



The National Associates Committee (NAC) dedicated to representing and advocating for AIA’s associate members in AIA’s national, state and local chapters.



Lauren Harris, Chair

This month saw 22 of our NAC group attend AIA24, where we participated in events at theNextGenLounge. Some participated as conference speakers, some as Assoc Award Winners, and some by helping highlight the EP Scholarship Award Winners.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

The NAC participated in discussion regarding the proposed membership categories, and we continue to discuss changes to membership categories that will support associates in their careers. Recommendations for new categories are in the works for tech based paths.

ARCHIPAC

The NAC has made an effort to support the PAC, both with donations and outreach. As the PAC is the best way to get funding to policy makers on associate-focused issues like Student Loan Forgiveness, the cost of education, and changes to licensure and titling.



Darral Tate, Vice Chair

2025 call for volunteers is now open until July 8th. There are currently 5 NAC positions available for applicants.

- 2025 Vice Chair/ 2026 Chair
- 2025-2026 Knowledge Director

- 2025 - 2026 Strategic Partnerships Director
- 2025 - 2026 Advocacy Director
- 2025 Associate Representative to the Strategic Council/ 2026 Associate Representative to the Board

You can find detailed information on the AIA website. See link below:

<https://www.aia.org/career-grow/volunteer-at-aia/volunteer-opportunities>



Tannia Chavez, Assoc. Director

The Public Awareness Committee is actively developing content for the "Future Focused" campaign, showcasing the stories of women and minority groups in our profession.

FUTURE FOCUSED

These first and second quarter featured our Vice-Chair, [Darral Tate Jr.](#); Strategic Council Representative, [Alyanna Subayno](#), and Seattle STAR, [Chien-Yi Chu](#).

THE VALUE OF AN ARCHITECT

Launched in 2023, aims to highlight the essential contributions architects make in various environments. This year, we celebrate the numerous ways architects improve our lives, featuring additional insights from members at **AIA24**.



Alyanna Subayno, Rep to Strategic Council

The Strategic Council work groups are continuing their work with their respective research topics. Reports to the Board of Directors will be due in August followed by presentations.

COUNCIL CONNECTION

The Strategic Council began implementing "Council Connection" in April and will continue to do so for the rest of the year. These are optional and informal meetings to discuss outstanding topics and get to know one another better.

NAC/YAF AND THE STRATEGIC COUNCIL

Earlier this year, the Strategic Council invited additional NAC and YAF representatives to be involved with the Council's work groups. Those representatives will also have the opportunity to join Council Assemblies; the upcoming Assembly is June 5th.



Ingrid Spencer, CACE Liaison, ED, AIA Austin

The CACE Liaison serves as a resource to the NAC, there to provide any connections to the CACE network that might be needed, and to share NAC opinions and priorities with CACE.

Big Sibs

The Big Sibs is an unofficial group composed of the 20 AIA Chapters with 1,000 or more members. AIA Austin has 1,400 Institute members, and Ingrid has been ED since 2015. The Big Sibs Chapters also include some Large State Chapters, giving this group a broad view of AIA issues.

Future Forward

This year brought much sharing of Chapter boards' opinions on the resolutions and Membership Categories to be decided at AIA'24. Ingrid shared the NAC and YAF opinions, and Big Sibs brought those items back to their boards to influence decisions for the good of the next generation of members.

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ADVOCACY

CITIZEN ARCHITECT

AWG volunteer and Ohio STAR, Brett Wedding, AIA, AICP, completed the ARE exam in May 2024 and is officially a licensed architect in the state of Ohio.

Congratulations, Brett!

ASSOCIATE REPRESENTATION

AWG volunteer and D.C. STAR, Saakshi Terway, Assoc. AIA, co-authored the recently released *Prospering in the U.S.: A Handbook for Immigrant Architects*.

Congratulations, Saakshi!

TITLING RECOMMENDATION

AWG is composing a living resource document focused on the current titling law in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. This research delves into, not only the regulatory language of titling, but also consequences of misuse and ongoing advocacy efforts.



VALUE

EMPOWER. IDENTIFY. DEVELOP

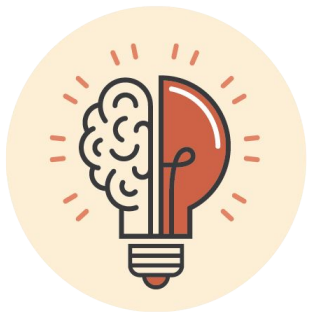
Empower associates through local and state board positions. Identify voting and non-voting members. Develop strategic tools to gain voting rights.

CHALLENGES + OPPORTUNITIES

Identify challenges and opportunities with equitable practices as they apply to artificial intelligence from an associate member perspective

RESOURCES

Provide local and state chapters with a clear transition plan from AIAS to Associate AIA Membership.



KNOWLEDGE

CREATING CONNECTIONS

KPD is joining forces with AIAS! Stay tuned for the StAR Slides that you can send to AIAS Leaders in your state for help facilitate introductions.

RESOURCES SHARING

The KPD Workgroup is creating a NAC Handbook of resources for four areas of membership utilizing the results of the survey that the NAC completed last month.

NAC OPPORTUNITIES

Nexus Mentorship program is live! If you are participating, share your stories with NAC. Email us! Join the KPD taskforce to brainstorm possible topics, speakers and sessions for AIA25.



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

NAC @ AIA DC 24'

NAC is activating the AIA 24' Expo Hall and social media hashtag #AIANAC in collaboration with NextGen Lounge, EP Grantees, and AIA Social Media. Social media posts with the tag to be shared on official AIA channels with original content posted on Knowledge Net.

NAC UPDATES

NAC STAR application open for Indiana and Missouri 2025-2026 session

 Maryland passes house bill HB0538 crafted by AIAMD and Governor's office streamlining development process for Affordable Housing

SHOUTOUT TO CHRISTINE OLSHAN

DE STAR appointed as NCARB Licensing Advisor



CLIMATE ACTION

ASSOCIATE VIEWPOINT

Define the associate viewpoint on sustainability and identify a niche approach to the topic.

REVIEW + REVISE

Assess work done in 2023 to review existing resources and provide related learning opportunities to associate members

ADVOCATE

Collaborate with other groups to advocate for climate policy and legislative action and ensure relevant goals are included in a new strategic plan.

ADVOCACY WORKGROUP



THE MISSION

PUBLIC AWARENESS. VALIDATION. EVOLUTION.

The NAC Advocacy Work Group is an AIA Associate body that strives to serve its membership through the public promotion of the Associate experience in order to validate the presence of the unlicensed within the architectural industry, ultimately leading it to professionally evolve.

01

CITIZEN ARCHITECT

AWG volunteer and Ohio STAR, Brett Wedding, AIA, AICP, completed the ARE exam in May 2024 and is officially a licensed architect in the state of Ohio. Congratulations, Brett!

02

ASSOCIATE REPRESENTATION

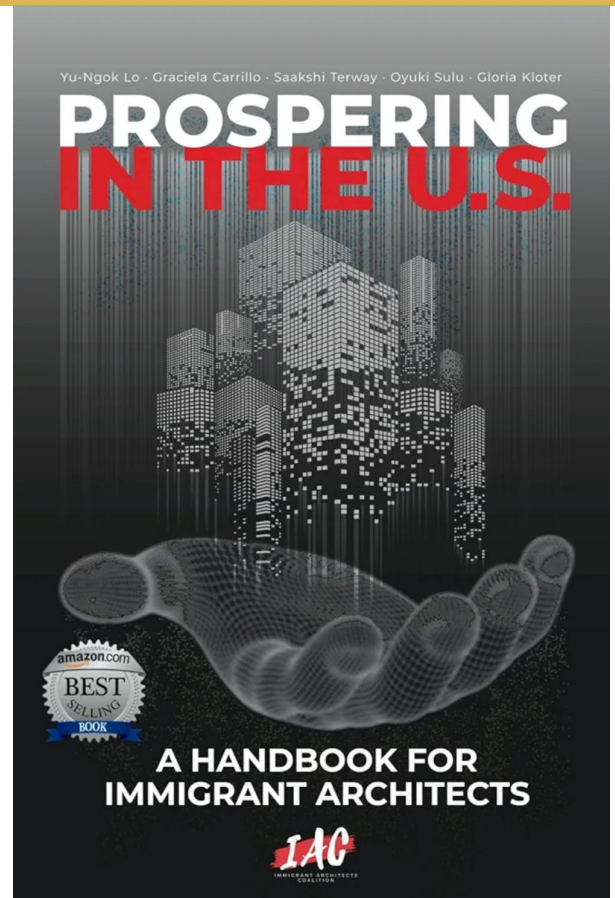
AWG volunteer and D.C. STAR, Saakshi Terway, Assoc. AIA, co-authored *Prospering in the U.S.: A Handbook for Immigrant Architects*, a collection of articles focusing on topics ranging from culture shock and visas to mentorship and salary negotiation for immigrant designers based in the U.S.

This handbook was released on May 6, 2024 and is available on Amazon in both paperback and digital format. Congratulations, Saakshi!

03

TITLING RECOMMENDATION

AWG is composing a living resource document focused on the current titling law in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. This research delves into, not only the regulatory language of titling, but also consequences of misuse and ongoing advocacy efforts.



ADVOCACY

Courtney Prentiss, At-Large Director; courtneyprent@gmail.com
STARS: Brett Wedding, Evon Calabrese, Liam Hanlon,
Katherine Leija, Chuck Lejeune, Dezha MCKoy-Overton, Lily
McRae, Navneet Anand, Cassandra Marks, Saakshi Terway

VALUE WORKGROUP



THE MISSION

Our mission is to empower the Associate voice through the justice, equity, diversity, & inclusion foundation that the Institute has laid. The collective voice of architects and associates is essential for designing a better future for our country and planet. We are that voice.

01

EMPOWER. IDENTIFY. DEVELOP.

Empower associates through local and state board positions. Identify voting and non-voting members. Develop strategic tools to gain voting rights.

Creating prompts to foster communication between STARS and both local and state boards:

- What is the value of including the Associate voice at the local and state level?
- What is the value of giving the Associate voice a vote at the local and state level?
- How does this empower the Associate position to best represent and support the collective associate voice at the local or state level?
- What are some perspectives unique to the Associate AIA that can bring value to the conversation?
- How does including the associate voice at a board level support diversity and inclusion within the AIA?
- How does inclusion of the Associate AIA perspective further the collective goals of the NAC and AIA overall?

Review the results from surveying STARS to find ways to tie the results to moving the goals of 2024 from the Value work group.

VALUE

Katie Cherrier, At-Large Director; kcherrier@integrusarch.com
STARS: Jackie Rakoski-Diediker, Rachel Wiesbrock, Nicole Bauknight, Ali McClure, Tooba Jalal, Kim Galbe, Silvinia Lopez and Nicole Heatherington



KNOWLEDGE: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

THE MISSION

We are a group of Statewide Associate Representatives who advocate for the community of current and future Associates by defining, collecting, and disseminating available resources to aid in personal and professional development.

01

CREATING CONNECTIONS

KPD is joining forces with AIAS! NAC StARS will be able to use the StAR Slides to help facilitate introductions with AIAS leaders in their states and create better connections with the students, the next leaders of the NAC. StAR Slides will be available shortly.

02

RESOURCES SHARING

The KPD Workgroup is creating a NAC Handbook of resources for four areas of membership utilizing the results of the survey that the NAC completed last month. The team will focus on sharing and highlighting successful programs.

03

NETWORKING + MENTORSHIP

Nexus Mentorship program is live! If you have signed up to participate in the program, please email heli.shah964@gmail.com to share your experience!

Conference for Architecture and Design

AIA24:

Are you attending the AIA conference this year? Check out the article [The Ultimate Guide to AIA24 for students & Emerging Professionals](#) for best advice and recommendations.

AIA25:

Are you interested in seeing more Emerging Professional sessions and related content at the next AIA conference? Join the KPD taskforce to brainstorm possible topics, speakers and sessions for the next AIA Conference for Architecture and Design 2025.

KNOWLEDGE: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (KPD)

Heli Shah, At-Large Director; heli.shah964@gmail.com
STARS: Britney Sulzen, Cassandra Marks, Abigail Korn, Andrew Barnett, Sara Weber, Julia Mauk, Andrew Treworgy, Saakshi Terway, Leslie Tijerina, Anna Chang, Caitlin Morgan, and Libby Lamb

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP



THE MISSION

Our goal is to connect more broadly with the Institute, by engaging with more Knowledge Communities, Strategic Council Sprints, and with opportunities available with AIA Staff. We aim to elevate more Associate voices across the Institute and forge strategic alignments to share common goals.

01

AIA CONFERENCE 24'

Our workgroup has been coordinating with AIA staff of the NextGen Lounge, EP Grant Scholarship Committee, and AIA conference social media to boost NAC and associate awareness at the conference. NAC has planned some opportunities to collaborate with EP Grant winners as well as activate the EXPO floor. Be on the lookout for Ducks at AIA 24' and NAC-In-The-Hall. Media to be posted on the Knowledge Net.

02

NAC UPDATES

Missouri & Indiana NAC STAR candidate application available for 2025 session.

Registration for AIA Indiana Conference Begins

DE NAC star appointed to NCARB licensing advisor.

2024 Annual Maryland Association of Historical District Commissions Symposium to start on 5/23 including topics on Climate Change, Disaster Resilience & Underrepresented Communities

Maryland passes house bill HB0538 crafted by AIAMD and Governor's office streamlining development process for Affordable Housing

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Kari Lawson, At-Large Director; Kari.TheDesignerCO@gmail.com
STARS: Melissa Sheffield, Christine Olshan, Cassandra Quissell, Chan Park, Navneet Anand, Asa Santa Cruz, Michael Díaz Cordero, Svavar Magnusson, Chien-Yi Chu

CLIMATE ACTION



THE MISSION

We study knowledge gaps on the topics of Climate Action, Sustainability, & Resilience and explore ways to deliver sustainable career advancement for Associates and EPs through utilization of existing tools and programs available through AIA.

01

BUILDING ON THE FRAMEWORK

We are creating a resource that helps associate members and emerging professionals understand and the Framework for Design Excellence and help them advocate for the inclusion of sustainable principles in their projects.

02

FIGURING OUT WHERE WE STAND

We have been talking with representatives in our states and territories to assess attitudes regarding the incorporation of sustainable solutions in projects. We have also discussed as a group our thoughts on the things preventing sustainability from playing a larger role in the design process and brainstormed ways for associate members and emerging professionals to take the lead in increasing knowledge and awareness through our roles at firms.

03

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We have been seeking out other communities within the AIA and connecting our members with theirs to establish greater means of communication.

CLIMATE ACTION

Cooper Moore, At-Large Director; coopmoo20@gmail.com
STARS: Ana Astiazaran, Henry Schneider, IV, Anna Foden, Ben Hansen, Niki Tischler, Courtney Carrier, Ifreet Rahima, Emina Tatarevic, and Jeray Allen