners in the Expo Hall. Looking ahead, **save the date for November 7-9, 2023** and please plan to support your staff in attending and presenting. Conference programming in 2023 will have extra emphasis on the business of architecture – growing the business acumen of members at all phases of their career development.
- We published and widely distributed our first **print annual of ENTER**. Developed with clients and key influencers in mind, the print annual was sent to CEOs, legislators, city leaders, and key influencers throughout Minnesota. The companion *ENTER* digital bi-weekly also continues to

provide regular opportunities for firms to easily to share articles and insights with public, nonprofit, and private-sector clients.

- Our **work on equity, diversity, and inclusion** (EDI) continues to be lifted up nationally as a model for AIA chapters across the nation.
 - Assisting members in growing their ability to recognize and bridge across difference, in 2022, we began to offer the **Foundations of Intercultural Development program within firms**. While our capacity is limited to a handful of firms per year, we plan to continue this approach in 2023 – reach out to Angie McKinley at mckinley@aia-mn.org to learn more. We are also planning to again offer the **National Intercultural Leadership Program** in 2023.
 - In the past year we continued to present our Culture Change Initiative nationally – our analysis of the current culture of the profession, definition of the desired culture, and a path to accelerating change. And the **Community of Practice for Culture Change** continued to bring together individuals who are committed to creating the desired culture, one that is authentic, equitable, and collaborative – if you’re interested in joining, reach out to PaviElle French at french@aia-mn.org. For 2023, a **new firm-based consulting program focused on culture change** will be launched. If your firm is potentially interested, reach out to me at zindren@aia-mn.org.
 - Equity in the built environment has also been a major focus of our work. A public outreach program called **History, Hurdles and Hope**, funded in part by the McKnight Foundation, engaged dozens of community leaders and neighborhood residents in identifying the barriers and bright spots related to development.
- Despite an unusually low number of homes on the **Homes by Architects Tour** in 2022, all signs point to a robust array of homes that will be ready in time to be showcased in 2023. The Tour and the **Home of the Month** collaboration with the Star Tribune continue to bring public attention to the extraordinary work of Minnesota’s residential architecture community.
- And a **new, multi-year strategic workplan** was unveiled at the Annual Conference – a joint plan among AIA Minnesota, the local chapters, and the Minnesota Architectural Foundation, shaped by the insights and recommendations members shared throughout and 2022. Keep an eye out for a link to a pdf of the workplan in the Matrix newsletter in the new year.

These efforts are inherently related to the current and future success of Minnesota architecture firms and the broader impact firms seek to have for the clients and communities you serve. **One of the critical funding sources that makes this work possible is the Firm Assessment.** The Firm Assessment was created more than 50 years ago to provide continuing support for the services provided by AIA Minnesota that are of significant benefit to firms. Please complete your [Firm Assessment Invoice and Worksheet](#) and return it with payment by **January 31, 2023**. Payment of the Firm Assessment is required by the AIA Minnesota bylaws for any firm with an AIA Minnesota member as a principal.

Thank you for continuing to support AIA Minnesota. We look forward to another year of advocating on your behalf, promoting the value of architecture, and supporting your firm's success.

Questions regarding the invoice, inquiring about payment plan options, to receive a hard copy by mail, notice of changes in your firm with regards to mergers, retirement, transitions, or other please email Amber Allardyce at allardyce@aia-mn.org.

Best regards,
Mary-Margaret Zindren
Executive Vice President, AIA Minnesota