



# AIA Pennsylvania

**PRESS RELEASE**

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## AIA Pennsylvania honored with Government Affairs and Communications Awards

*For immediate release:*

**Harrisburg, PA – April 11, 2016**

AIA Pennsylvania is proud to announce they are the recipients of two Pennsylvania Society of Association Executives (PASAE) Laurel Awards.

The awards were presented at the Inaugural Gala and Awards Dinner as part of PASAE's 2016 Educational Summit and Expo. These awards distinguish AIA Pennsylvania as a leader in government affairs/advocacy and communications amongst the association industry.

The *Large Association Government Affairs/Advocacy Award* and the *Large Association Communications Award* honor the collective achievements of AIA Pennsylvania staff:

Stephen Swarney, J.D., Executive Director

Holly Lubart, Director of Public Affairs

Amal Mahrouki, Manager of Member Relations and Advocacy

"The number one legislative priority of AIA Pennsylvania members is to fight encroachment and protect the practice of architecture in the Commonwealth both for architects and public safety," said Swarney. "When confronted with an amendment for interior designers to sign and seal construction documents, we quickly built a 15-member coalition together with meetings, grassroots e-mails and phone calls to stop the amendment."

For the Communications Award, AIA completely revamped its Design Awards. The first step in encouraging participation was securing prestigious architect, Michael Davis, FAIA of the Boston Society of Architects, to head the jury. AIA Pennsylvania held its first Annual Architectural Excellence Design Awards Gala in 2014 at world renowned Barnes Foundation (Museum) in Philadelphia and tripled attendance from prior years. Call for entries for the design competition were sent out to 2,500 members. AIA Pennsylvania received 137 entries and awarded 34 awards in 12 different categories.

PASAE's Laurel Awards celebrate excellence in association leadership and operations. The awards program recognizes association achievements for projects, ideas, programs, services, or events. Applications are judged based on an organization's size and the category for which the project or program fits. The awards were judged by an out-of-state panel of association executives/experts and AIA Pennsylvania was one of only two associations to win multiple awards.

PASAE is the state-wide component of The American Society of Association Executives, the membership organization and voice of the association profession. Founded in 1920 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., ASAE now has more than 22,000 association CEOs, staff professionals, industry partners, and consultant members.

For more information about the Laurel Awards, please visit

[http://www.pasae.org/latest\\_news/awards-program/](http://www.pasae.org/latest_news/awards-program/).

### **About AIA Pennsylvania**

Founded in 1909, AIA Pennsylvania is the state-wide component of The American Institute of Architects. AIA Pennsylvania, headquartered in Harrisburg, is governed by a Board of Directors representing eight local AIA chapters across the Commonwealth. Our Association serves approximately 3,000 members. Visit [www.aiapa.org](http://www.aiapa.org).