AIA Ohio continues into the New Year with its mission to advocate on behalf of all Architects practicing throughout the state. This work could not be possible without the outstanding leadership of our immediate Past President, Gregg Strollo, AIA, and our dedicated board members representing the local chapters: Akron, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Eastern Ohio, and Toledo. These members contribute their time and talent to work for the betterment of the profession on your behalf.

The AIA Ohio Strategic Planning Committee and the AIA Ohio staff and management developed a strategic plan this past fall. Including representation of membership from across the state, the strategic planning committee developed a process, which was designed to identify common membership needs. From emerging professionals to seasoned architects, the planning committee strives to identify statewide concerns that affect our ability to provide members with exceptional service in support of the profession.

This plan identifies our common needs through our Vision and Mission statements, and focuses on the creation of both long and short-range tools to help us efficiently and effectively implement these goals.

The AIA Ohio Vision: Architects leading the design of the built environment

The AIA Ohio Mission: AIA Ohio advocates for the profession of Architecture

Through a generative process that focused on meeting member needs, the Committee pledged to improving the visibility of the profession and enhancing AIA Ohio’s ability to be a source of information, knowledge, and resources for the members of our seven local chapters. In support of these commitments, we advance these two goals:

Improve public awareness and appreciation of the profession of Architecture

Improve member engagement and serve as the connector for the seven local chapters and the Ohio Valley Region

As AIA Ohio furthers these goals, we will continue to identify issues that challenge our efforts to meet our Vision and Mission. As this process matures, there may be reason to allocate resources, refine strategies, and re-target efforts to best meet the needs of our chapter and statewide membership. AIA
Ohio is committed to advancing this plan and addressing the challenges that the AIA and the profession will face as we execute these initiatives. We will utilize our strength as a collection of chapters to achieve a positive outcome.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS REPORT
David W. Field, CAE, Hon. AIA, Executive Vice President

Members of the newly seated 132nd Ohio General Assembly have elected their leaders and are in the process of organizing committees and subcommittees. The November election favored Republicans who added strength to their previous majorities and continue to control all three branches of government... as well as the Ohio Supreme Court which added two, new Republican members.

With a high degree of unity Republicans could accomplish anything they agree upon. However, at the beginning of this General Assembly, consider this:

Many Ohio Republicans have yet to accept Governor Kasich’s refusal to keep his pledge to support their presidential candidate or his refusal to attend their party’s Cleveland convention. Showing their displeasure, the Republican State Central Committee refused to re-elect Kasich’s supported Chairman, Matt Borges, and instead replaced him with Jane Timken who campaigned on the need to work harmoniously with a Trump presidency. Even Lieutenant Governor, Mary Taylor, rejecting her Governor’s endorsed candidate, supported Jane Timken instead.

Both Former Senate President, Keith Faber and House Speaker Rosenberger reportedly are miffed at Governor Kasich’s late December veto of the energy, abortion and sunset review bills which they passed during the final days of the 131st General Assembly. And Governor Kasich says he plans to include Congressional Redistricting legislation in his year’s Budget Bill even though both House and Senate leaders oppose it. Kasich says "if legislators don’t like it, they can take it out."

So much for party unity.

House of Representatives:
Re-elected to his last term as House Speaker, Cliff Rosenberger will have his hands full with the addition to his caucus of former Senate President, Keith Faber along with Senators Bill Seitz and Tom Patton as well as a former House Speaker, Larry Householder—all very experienced Republican state legislators with firm views of how the legislature should operate. The Democrat minority is smaller than it was last Session.

Speaker Rosenberger says he’ll be rolling out the results of the 2020 Tax Study Committee (which will include the treatment of Historic Preservation Tax Credits), and will focus on education, opiates, environmental standards, energy taxation, ageing, domestic violence, local government funding, and income tax adjustments. Former Sen. President, Keith Faber will chair a new House subpanel of the Finance Committee - the State Government and Agency Review Subcommittee which will pursue last Session’s Sunset Review reform (SB329) which Gov. Kasich vetoed.

Senate:
The Senate will operate under the direction of its new President and last year’s Majority Whip, Larry Obhof (Ashland/Medina). Most expect the Senate to operate much as it did during the past Session.

Left over issues from last Session:
1) Former Senator and now Representative Bill Seitz is expected to pursue passage of a bill he introduced last Session (SB 366) that would address federal anti-trust issues relating to architects who serve on the Ohio
Architect's Board as well as consolidating various state boards and commissions.

2) Once the cities of Akron and Cleveland start enforcing local quotas for architects and contractors, contractor groups may return to the legislature for another attempt to prevent quotas (similar to last Session's HB 180) which last year a Cuyahoga County Judge declared to be unconstitutional based on the Home Rule principle.

Budget first up:
The state’s budget will be a prime focus for the first part of this General Assembly. The budget bill funds all departments and programs... and this year budget issues may be acrimonious. Sales tax, income tax, and corporate tax revenue streams are all less than forecasted which means fewer dollars will be available to fund government programs. Governor Kasich has linked current tax metrics to the possibility of recession. It’s doubtful most legislators believe that a recession is on the horizon, but it’s something that will cause them concern during the budget process.

Prior to the introduction of the Budget Bill itself Governor Kasich issued a summary of his Budget Recommendations which build upon his past efforts to increase the sales tax and expand its base. This year he's proposing a half-cent increase in the sales tax from 5.75% to 6.25% and the expansion of the sales tax base to include "certain discretionary services" including "landscape design, interior design and decorating." After applying the overall tax increase, the base-broadening would add about $450 million in sales tax revenue over two years.

Perhaps persuaded by AIA Ohio’s strenuous opposition to the Governor's previous attempt to extend the sales tax to architectural services, he refrained this year from including architecture in his current proposal. However, now that both landscape and interior design services are once again in play, architects need to be vigilant... a simple amendment could add architects to the mix!

Supreme Court:
Two new Republican judges were elected to the Ohio Supreme Court in November, leaving only a single Democrat serving on the Court. Most observers believe the architect's Statute of Repose, which Republican dominated Supreme Courts have ratified twice, is safe for another term.

OFCC:
AIA Ohio and ACEC Ohio representatives met Dec. 21 and again January 9 to discuss various complaints members have with OFCC projects. The group established two Task Forces to develop a proposed agenda for a meeting with OFCC Director David Williamson and his staff to discuss: the procurement process, consulting fees and contract issues. Hal Munger, FAIA, Toledo and Clare Howey, AIA, Columbus are AIA Ohio Task Force members.

Incidental Practice: A December 19 meeting of interested parties reviewed outstanding issues relative to a possible legislative approach to an updated "incidental practice" statute, however, the Ohio Society of Professional Engineers (OSPE) remains opposed to any change in the law and the feeling is that unanimity is necessary for a successful legislative initiative. Incidental practice refers to the amount of work each professional (architect, landscape architect and engineer) can do of another professional's work.
AIA OHIO HONOR AWARDS CALL FOR ENTRIES

AIA Ohio Gold Medal - MORE INFORMATION
The AIA Ohio Gold Medal is the highest honor that AIA Ohio can bestow on an individual. It is conferred by the AIA Ohio Board of Directors in recognition of exemplary service to the profession, the organization, or through design excellence.

AIA Ohio Gold Medal Firm - MORE INFORMATION
The AIA Ohio Gold Medal Firm Award is the highest honor that AIA Ohio can bestow on an architectural firm. The AIA Ohio Board of Directors may confer this award to a firm who has consistently, over an extended period of time, distinguished itself through excellence in the practice of Architecture.

AIA Ohio Public Service Award - MORE INFORMATION
The AIA Ohio Public Service Award was created to recognize individuals who have made a significant impact in their community through public service. These individuals have, through leadership, positively affected the community.

AIA Ohio Mentor Award - MORE INFORMATION
The AIA Ohio Mentor Award recognizes those individuals who, through a dedication to the profession, has committed themselves to assisting and advancing knowledge and the skills of those individuals entering the profession.

AIA RELEASES REPORT ON EQUITY IN ARCHITECTURE

AIA’s Equity in Architecture Commission—a blue-ribbon panel of leading architects, educators, and diversity experts—was formed in 2015 to address concerns about disproportionate demographics among those in the profession.

After 14 months of work, the Commission released a report with its recommendations for expanding and strengthening the commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion in every practice.

This executive summary addresses the five “keystone” areas of focus that were identified, and within those areas the 11 priority recommendations that were selected for implementation by AIA over the next three years.

Click here to view the report

AIA KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS | 2016

Membership
Reached 90,000. Record number two years in a row. Total revenue realized a 6 percent increase over same period last year.

Convention
* 21,000 people attended - 22 percent increase
* 7,053 members- 33 percent increase
* 94 percent recommend to colleagues
* Expo booth sales up 4 percent

Digital Transformation
Delivered a $9.7 million transformational overhaul to member digital channels, on time and on budget.
* New member site
* New Architecture Adventures site
* New Contract Docs site
* Updated renewal experience

Grassroots Leadership Event
Debuted inaugural event with 700 members to help attendees in their role as civic and chapter leaders.

Speak Up
Hosted first-ever political and legislative advocacy training event. Sold-out with attendees representing 45 states and 98 percent of AIA membership.

Research
Published sought-after industry intelligence
* Client Insights (first-ever)
* Firm Survey’s Business of Architecture
* Home Design Trends
* Public Survey on Public Buildings (first-ever)

Architectural Adventures
Launched & booked 10 reservations within the first
We ask that you step forward and volunteer your time in the leadership of the AIA. This is the case for many of our programs to successfully function. As we move further into the year, we will continue to assign and appoint representatives to important and necessary positions that are critical for many of our programs to successfully function. We ask that you step forward and volunteer your time in the leadership of the AIA.

GETTING INVOLVED
Bruce Sekanick, FAIA

As you may know, 2017 marks the first year that the complete restructuring of AIA’s governance is in place. Gone are the multiple Vice Presidents and the large board room full of representatives from across the country and literally the globe. Today, we have in place a board that is smaller and better able to act quickly and decisively. While this new board, coupled with the Strategic Council, provides the AIA with new opportunities in governance, it does not come without challenges. With a smaller board, there is a greater need for participation from those outside of the traditional governance structure. Like all components, the AIA relies on members stepping forward to serve on task forces and committees. Without this broader participation, our ability to execute programs or develop policy would be significantly hampered. We need each member to be involved.

Earlier this year, Ohio Valley Region Young Architect Forum representative Chris Gerrity, AIA, was nominated and selected to participate on AIA’s Resolution Committee. Recently, we sent out a notice for nominees to participate as members of the AIA credentials committee. And last week, we officially approved the new Emerging Professionals ArchiPAC Committee, which is seeking emerging professionals from each of our nineteen regions to participate in this important advocacy effort. This week a new task force was formed to review not just our policy and position statements, but rather, to allow members to both understand and share our key positions and values in a more substantial way. As we move further into the year, we will continue to assign and appoint members to important and necessary positions that are critical for many of our programs to successfully function. We ask that you step forward and volunteer your time in the leadership of the AIA.

STATE ECONOMIC PROFILE current as of January 27, 2017
CLICK TO VIEW PDF
January is typically one of the busiest months at the Institute, and 2017 has already presented the Board with many new challenges. At a meeting this past week in Princeton, NJ, the board had the opportunity to explore issues and opportunities that will require our attention and careful counsel throughout the year.

While most meetings cover typical board business, the January meeting was a retreat that focused on planning and implementing changes in 2017. From sustainability to resilience and communications to leadership, the board explored issues affecting the profession from every angle and direction. The members of the board each had an opportunity to introduce issues of discussion for the board to review, explore and better understand. With few items that overlapped, the board was able to examine dozens of ideas and concepts that will soon influence who we are and what we are capable of becoming. One issue, however, connected each part of our discussion: Diversity, Engagement and Inclusion.

Research has determined that the greater the diversity of an organization, a committee or a firm, the greater the opportunity for success. Key to this success however is what diversity, engagement and inclusion means. While diversity is most commonly applied to race, gender, age or ethnicity, it is important that we understand that we also explore the other elements that affect us as a profession. Firm size, business type and practice area all define various groups that help make the profession of architecture so very unique. Combined, these individual factors come together to create a broad perspective and deep well of knowledge. But diversity alone cannot be isolated from inclusion and engagement. Successful application of any diversity program or policy hinges on the ability of a group to engage these unique individual characteristics. Without the ability of an organization to engage a more diverse group, the identification of these groups or individuals becomes meaningless. Similarly, once engaged, inclusion in all aspects of work, management or function is necessary to achieve a maturely integrated environment.

Understanding individual backgrounds, experiences and traits makes a difference. AIA continues to understand and apply diversity, engagement and inclusion in everything we do. Recently passed by the Board of Directors, AIA’s new Policy on Diversity will serve as our guide to become a better organization, an organization that understands the broad needs of our members and the profession.
Registration is now open for the Ohio Safety Congress & Expo, March 8 to 10 at the Columbus Convention Center. Click here to view event information, including the event schedule, hotels, directions and free online registration.

Days one and two (Wednesday & Thursday) offer general sessions, educational sessions and the Expo Marketplace. Day three (Friday) of the safety congress delivers full-day workshops and in-depth training. Attend the number of days which best meet your training needs.

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