

Small Firm Exchange

AIA Member group

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Output of the Monthly State Representative Call

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Why Be a Citizen Architect?

A Panel Discussion

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Key Takeaways



What is a Citizen Architect?

The Citizen Architect uses his/her insights, talents, training, and experience to contribute meaningfully, beyond self, to the improvement of the community and human condition.



Why be a Citizen Architect?

The skills and qualities of an architect's professional training, such as creative problem-solving and teamwork, are valuable assets in the public arena. Involvement promotes visibility for both your firm and yourself – building trust & relationships. Contributing to programs that you value exposes you to a diverse community, allowing for professional development and broad exposure to new ideas. Civic engagement & activism are scientifically shown to promote health benefits as one engages for a better society.



Where do you start?

Inventory what is important to you. Don't limit yourself to focusing on architecture or the building industry – think outside the box.



Identify opportunities. What organizations or venues can you get involved with?



Show up! Make the first step by attending a meeting and showing interest

Resources / Links

- [AIA Citizen Architect Handbook](#)
- [The Big Gay Architect](#)
- [Listen Louder: Rethinking the Role of Today's Citizen Architect](#)
- [The Social Responsibility of Architects](#)
- [3 Unique Ways You Can Volunteer as an Architect](#)

Examples

- Serving as a Committee or Board leader
- Volunteer at a local non-profit
- Leading a Boy or Girl Scout Troop
- Accepting an elected or appointed government role

Upcoming State Representative Calls:

08.14.2025 **Strategic Council**

09.11.2025 **Blueprint to Success**