



June 2020  
Advocacy  
Newsletter

## Working to Dismantle Systematic Racial Injustice

In solidarity, we stand with the Black Lives Matter movement and commit to making sure our work addresses the historic and ongoing injustices faced by Black and brown people in our country. We believe this is a decisive moment of change for our country and the world—and we must all hold each other accountable. You can read AIA|WA's statement on racial injustice [here](#) and the AIA National statement [here](#).

AIA|WA's vision asks us to enhance the balance between community and practice through design, service, and advocacy. We know both "community" and "practice" must actively include people from all backgrounds and races, and we must elevate our service and advocacy to speak out against systemic racial injustice and, in particular, the built environment's role in perpetuating that injustice.

Because architects serve the public health, safety, and welfare by designing places for a broad range of human activity, we have a responsibility to look inward, learn, ask questions, and take action so that our work truly creates spaces where everyone is able to thrive.

AIA|WA is organizing a committee to review our strategic plan and recommend changes to our policies so that we actively work to support racially just outcomes. This review will include evaluating existing and potential policy focus areas, identifying opportunities to encourage and support students of color to enter and succeed in the architecture profession, and more.

From AIA National's statement:

...To be clear, the American Institute of Architects supports the protests to stop systemic, state-sanctioned violence against people of color. Period. We support and are committed to efforts to ensure that our profession is part of the solution that finally dismantles systemic racial injustice and violence -- the legacy of one of the United States' original sins, slavery.

...AIA's words and actions have failed to live up to our highest ideals and values. AIA understands the disappointment of our past inaction and inadequate attention to the issue of systemic racial injustice. We were wrong not to address and work to correct the built world's role in perpetuating systemic racial injustice, including the use of slave and forced labor, designing housing that marginalized communities of color, helping to design communities that excluded people of color, and participating in municipal projects that destroyed or weakened thriving African American, Hispanic, and Native American communities.

If you have comments or suggestions, or if you would like to be part of this work, please contact Executive Director Tammie Sueirro at [tsueirro@aiawa.org](mailto:tsueirro@aiawa.org).

# Legislative News: State Officials Continue to Debate Fiscal Responses to COVID

A special session of the state Legislature seems less likely at this point, as Washington's government appears to be able to pay its bills without needing legislators to authorize the use of money from the budget stabilization ("rainy day") fund prior to the regular session starting in January.



Washington State

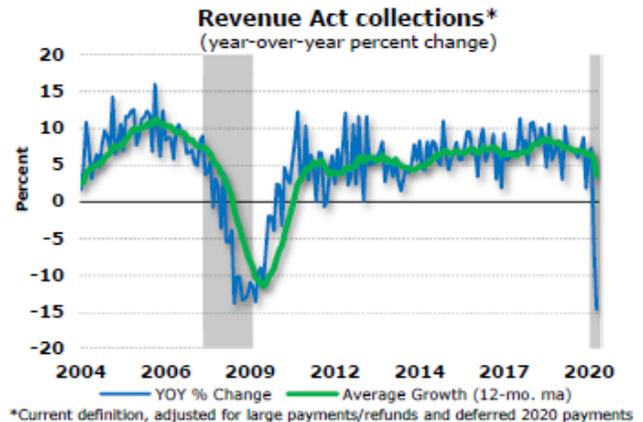
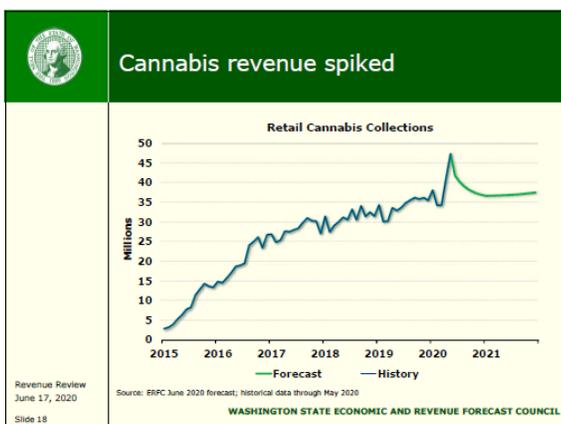
**Economic and Revenue Forecast Council**

The most likely reasons that Gov. Inslee might call the Legislature into session are for legislators to appropriate federal stimulus dollars or if there is a particularly urgent need to address criminal justice reform. (Legislators are likely to act on the latter, but probably not until the regular legislative session.)

In mid-June, the state Economic and Revenue Forecast Council released its **updated revenue forecast**, which predicts the state will be short \$4.5 billion by the end of the current fiscal year (June 2021) and another \$4.3 billion by the end of the next biennium (June 2023).

What to do about this deficit will dominate state politics between now and the end of next year's legislative session in April, as the governor, legislators and interest groups battle over the state's tax system. Democrats control both houses of the Legislature. They are increasingly pointing to the severe impact of budget cuts on society and racial equity that came out of the 2009-2010 recession, and they are challenging the conventional thinking that austerity is the only path to rescuing the economy. Meanwhile, Republicans continue to call for a special session to approve large spending cuts and advocate for smaller state budgets going forward.

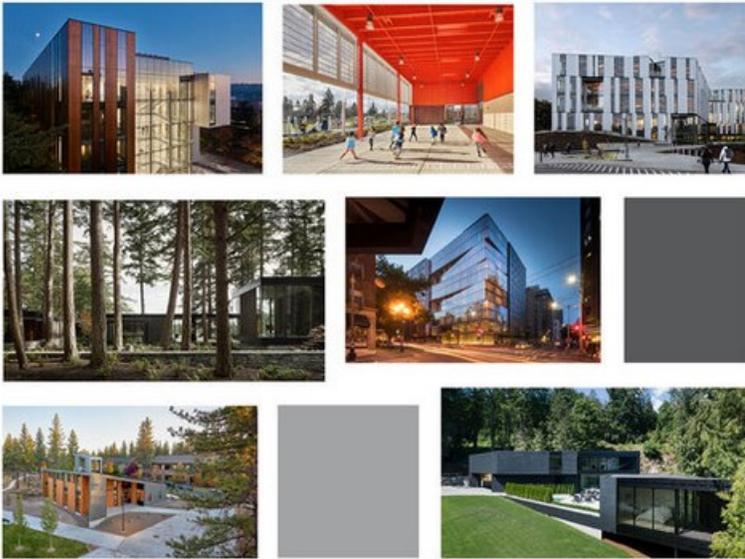
*Not all economic indicators are bad.*



When they do reconvene, legislators will decide whether to tap the budget stabilization account, which currently has about \$3 billion in funds.

Potential new tax options include a graduated income tax with a high exemption level (impacting roughly ten percent of the highest earners), which would require a constitutional amendment and therefore a two-thirds majority of votes in the Legislature. Democrats currently lack the votes for a two-thirds majority, but they *might* reach that level after the November elections. A capital gains tax is another option currently being discussed, as are eliminating existing tax breaks and raising current taxes.

Generally, Democrats are shying away from tax increases that hit large swaths of taxpayers. Senator Joe Nguyen (D-Seattle), for example, is calling for a capital gains tax and a new tax on companies that pay individual salaries of more than \$1 million per year. Senator Liz Lovelett (D-Anacortes) is proposing a bill to increase taxes on large estates. And former House Speaker Frank Chopp (D-Seattle) has released a plan to raise \$2 billion in revenue from new taxes on capital gains and large corporations.



## AIA Northwest + Pacific Region Design Awards

The 2020 AIA Northwest and Pacific Region (NW+PR) Design Awards celebrate the best architectural designs available from AIA members in the NW+PR and those AIA members who have worked on projects in the NW+PR. These projects represent the finest standards in sustainability, innovation, building performance, and overall integration with client and surrounding community.

Built submissions must have been completed after August 3, 2015 and must be designed by members of chapters within the AIA Northwest & Pacific Region or by AIA members submitting projects located within the Region. The AIA NW+PR includes the states of Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and the Marianas. Projects do not have to have previously received a design award from a local component to enter the NW+PR Design Awards.

- Intent to Enter due July 6, 2020
- Entries due August 3, 2020
- Honors and Awards Program: September 24, 2020 (held virtually)

More info is available [here](#).

## AIA|WA Civic Design Awards

AIA|WA is currently accepting submittals for the 2020 Civic Design Awards, which celebrate design excellence in publicly funded projects located in Washington. Find out how to submit projects [here](#). All firms/members must submit their Intent to Enter via our website no later than 5:00 pm, **July 2** (original date extended). Those who express their Intent to Enter will have until July 24 to upload their project materials.

Our in-person Civic Design Awards program for 2020 will take place on September 10 if allowed and if we can provide a safe environment for us to gather. If we cannot celebrate in person, there will be a virtual celebration of these awards.

### COVID Resources

AIA|WA's list of Reopening the Workplace resources is available [here](#).

AIA|WA held a webinar on Best Practices for Reopening Architecture Offices on June 19. If you missed it, you can view the presentation [here](#). Use password: gd=4\$\$^6

### 2018 Code Updates Delayed (Again) to 2021

On June 26, the State Building Code Council (SBCC) voted to delay the implementation date for the 2018 state code updates to February 1, 2021 as due to continued disruptions caused by the Coronavirus. The original date, July 1, 2020, was delayed via executive order by Gov. Inslee, who weighed in with the SBCC against further delay. This should be the final word on the 2018 codes. AIA|WA will be offering online sessions to review the 2018 code changes in September (commercial) and October (residential).



# EVENTS

## AIA Seattle

- **Seattle Design Festival**, Aug. 15-23

## NW Washington

- Webinar: **2018 International Building Code Overview**, July 9 + 10, open to anyone

## AIA Spokane

- Golf Tournament, Sept. 17 at Qualchan Golf Course
- Design Awards (virtual), October 2020

## AIA Southwest Washington

- Golf Tournament, August 7, Links at Hawks Prairie

## AIA Vancouver

- Golf Tournament, July 16, Lewis River Golf Course



# OPPORTUNITIES

## Free AIAU courses for AIA members

AIA is making some of AIAU's business and tech courses available to AIA members for free. Learn valuable skills about virtual practice, successful business strategies, risk management, and more from some of the most innovative architects, firms, and design professionals. More info [here](#).

## Jason Pettigrew Memorial ARE Scholarship for Associate Members

This scholarship recognizes the significant contributions of emerging professionals at early stages in their careers and helps defray the costs associated with the Architect Registration Examination. Applications are open through August 14. More info [here](#).



**AIA**  
Washington Council

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