



2023 Minnesota Architectural Foundation - Annual Report

The MAF Board contributed 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 \$1,601,051, up 11% from the same time last year. Donations lagged a bit this year in part due to some multi-year firm pledges being completed by the end of 2022. Total donations to date are \$45,630, down approximately 31% from 2022, but this does not yet include the generous annual contribution from the Minneapolis chapter golf outing.

The 2023 board members included:

Bartlett "Bake" Baker, FAIA - President	Nancy Blankfard, FAIA
Mary Shaffer, AIA - President-Elect	Meredith Hayes-Gordon, AIA
Shida Du, AIA - Past-President	Paul May, AIA
Steven Wolf, AIA - Treasurer	Dale Mulfinger, FAIA
Patrica Mutebi, Assoc. AIA - Secretary	Anna Pravinata, AIA
	Leah Smith, AIA MN Allied Member

The MAF Board was ably supported by AIA Minnesota staff throughout the year:

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

Beverly Hauschild-Baron Leadership Fund

- **AIA-MN Leadership Forum Scholarship:** two partial scholarships awarded in 2023 totaling \$750.
- **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 keynote to be presented by Phillip Bernstein, FAIA, on the future of AIA and the practice of architecture.
- **BHB Leadership Scholarship:** no scholarships awarded in 2023.
- **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. 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.

Thomas F. Ellerbe Scholarship

- Distributed \$12,000 in Scholarships this year; \$3,000 each to: Julia Friedrichsen, Marshall King, Anukriti Misra, and Isaiah Scharen.
- We are shifting the timing to a 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; the committee will be working to grow this connection.

Finance Committee

- Coordination with AIA MN Finance: Continued to share information and processes between MAF and AIA MN including charters, investment policies, audits and ESG investing.
- A consolidated (AIA MN and MAF) auditor's report was reviewed in June and approved. 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 majority of MAF board members being appointed by the AIA Minnesota Board of Directors.
- Investment management is in the process of being changed from RBC to UBS; UBS is the manager for AIA Minnesota's investment funds. The move was made due to sustained decline in communications; performance of the funds has been essentially on par with UBS.
- 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

- 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 Traveling Study Award - Design Discovery Through Travel
 - Ellerbe - Recognizing Design Rigor in the Capstone Year
- AIA Minnesota golf outing was held, with MAF sponsoring 2 holes, one on each course. AIA Minneapolis will determine its contribution to the MAF at its final meeting of the year in 2023.
- At the AIA Minnesota Annual Conference, board members will be 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
- The Committee continues to discuss options or additional outreach to Allied Partners, AIA Minnesota member firms, AIA members, and construction-related companies.

Ralph Rapson Traveling Study Award (RRTSA)

The committee met in the late Fall to review the developing RRTSA Task Force Recommendations. The Task Force completed their report, which was adopted unanimously by the MAF board in January of 2023 and 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. However, concurrent with the Task Force efforts, conversations were being held with the Reconnect Rondo community organization in St. Paul as a potential collaborator for brief development and jurying. After deliberation on the best focus for a project brief, Reconnect Rondo leadership worked with committee members to develop a brief to reimagining a future school at the Maxfield School site in St. Paul.

Five finalists were identified in the initial jury session on May 18. Each finalist received a stipend of \$500 and the winner was awarded \$15,000 for the Ralph Rapson Traveling Study Award.

- 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); diverse jury (2 women, 2 men, 2 people of color); and relevant project brief (reimagining urban school of the future).

In 2024, the committee and board will 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; and
- Schedule the competition at a more convenient time for competitors in mid-winter or early spring.

Clarence Wigington Architectural Scholarship

The Wigington 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.

2023 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, geared her Capstone project towards developing a mentorship plan for the Wigington Scholars. After several meetings with the board and the students, a structured mentorship approach has been developed.
 - The program kick-off will be held in November at the University of Minnesota.

Women in Architecture Fund

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