

Matrix is the official newsletter of The American Institute of Architects Minnesota



AIA MINNESOTA MATRIX NEWSLETTER

March 2025







Postcard from Washington, D.C.

by Mary-Margaret Zindren, EVP/Executive Director



As I write this column, our Minnesota delegation of AIA leaders is preparing for meetings at Congressional offices. This annual ritual involves briefings from the AIA national staff on the status of pending legislation of concern, distribution of handouts and talking points, and walking the marble hallways of Senate and House office buildings.

All of this is the same this year. Yet it feels very different. The backdrop of these meetings is unlike anything any of us have

experienced in our lifetimes. The federal government and the norms it has operated under for generations is so upended that I half expected to see the Capitol building itself teetering on its dome.

The shock and awe approach of the new Administration has left many in our architecture community reeling. In just the past month and a half, there have been too many Executive Orders and Agency actions of consequence to even summarize here.

The members I have heard from are deeply concerned about the destabilization of systems they had long taken for granted. They are angry about efforts to dismantle longstanding promotion of civil rights, human rights, and environmental policy. They are dismayed by removal of history and data sets from federal websites and the defunding of research. They are worried about what these and many other policies (those related to immigration, people living in poverty, and student loan debt, etc.) all means for the people and the work of architecture, schools of architecture, the broader public, and both built and natural environments.

There are tangible consequences happening right now: Firms and researchers have had federally-funded work paused or shut down, and there has been uncertainty around payment for work already completed. There are also clients of every sector pausing or cancelling projects due to the ripple effects of known or anticipated loss of federal support for their programs or anticipated increases in the cost of materials from tariffs. In the face of fear and lack of clarity, most firm leaders I know have assessed their risks and are staying the course with sustainable design approaches and efforts to ensure people of all backgrounds can thrive in their workplaces, but the navigation of all this has left people feeling depleted.

A common, and very human, response to this tumultuous and uncertain time is to disengage; to dissociate. But for our volunteer leaders gathered here in Washington, D.C., their response has been to lean into leadership. To seek to separate what is factual from what is theoretical. To remain steady in staying the course. Instead of tuning out, these volunteer leaders are tuning in. They are listening to what Congressional aides and Congresspeople of various parties and perspectives have to say about all that is happening. They are representing the concerns and recommendations of the architecture community on climate resilience – advocating for investment in disaster mitigation, resilient design solutions, and the importance of FEMA; on housing policy – advocating for investment in affordable, well designed housing solutions in urban centers, regional centers, and rural areas; on federal tax policy – advocating for research and development and historic preservation tax credits; and federal design policy – pushing back on moves to mandate design styles and advocating for the prioritization of functionality, cost-effectiveness, and community context.

This isn't to say our volunteer leaders are superhuman. They each have their own ways of stepping back, gaining perspective, and recharging – from yoga and meditation to rock hunting, enjoying art, reading, and spending time their kids. Yet they are also moved by the imperative of engagement in these pivotal times. Like all great architects, they are embracing the long view and holding onto hope. They know that change is the norm, not the exception. That pendulums swing up and up, sometimes farther and for longer than we anticipate, but they always swing back. That envisioning new and better futures, co-designing with community what is possible, is what architects do.

There has never been a better time for architects to lean into your strengths and to get into the thick of it. Demonstrating your value starts with simply showing up in and for community. Many thanks to our AIA Minnesota delegation for doing exactly this.

Now, what's your move? How might you lean into leadership and show up on the issues you care about – either within the AIA or in your broader community? If you want to talk through possibilities, please reach out. Don't underestimate the value you can bring, the good you can do, and the hope you can instill in others.

COLLEGE OF FELLOWS



Two Minnesota Architects Elevated to AIA College of Fellows

Congratulations to **Karen Lu, FAIA**, and **Tate Walker, FAIA**, on their elevation to the AIA College of Fellows in 2025. They will be celebrated at the AIA National conference in June and at AIA Minnesota events throughout the year. **Learn more** »

A'25 MN: THE MINNESOTA CONFERENCE ON ARCHITECTURE



Conference on Architecture November 3-5, 2025

Call for proposals now open!

Call for Proposals for A'25 MN: The Minnesota Conference on Architecture

AIA Minnesota is seeking proposals for the A'25 MN Conference on Architecture scheduled for November 3, 4, 5 at The Renaissance Minneapolis Hotel | The Depot.

The application process will be open by Friday, March 7. At that time, you will

find a link for the call for proposals here.

The deadline for proposals is Friday, May 16, 2025.

Things to note:

- The CE Conference Committee seeks proposals on a wide variety of topics related to all building types, practice management skills, and of interest to architecture professionals in firms/organizations of all sizes.
- Presentations must be non-proprietary.
- Panels must include a diverse array of voices and perspectives, in particular regarding gender and race/ethnicity.
- In an effort to minimize the climate impact of this conference, we aim for at least 80 percent of our speakers to be within driving distance of the Twin Cities.
- Presenters highlighting a project are asked to share the historical context of the land and built environment related to the project in a manner that takes a long view of history and the people who have called that place home.

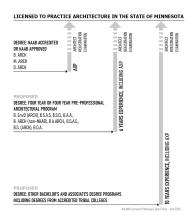
Questions? Contact **Deanna Christiansen** or **Ann Mayhew**.

What topics and speakers would you like to see at the A'25 MN Conference? Use this <u>link</u> to access a two-question survey where you can share your suggestions.

CALL TO ACTION

Call for Fellowship Candidates

Have you made a significant contribution to the architecture and design profession? You can become a member of the <u>AIA College of Fellows</u>. AIA Fellows are recognized with the AIA's highest membership honor for their exceptional work and contributions to architecture and design. The honor of FAIA after your name is unparalleled and the judging is rigorous. If you want to learn more about the process and receive advice throughout the nomination process, let the AIA Minnesota Fellows Advisory Group help. Notify <u>Amber Allardyce</u> of your interest and be included on the upcoming meeting announcements.



Feedback Requested: Draft Pathways to Licensure

The <u>AIA Minnesota Licensure Pathways Task</u>
<u>Force</u> has been hard at work in 2024 and early 2025, and has created a draft recommendation for pathways to licensure.

We would like your feedback on this draft proposal as we prepare it for presentation to the AIA Minnesota Board of Directors. **Please share your thoughts on**

the proposal found on this webpage by Friday, March 28, and encourage other members of AIA Minnesota to do so.

Feedback will be reviewed by the members of the Task Force for potential incorporation into the recommendation.

Review the recommendation and share your feedback »

New AIA Minnesota Allied Membership

We are excited to announce updated AIA Minnesota Allied membership categories, benefits and opportunities launching in 2025! We are shifting AIA Minnesota Allied membership to a company membership format. As an AIA Minnesota Allied company, you can have up to five (5) members from your organization participate as an Allied member with AIA Minnesota. We have also added many new benefits to membership in the hopes that you benefit in many ways:

- Financial benefits with discounted rates, free events.
- Company exposure with sponsorship opportunities and branding.
- Attend in-person events to engage with our membership for networking and connection.

Allied membership is open to companies and individuals working in a field related to the practice of architecture. Included in this group are landscape architects, engineers, planners, interior designers, and graphic designers; professionals in government, education, industry, research, and journalism; and others who will provide a meaningful contribution by virtue of their employment, profession, or interest. Learn more about AIA Minnesota Allied Membership and join today!



Lake Superior Design Retreat

There's still time to <u>register</u> for the Lake Superior Design Retreat (LSDR) on March 7 & 8, 2025, at Zeitgeist Arts in Duluth!

"It was one of the best, most fun, inspiring conferences I've ever attended." — <u>Dr. Jon Hallberg</u>, 2024 speaker

Our final speaker is confirmed! Join us to hear from chef, restauranteur, and poet_**JD Fratze**. Read about all six of our speakers <u>here</u> and other activities and receptions <u>here</u>.

Thank you to our sponsors: Anden av Sjön, <u>CF Design/LUM Studio</u>, <u>Intectural</u>, and <u>LEO A DALY</u>

Residential Emerging Architect Award Open for Submissions

Nominate someone or self-submit for the Residential Emerging Architect Award (previously the Residential Emerging Talent Award)! This award is given every two years to a residential architect, licensed 10 or fewer years, who demonstrates the emergence of a strong architectural voice through thoughtful attention to design, craft, and materials, or who has made early contributions to the advancement of residential design. **Entries are due March 14, 2025, at noon Central time.**

Learn more and submit »

Young Architects Award and Next Gen Award Open House Thursday, April 3, 4:00 pm Register for This Virtual Event »

The submission window for the 2025 AIA Minnesota <u>Young Architects Award</u> and <u>Next Gen Award</u> opens April 1. Join us on April 3 for a virtual open house with the recipients of the 2024 awards, who will share their approaches to creating a successful entry.

Visit Making Room: Women's Histories from the Northwest Architectural Archives

For more than 100 years, women have trained and worked as architects in Minnesota, yet their achievements remain largely unknown. Drawn from the collections of the Northwest Architectural Archives, this exhibit shines a light on the talented and determined women who made room for themselves in a field once reserved exclusively for men. The exhibit was curated by Cheryll Fong, Jane King Hession, and Kimberly Long Loken, AIA.

Visit the exhibit weekdays through May 30 »

Exhibit Reception

Monday, Mary 24, 5:30 pm (program 6:00 - 7:00 pm)

Register »

Explore the exhibit and hear from **Su Blumentals**, **Katie Leaf**, **AIA**; Sarah **Nettleton**, **FAIA**; and **Jennifer Yoos**, **FAIA**, about working in architecture during different eras.

North Star Story Map

History Harvest events in Clay County

In partnership with the <u>North Star Story Map</u>, developed by AIA Minnesota, the <u>Historical & Cultural Society of Clay County</u> is hosting History Harvest events to collect people's stories about places that are meaningful to them in the county.

- March 4, 1:00–4:00 pm @ Barnesville Public Library
- March 19, 1:00–4:00 pm @ Garrick Theatre in Hawley
- April 2, 1:00-4:00 pm @ Ulen Senior Center
- April 23, 1:00–4:00 pm @ Moorhead Public Library

Do you have a story, anecdote, or memory of a built space in Minnesota that is meaningful to you? **Share the story** on the North Star Story Map—and **read other people's stories**!

Met Council Livable Communities Grant Program Funding Available

The Metropolitan Council recently approved \$29.4M for 2025 Livable Communities Act (LCA) Grant Programs. There are several different grant programs within the Livable Communities Act, and each program supports different kinds of projects. All the programs share the goals of creating more housing choice, supporting living wage jobs, improving connections, and achieving more equitable development outcomes. Learn more about programs »

MPCA Offers Funding for Construction and Demolition Planning

The MPCA is offering approximately \$1.5 million in grant funding for construction and demolition management planning projects. Aiming to promote collaboration among political subdivisions, including public-private and multi-county partnerships, this funding will support regional planning efforts such as:

- Developing partnerships and integrating new programs.
- Creating efficiencies in managing C&D wastes.
- · Consolidating and enhancing existing programs.
- · Improving transportation networks.
- Sharing resources, services, and facilities.
- Improving economic development.

Information to help applicants submit proposals and access to the online application portal can be found on the **grant webpage**. Applications are due March 12.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2025 Legislative Session: Wheels are Turning in the House

Minnesota House DFL and Republican leaders reached a power sharing agreement in early February, which allowed work to begin in earnest in the chamber. Rep. Lisa Demuth, the House Republican leader, will serve as Speaker for the biennium and Republicans are in control of committees until the March 11 special election in HD 40B, when the chamber will likely return to a 67-67 tie. If that occurs, committees will

be co-chaired by GOP and DFL members and have equal numbers of members from each party. The Senate is now operating with a one-vote DFL majority.

Committees have been meeting and hearing bills since the power sharing agreement was brokered, with many hearings focused on agency overviews and budget proposals that will be important to completing work on the budget by the end of session. Bills on housing, tax credits, and other topics important to the AEC industry are also getting early hearings, but action on key issues has been limited to date.

AIA Minnesota and its lobbying team are following session activities closely and will continue to advocate on the issues most important to the profession. Stay tuned for more updates! If you have questions, please contact Sheri Hansen.

ENTER



2025 ENTER Print Annual Publication Coming Out in May 2025

This is the best way to put your company in front of architects and influencers in the built environment!

Reserve your ad now in this once-a-year print publication featuring thought-provoking articles, inspiring community profiles, and a showcase of the 2024 Honor Awards projects. The AIA Minnesota Firm Directory and Consultants Directory are also included. Reach AIA Minnesota members, project partners, C-level executives, legislators, corporate decision makers, and the larger community of targeted influencers in this high-quality magazine. Click here for more information. Contact Pam Nelson to reserve your space for the 2025 issue now.

CONTINUING EDUCATION



New On-Demand Webinars Now Available

Make use of <u>AIA Minnesota on-demand webinars</u> and gain new knowledge and apply the credits to meet your CE requirements.

Two new ETHICS webinars now available from the 2024 Conference!

What Would You Do? Navigating the Intersection of Building Codes and Ethics

1.5 HSW LUs and Ethics

Ethics in Public Interest Design

2.0 LUs and Ethics

Also new this year!

Means of Egress: A General Introduction

1.5 HSW LUs

Do Designers Know Best? Fighting for the Design Solutions We Believe In

1.25 LUs and Ethics

Local Lessons from the COTE Top Ten

1.5 HSW LUs

- Click on the links above to see a description for each.
- Use the registration form at the bottom of each page to sign up for the webinar.
- Watch for an email with a link and password to access the webinar.
- The ten-question quiz must be completed and passed in order to receive credit.
- Please note if you attended these programs when they were presented at the Conference, you are not able to receive credit again for the webinar.

Coming soon from the 2024 Conference

Demystifying Decarbonization – 1.25 HSW LUs

Questions? Contact Deanna Christiansen, Hon. AIAMN

CSI TOUR OF ANDERSEN WINDOWS RESEARCH FACILITY

Tuesday, April 8, 8:00 am -12:30 pm

Andersen Windows Research Facility

1LU Register »

This course provides information about window installation from the perspective of the architect and design professional. Rather than a "how-to" installation training course, information is presented in a format that begins with specifications and detail drawings and ends with job site observation. The slides follow through the stages in order that a typical project would progress; highlighting key areas where the architect and design professional can take more of a lead role in the successful design, and installation of this critical element in the building envelope.

CONTINUING EDUCATION



The February Leadership Forum session was a full day with Heather Polivka, a consultant and founder of Awesome People Leaders. The session explored the principles of brain science and human behavior. The group participated in discussions and exercises to increase skills of active listening for navigating conflict, establishing an environment of trust, and approaches for delegation and empowerment.

One member of the cohort said, "Heather was very engaging and informative. I really enjoyed the exercises and being able to connect personal life experiences with professional experiences and see how those related to the person as a whole."

NATIONAL & LOCAL CHAPTER UPDATES

AIA NATIONAL

AIA25 CONFERENCE ON ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN June 4-7, 2025 Boston. MA

AIA25 is a conference where imagination drives solutions and collaboration redefines what's possible in architecture and design—all anchored by inspiring keynotes, industry-best continuing education, dynamic networking, immersive tours, unforgettable events, and the industry's largest expo. Learn more about AIA25 »

PARTICIPATE IN THE ShadeDC 2025 DESIGN COMPETITION

Like many other cities on the east coast, Washington's summers are hotter and heat waves last longer than anticipated just a few years ago. While vehicle drivers of all kinds (cars, bikes, scooters and mopeds) can keep cool through air conditioning or at least the movement of air at speed, pedestrians do not share in that advantage. Consequently, walking in areas without shade can be an unwelcome and sometimes dangerously hot enterprise. This competition seeks to provide a well-designed flexible shade system or systems that can be used in areas where other means of shade, such as tree planting, are not possible. These areas include major bridges that carry both pedestrian and vehicular traffic, pedestrian-only bridges and transit-related open plazas. Competition takes places in March and April. Learn more »

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

We want to make sure we stay connected! If you've moved, changed companies, or retired, or if your member record contains outdated or incorrect information, this is a perfect time to make



AIA MINNEAPOLIS

MINNEAPOLIS PRESERVATION AWARDS CELEBRATION Thursday, March 13, 5:00 – 7:30 pm Capri Theater

Join AIA Minneapolis, Preserve Minneapolis, and the Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission as we recognize and celebrate preservation projects and stories and the people who have advanced the cause of preservation in our community. The awards presentation will run from 6:00 to 6:45 pm. Register to attend this free event!

GOLF OUTING: SAVE THE DATE! Monday, July 28 Majestic Oaks Golf Club

AIA NORTHERN MINNESOTA

LAKE SUPERIOR DESIGN RETREAT STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Apply for an AIA Northern Minnesota student scholarship to attend the <u>Lake Superior Design</u>

<u>Retreat</u> on March 7 & 8! The chapter is funding two \$250 scholarships to attend this annual AIA

Minnesota design retreat. <u>Check the eligibility and apply »</u>

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY RENOVATION SYMPOSIUM

Thursday, March 20, 7:30 am - 10:00 am

Barker's Island Inn and Convention Center, Superior, WI

The City of Superior Departments of Planning and Development, Building Inspection and Fire Department are hosting a zoning, building, and fire code symposium to define and simplify state and local regulations as they relate to the selling and/or potential rehabilitation of EXISTING structures within the City of Superior. Register »

COMMITTEE AND KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITY UPDATES

ARCHITECT LICENSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 5, 12:30-1:30 pm

Virtual Meeting

Discussion items: Outreach in order to better serve small firms; announcement of ARE Scholarship; presentation to UMN-AIAS; connecting with Dunwoody.

ARCHITECTURE IN THE SCHOOLS COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 13, 12:00 pm (note new time)

BUILDING CODES KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITY

Wednesday, March 12, 12:00 pm

Virtual Meeting

Open Forum: Bring your code questions, experiences, and updates to share.

COMMITTEE ON DESIGN

Thursday, March 13, 12:00 pm Virtual Meeting

COMMITTEE ON EQUITY IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT (EBE)

Tuesday, March 18, 3:30 pm Virtual Meeting

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT (COTE)

Friday, March 14, 12:00 pm

Virtual Meeting

Copeland Building Envelope Consulting is an engineering firm that specializes in leveraging building science to make buildings more durable and resilient. Autumn Dean and Matt Copeland of CopelandBEc will present on how envelope control layers dictate a building's performance and what happens when they fail. Join us for a building science crash course, a case study lightning round, and to learn more about relevant industry resources.

COUNCIL OF FIRMS KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITY

Monday, March 10, 12:00 pm

Virtual Meeting

Research – A discussion on how firms are incorporating research into their firms and their work. Looking ahead! The topic in April will be Data & Al Initiatives: What are firms' structured data and Al strategies? And differences between what small firms and large firms can do.

EMERGING PROFESSIONALS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 8, 12:00 pm (meetings are held quarterly) <u>Virtual Meeting</u>

EMERGING PROFESSIONAL FRIENDLY FIRM PROGRAM

The EPC hosted a presentation at the A'24 MN Conference on results from past Friendly Firm Award winners and ways to support emerging professionals. The presentation slides can be found at this <u>link</u>. Applications for the 2025-2026 Emerging Professional Friendly Firm Award will be available in January. **New this year: there will be a June 1 deadline to apply.**

Firms with an office in Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, or South Dakota are eligible to

ENTER COMMITTEE

Friday, April 25, 12:00 pm (Committee meetings are bimonthly) Virtual Meeting

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 18, 12:00 pm Virtual Meeting

HOUSING ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 5, 12:00 pm Virtual Meeting

Thank you to the dozens of designers and students who helped us create 5 amazing projects for Search for Shelter 2025! View the final boards »

LAKE SUPERIOR DESIGN RETREAT COMMITTEE

Monday, March 17, 11:30 am Virtual Meeting

The 37th annual Lake Superior Design Retreat is next week, March 7-8 at Zeitgeist Arts in Duluth! There's still time to register! Check out details and register here!

MINNESOTA DESIGN TEAM COMMITTEE (MDT)

Wednesday, March 19, 4:30 pm

Virtual Meeting

We meet once a month on the third Wednesday of the month at 4:30 pm via Zoom. We invite you to join us, learn more, and become a regular attendee.

Our next committee meeting will welcome guest presenter, Joe Czapiewski, System Coordinator with the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission. Joe will share thoughts, ideas, and resources related to tourism. Register for MDT Committee meetings »

RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 4, 12:00 pm Virtual Meeting

OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS: RESIDENTIAL EMERGING ARCHITECT AWARD

Nominate someone or self-submit for the Residential Emerging Architect Award! This award was recently revised; please review the new criteria and submission requirements carefully. **Due March 14.** Learn more and submit »

OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS: HOME OF THE MONTH

Submit your project to be considered for Home of the Month! **Due March 21.** Learn more and submit »

OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS: HOMES BY ARCHITECTS TOUR

Submit your project to be considered for Home of the Month! **Due April 18.** <u>Learn more and submit »</u>

WOMEN IN ARCHITECTURE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 19, 12:00 pm Virtual Meeting

PEOPLE & FIRMS

Steven Andersen, AIA, has joined Mead & Hunt as a national laboratory specialist.

Amanda Aspenson, AIA, has been named principal and co-leader of the academic studio at Alliiance. Learn more »

WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

Travis Chapman, Assoc. AIA Samantha Christner, Assoc. AIA Isaiah Friedman, Assoc. AIA Madelyn Gulon, Assoc. AIA Gina Hurtado, Assoc. AIA Jason Lucas, Assoc. AIA Erik Olson, AIA

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATION NEWS & EVENTS

2025 Summer Architecture Programs for Kids and High School Students »

2025 Summer Architecture Programs for Adults and High School Graduates »

Geothermal Preconditioning for High-Performance Ventilation March 13 »

Kline-Johnson Building Products University April 1 »

Preserve Minneapolis is seeking a coordinator for its summer walking tour program. This is a paid seasonal position. **Learn more** »

UMN ONLINE RESOURCES

Visit the College of Design's online calendar for regular updates on activities.

UMN CAREER AND INTERNSHIP RESOURCES

Employers with jobs, internships, or smaller, project-based micro-internships are encouraged to post opportunities for students and recent grads at <u>careerhelp.umn.edu</u>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit the AIA Minnesota Events Calendar for more information about upcoming events.



Matrix is published by AIA Minnesota.

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AIA Minnesota Executive Vice President Mary-Margaret Zindren, CAE

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APRIL Matrix editorial deadline is Friday, March 21. MAY Matrix editorial deadline is Friday, April 18.

Please submit content to *AIA Minnesota*.

Get updates on events, activities, and the latest architectural news from AIA Minnesota and its chapters on social media. Don't forget to tag us on your news to share!

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