

Small Firm Exchange

AIA Member group

Insider 10.08.2026

Output of the Monthly State Representative Call

Connect with AIA SFX



Advocacy With Meaning

A Working Session on How to Engage and Advocate

Key Takeaways



Connections

- » Advocacy runs on relationships, and the strongest ones are built before you need them
- » Reach out to your SFX State Rep and your component's executive director and advocacy committee
- » They can make introductions and help you find allies already working on the issues you care about



Gathering

- » Connections deepen when people share a room
- » Workshops, roundtables, listening sessions, and even an informal coffee turn individual frustrations into a shared agenda



Resources

- » Small firms are long on expertise and short on time, so effective advocacy depends on having the right tools ready
- » Remember that your own business or project experience is a resource



Follow-up

- » Most advocacy stalls at follow-up; even a great meeting accomplishes little if no one closes the loop.
- » Within a week, send thanks and a summary, track commitments, and set the next touchpoint.

Small firms do big work, and we want to share it

- Any project designed by a Small Firm that has received a design award at the local, state, national, or international level is eligible.
- Submit your project by 4 pm on Sunday, November 15, via [this link](#).
- A select panel of state reps and board members will review all submissions, and four projects will be recognized in December
- Featured submissions will be highlighted here on Social Media,
- All projects featured on our Instagram in 2026, including those already posted, are in the running for the People's Choice award. The project with the most likes will be announced on New Year's Eve!

Upcoming State Representative Calls:

11.12.2026 **Effective Storytelling**

12.10.2026 **2026 Wrap / 2027 Preview**

Feature your
award-winning
project on SFX
Social Media

Our Community

List of chapters / components with active groups

Arizona

[Statewide](#)

California

[AIA San Francisco](#)

Connecticut

[Statewide](#)

Delaware

[Statewide](#)

District of Columbia

[AIA/DC](#)

Hawaii

[AIA Honolulu](#)

Illinois

[AIA Chicago](#)

Louisiana

[AIA New Orleans](#)

Maine

[Statewide](#)

Massachusetts

[AIA Boston](#)

New Hampshire

[Statewide](#)

New Jersey

[Statewide](#)

New York

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North Carolina

[AIA Triangle](#)

Ohio

[Statewide](#)

Oklahoma

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Pennsylvania

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[AIA Houston](#)

Virginia

[Commonwealth-wide](#)

[AIA Northern Virginia](#)

Washington

[AIA Seattle](#)

Wisconsin

[Statewide](#)

Is your group not on the list? [Email us](#) to add.