

Dear AIA Minnesota firm leader:

2023 has been both a challenging and successful year – one where, AIA Minnesota has worked to advance a vital profession, vibrant communities, and architecture that endures.

AIA Minnesota membership numbers continue to trend up, slowly 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 2024.

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

- The **2023 Minnesota legislative session** was one of leaps forward on many of AIA Minnesota's top policy priorities. We had many important "wins" that we have long worked toward, including securing another significant capital investment package (\$2.6 billion in total), the reinstatement of the Historic Preservation Tax Credit through June of 2030, and dozens of bills that advance climate action in our state.
- We published our second **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 monthly also continues to bring forward insights and to highlight the work of Minnesota firms in a way that is easy to share with public, nonprofit, and private-sector clients and stakeholders. When you have a story idea, please make sure to share it with ENTER editor-in-chief Chris Hudson HUDSON@AIA-MN.ORG.
- The **Homes by Architects 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. Public interest in residential events continues to recover from the pandemic, and we are optimistic that 2024 will be another great year for these efforts.
- The **Minnesota Conference on Architecture** moved to a new venue – The Depot, Minneapolis - that provided a boost to the attendee experience while offering the same high-quality content and increased opportunities for meaningful interactions. Attendees and exhibitors provided extraordinarily positive feedback on the new location. Looking ahead, **save the date for November 11-13, 2024 – we plan to be back at The Depot again!**
- We continued the **partnership with BuildingGreen** to provide free access to their Knowledge Base for one year (2023) to all AIA Minnesota members – a benefit valued at \$199 per subscriber that allowed the opportunity to expand access throughout firms to significantly grow the number of architects, designers, and collaborators who are integrating sustainable, resilient, regenerative design approaches into their work.
- In 2023, AIA Minnesota hosted **new celebrations** to honor the achievements of our members throughout the year. This approach of hosting several more impactful, meaningful events rather than a single event at the end of the year was greatly appreciated by those being honored, and allowed us to also grow recognition for national award winning projects and individual honorees, as well as recipients of the Minnesota Architectural Foundation's grants and scholarships.

- Our **work on equity, diversity, and inclusion** (EDI) continues to be lifted up nationally as a model for AIA chapters across the nation including the **National Intercultural Leadership Program** that was once again offered in 2023, where more than two dozen firm leaders and change-makers in the industry attended nine sessions focused on growing the leadership skills necessary to recognize and bridge across difference – skills critical to effective community engagement, client service, and navigation of conflict in pursuit of shared goals.
- A collaboration between AIA Minnesota and the Minnesota Historical Society, the **North Star Story Map**, is a new storytelling platform for people to share their personal stories of the built spaces in Minnesota that hold special meaning to them. We are poised to hold several community events and collaborations in 2024 that connect the public to their built environment.
- This summer, AIA Minnesota became the first AIA-related organization in the nation to hold a **Just 2.0 label** from the [International Living Future Institute](#). The label allows AIA Minnesota to focus on a path of continuous improvement for a fairer and more just workplace. It also serves as a tool to further broader conversations in the AEC industry about ways to improve values-based workplace operations.
- Several times throughout the year (and stretching back to spring of 2022), the membership was invited to share their perspectives to inform a potential policy position on **equivalent paths to licensure** that expand access to the profession. The board is currently reviewing all input received to inform their action on a policy position. No matter what policy, if any, is adopted, AIA Minnesota will work hard to ensure that the Minnesota licensing board hears the ideas, opinions, questions, and concerns of firm leaders and the architecture community broadly as the licensing board contemplates establishing equivalent paths as part of a 2-year-long regulatory process anticipated to begin in January.
- The **multi-year joint strategic workplan**, adopted in 2022 by AIA Minnesota, the local chapters, and the Minnesota Architectural Foundation, continues to guide our efforts for the benefit of individual members and Minnesota firms, the shared goals being:
 - Strengthen the business, working conditions, and culture of architecture
 - Make design for climate change foundational
 - Expand member impact beyond buildings and for greater public benefit
 - Expand access to the profession
 - Recognize limited capacity through strategic scale-back


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, 2024.** 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.

Please email Amber Allardyce at allardyce@aia-mn.org if you have any questions regarding the invoice, to inquire about payment plan options, to receive a hard copy by mail, or to share notice of changes in your firm with regards to mergers, retirement, transitions, etc.

All the best to you and your firm for a successful year ahead!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary-Margaret Zindren', with a stylized, cursive script.

Mary-Margaret Zindren, CAE
Executive Vice President, AIA Minnesota