

Now Hiring: Deputy Architect of the Capitol

Would you like to join the builder and steward of the landmark buildings and grounds of Capitol Hill? Our staff at the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) work around the clock to preserve and maintain the historic buildings, monuments, art and inspirational gardens on the Capitol campus. The Deputy Architect supports and assists the Architect of the Capitol who is entrusted with preserving, maintaining and enhancing the national treasures that make up the Capitol complex.

Applications will be accepted from all U.S. Citizens. Please see detailed guidance regarding employment eligibility under "Requirements." The incumbent must be able to obtain and maintain a Top-Secret security clearance/SCI. This position is designated as emergency essential. The incumbent serves at the pleasure of the Architect. This position is eligible for direct hire.

Apply at <https://www.usajobs.gov/job/886396000> and notify erinwaldron@aia.org if you submit your application.

Federal Procurement Reform: AIA Advocacy Advances in FAR Overhaul

AIA's sustained advocacy on federal architect-engineer procurement is yielding significant progress through the Revolutionary FAR Overhaul. A newly proposed FAR Part 15 rule would substantially address AIA's longstanding concern over the misapplication of the 6% A/E fee limitation by restricting its application based on contract type, while also strengthening recognition of professional expertise, management, and contractor risk in determining appropriate profit. AIA is engaging with OFPP and congressional partners to support these reforms while seeking targeted clarifications to ensure the final rule precisely reflects the statutory limitation to cost-plus-fixed-fee contracts and prevents unintended restrictions on fair and reasonable profit.

AIA at Climate Week NYC

AIA leadership took the stage at Climate Week NYC last week to advocate for the architects' role in creating a more resilient built environment, including:

- President Illya Azaroff shared the stage with Congressman Paul D. Tonko (NY-20) at a Solutions House event to discuss how the built environment can create lasting environmental, social, and economic benefits,
- Illya offered opening remarks at AIA New York's half day session on how regenerative design builds upon enduring lessons from passive design, vernacular architecture, Indigenous knowledge, and systems thinking,
- Illya moderated a panel at the Climate Mayors Leadership Forum with mayors from Long Beach, CA, Kansas City, MO and Miami, FL on clear, replicable strategies for local leaders looking to build climate-aligned housing and grow their local economies. Mayors discussed the need for forward-looking climate adaptation strategies and targeted investment in communities.
- Amal Mahrouki from AIA's GAPP team joined a panel hosted by Duke University to discuss what changes to state laws, policies, institutions, and

funding systems would have the greatest practical impact on local resilience delivery, and

- Illya joined a panel of experts to examine how the realities of climate change are reshaping capital planning, infrastructure performance, operational continuity, and long-term asset value.

AIA at the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Leadership Conference

2027 National President Yiselle Santos Rivera, AIA participated in a Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute workforce panel focused on strengthening U.S. competitiveness and expanding economic mobility for Latino workers. She highlighted the architecture profession's need to build stronger, more inclusive pathways into high-skill careers through education, training, and employer investment. She also raised AIA's concerns about federal policies affecting the architecture workforce pipeline, including the Department of Education's treatment of architecture as a professional degree and the resulting implications for graduate student loan limits and access to the profession. The discussion underscored the importance of ensuring that workforce policies expand—rather than restrict—opportunities for the next generation of architects and other professionals.

AIA at the Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference

AIA partnered with Rep. Janelle Bynum (OR-05) to host *Building Opportunity: Who Will Design America's Housing Future?* at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference, bringing together federal and local leaders including Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas and NOMA President Bryan C. Lee Jr., FAIA, to discuss how housing policy can expand supply, strengthen communities, and create greater opportunity for Black architects, builders, and minority-owned firms. The event reflected AIA's broader role as a convener—pairing its growing relationship with Rep. Bynum and congressional housing leaders with its partnership with the U.S. Conference of Mayors to connect federal policymaking with the local leaders responsible for implementation. By bringing these voices together with architects and design professionals, AIA is expanding relationships across government and ensuring the profession has a stronger role in shaping and delivering housing and community investment.

AIA Responds to Section 106 Termination

Following Thursday's surprise termination of the Section 106 consultation for the proposed Triumphal Arch at Memorial Circle, AIA submitted formal public comment and is continuing to press for meaningful consideration of the project's effects on the historic landscape. The termination does not approve the project or eliminate the federal government's obligation to consider historic-preservation impacts; instead, it ends the attempt to negotiate a Section 106 Memorandum of Agreement after the National Park Service concluded that further consultation was unlikely to produce agreement and that alternatives to avoid or minimize harm would alter the project's fundamental nature. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation will now prepare formal comments for the Secretary of the Interior.

AIA sent an action alert urging members to submit individual comments. We have also shared the opportunity through the Historic Resources Committee message board and expect additional architects and preservation professionals to weigh in. AIA's own comments will urge the agency to reconsider the proposed undertaking's location, scope, and design in light of its adverse effects on the historic landscape.

AIA Urges SBA to Protect Small Architecture Firms in Size Standards Overhaul

AIA submitted [comments](#) to the U.S. Small Business Administration opposing a proposed increase in the size standard for Architectural Services from \$12.5 million to \$135 million. AIA warned that such a dramatic expansion could place genuinely small architecture firms in direct competition with substantially larger companies for small-business set-aside contracts, reducing opportunities for small firms to serve as prime contractors and build federal past performance. AIA urged SBA to adopt a more measured, architecture-specific approach, conduct additional analysis of the proposal's competitive impacts, and ensure that efforts to address the "graduation cliff" do not undermine meaningful federal contracting opportunities for truly small firms.

AIA Organizes AI & Energy Summit with the U.S. Department of Energy

Hosted at the AIA Global Campus for Architecture & Design®, the [U.S. AI & Energy Summit](#) brought together leaders from government, architecture, energy, technology, data center development, utilities, research institutions and investment to explore the intersection of AI, the built environment and the nation's energy future. From designing the next generation of AI-ready data centers to modernizing the grid and strengthening critical infrastructure, the Summit examined how architecture, engineering, policy, and innovation must work together to deliver resilient, secure, and sustainable growth. The Summit featured a keynote address from 2027 AIA National President Yiselle Santos Rivera, AIA, along with addresses from members of Congress and the Under Secretary for Science from the U.S. Department of Energy.

The voices of architects were elevated in this Summit through a dedicated session on the opportunities and challenges of designing the next generation of AI-ready data centers. The session was moderated by Carl Sergio, AIA, Senior Project Architect, Sheehan Nagle Hartray Architects, a Woolpert company (and current Strategic Council member) and speakers included Arathi Gowda, FAIA, Regional Director of Regenerative Design, Principal, Perkins&Will (and current GAC member), David Sassano, AIA, Principal and Regional Practice Director, Mission Critical, HKS, and Michael Turner, Vice Chair and Ashburn District Supervisor, Loudoun County, Virginia.

Senator Lujan Hosts AIA New Mexico Member

Last week Senator Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM) held a fundraising event in Santa Fe, NM co-hosted by ArchiPAC. AIA New Mexico President-Elect Dillon K. Romero, AIA, NCARB, NOMA, attended the event and thanked Senator Lujan for being a strong ally of architects in the U.S. Senate and co-leading the Democracy in Design Act (S.2891). We discussed his intent to reintroduce the bill next year and expand it to permanently protect design standards across a variety of federal projects. ArchiPAC is an important tool for AIA, which allows our members to strengthen AIA's relationships with members

of Congress and ultimately deliver a more effective government affairs and public policy program on behalf of the profession. More information about ArchiPAC can be found at www.archipac.org.

AIA Supports School Infrastructure Modernization Act

AIA is proud to join our partners in the education, health and preservation spaces to support the reintroduction of the [School Infrastructure Modernization Act of 2026](#). The bill was introduced by Senators Kaine and Warner (both D-VA) and would modernize aging school buildings across the U.S. by expanding access to the federal historic rehabilitation tax credit (HTC). It would allow schools districts to use the credit in partnering with private entities to finance renovations to historic school buildings.

Forty percent of public-school buildings across the nation were built before 1980; many of these aging facilities contain harmful materials including asbestos, lead-based paint, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). As architects, we know physical conditions of aging buildings impact occupants' health, including learning for students. As schools face an estimated \$85 billion funding gap for public school facilities, and state and local governments hit budget shortfalls, it's important to find innovative ways to address the need of these aging facilities and ensure a healthy learning environment for America's children.

AIA Launches Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience Pledge

The Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience Pledge was released during New York Climate Week. It is a voluntary, company-wide commitment to invoke action toward disaster risk reduction and resilience in the design of the built environment. The Pledge provides a foundation for action, encourages dialogue, and will be supported by implementation guidance, resources, and outcome-tracking tools. The Pledge seeks to encourage firm commitment to establish disaster risk reduction (DRR) as a business priority, integrate resilience into design processes, grow resilient design expertise, and advocate for resilience with clients, consultants, stakeholders, and communities. The work was led by the AIA Resilience and Disaster Response Committee (RADR). Learn more and become a signatory here: [AIA Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience Pledge](#).