



AIA Ohio Valley Region Associate Director

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AIA Mission Statement: “The AIA is the voice of the Architectural Profession and a resource for its members in service to society”

AIA Vision Statement: “Driving Positive Change through the Power of Design”

OVR Associate Director Report

OVR Associate News

National Associates Committee Updates

National Convention:

I attended the AIA National Convention in Philadelphia this year in my capacity as the Regional Associate Director. Prior to convention the NAC posed questions to the candidates for 2017 AIA First Vice President/2018 President regarding issues that emerging professionals face and the candidates posted their responses through various social media channels. The majority of the NAC was represented at convention and, as a group, attended the candidates for national office speeches, regional caucuses, and general business meeting together to represent the associate members of the organization.

Some highlights from convention included:

- Emerging Professionals Interchange: The Center for Emerging Professionals expanded their booth on the expo floor this year with the EP Interchange. The interactive booth included surveys for emerging professionals to take regarding the profession and the organization where colored boxes were used as visually gauge responses. The focal point was the question of what architecture means to you. There were four colored boxes representing people, culture, innovation, and the environment, that could then be drawn and written on before being tossed into

a large net in the booth. There were also events including a happy hour, a meet-and-great with the 2016 candidates for national office, and a meet up for AIA Diversity and Inclusion.

- Emerging Professionals Roundtable: The NAC organized an EP Roundtable which included panelist Darius Sollohub, AIA, Frank Mruk, FAIA, and Jessica Sheridan, AIA, moderated by NAC At-Large Director Alex Alaimo, Assoc. AIA. The session was very well attended having been sold out and moved to a larger room. The discussions revolved around the capabilities and needs of millennials in the workplace, licensure, and engagement. The majority of people attending were from outside of the NAC, which provided a wide range of perspectives from a varying group of emerging professionals.
- 2016 Associate Awards: One of the honor awards presented at the National Convention is the AIA Associate Award. The AIA Associates Award is the highest award given to individual associate AIA members who best exemplify the highest qualities of leadership and have demonstrated an unparalleled commitment to their component or region's membership, in the community, in professional organizations, and/or in the design and construction industries. One of this year's recipients was NAC At-Large Director Ross Miller, Assoc. AIA. "Ross...strives to be the quintessential citizen architect and is deeply passionate about community engagement, advocacy, and design excellence. A dedicated advocate for emerging professionals, he brings his boundless enthusiasm to bear on every issue and project he faces.
- Unpaid Labor Declaration Policy: The NAC, YAF, and AIAS spoke out against unpaid internships at the 2016 business meeting and supported Resolution 16-2 Amending the Current "Intern Declaration Policy." The resolution strengthens the AIA's commitment to its members and profession by more assertively addressing the use of unpaid labor. Through the resolution, all applicants for the Institute's highest individual, firm, and design honor awards must sign the "Intern Declaration Policy" which will be changed to the "Unpaid Labor Declaration Policy," and amended to read as follows:

"The candidate individually does not utilize, employ, or otherwise engage labor that is unpaid, including working students, and neither does any firm of which the candidate is an owner or manager, in part or in whole. The candidate acknowledges this wording shall cover all persons working under their employ, regardless of position or title. Exceptions recognized by Federal law (such as legally defined internships or educational cooperative programs) are exempt from this Policy.

"This candidate further acknowledges that they have not utilized any unpaid labor as defined above for a minimum of five (5) years prior to the application deadline for all Institute Honor Awards and a minimum of ten (10) years prior to the application deadline for all other Institute Honors, including the Honors Program, Membership Honors Awards, and Collaborative and Achievement Awards. The candidate personally acknowledges adherence to the terms of this Policy."