

May 2021 Advocacy Newsletter

Deeper Dive into AIA's Issue "Buckets"

With this year's legislative session complete, we'll be taking a deeper dive into the issues AIA responds to, reviewing one of our issue "buckets" each month. This is a great time to offer feedback on AIA's agenda and identify new issues for our Board to consider.

This month's newsletter covers issues related to the [Practice of Architecture](#).

Practice issues are AIA's top priority in the Legislature and within state regulatory agencies. This bucket includes any issue that impacts individual architects, designers, or associates; firms; contracts; building types; project delivery; and more.

In this issue we review the major practice issues that AIA has worked on in recent years. We welcome your feedback on these issues and others that are important to you.



AIA|WA Committees

The core of AIA Washington Council's advocacy work is conducted by its **policy committees**. Within the committee structure, issues are brought to the Council's attention, debated and referred to the Board for executive action. If you'd like to be involved in advocating for the architecture profession, the committees are where you get started.

AIA members may join one or more committees at any time, or just ask to be put on the email list. Some committees meet monthly and others on an as-needed basis.

AIA|WA Policy Committees

- [Practice](#)
- Tax, Education (funding), Capital Budget
- Code
- Climate
- Livability & Affordability

Practice Issues

Below are many of the practice-related issues that AIA has worked on at the state level in recent years.

Architects Practice Act: AIA's top priority is to protect the integrity of the **Architects Practice Act** and the role of architects and architecture in the state. Changes to the statutes that comprise the Act are generally requested by AIA. We try to limit the number of times we "open up the Act," because once these statutes are open and before the Legislature, non-architects have an opportunity to request modifications.

The last major update to the Architects Practice Act was passed in 2010. In 2019 AIA made slight revisions to the Act to update the licensing requirements to match the national NCARB standard.

Licensing: As noted above, AIA successfully supported legislation to conform Washington's licensing requirements with NCARB's national standard in 2019. We have opposed bills that allow the legislature to make determinations about licensing requirements without approval of the Board for Architects, including bills that provide more rapid licensing for individuals entering Washington with a license from another state. AIA did support a bill that passed this year to allow individuals with felony convictions who have completed their post-sentence requirements to petition a licensing board to be allowed to apply for a license

Employment: AIA generally does not get involved in employment legislation, but we have opposed a "quit tam" bill that would allow private, solicited lawsuits against employers on behalf of employees on labor and employment laws. We monitor bills related to workers' compensation and other labor-related requirements.



Condo Liability: AIA supports efforts to reduce liability insurance rates for designers on condo projects. A major condo liability reform bill passed in 2019, with some minor bills aimed at decreasing building envelope review and HOA meeting notice requirements passing this year. We expect the Legislature's legal committees to continue to look at more ways to expedite condo projects, an important housing opportunity that was hampered for many years by Washington's previous Condo Act.

Comments

We'd love to hear your thoughts on 1) how AIA should approach these issues; and 2) what other practice issues our Board should be watching. Please send your comments to [Kirsten](#).

Contracting: AIA weighs in on a wide range of contracting issues that impact architectural projects, including:

- Alternative project delivery
- Predesign requirements
- Issues related to the Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprises program
- Bidding requirements
- Issues related to local government plan review
- Issues related to competitive public works contracts
- Contractor liability related to subcontractors
- Efforts to include proof of work requirements on state contracts to verify hours worked
- Bid limits
- Small works roster issues
- and more

Often, we work with the American Council of Engineering Companies and the Associated General Contractors to coordinate a building industry position on these issues.

Washington's NCARB AXP Coordinators

The NCARB **Architectural Experience Program** (AXP), formerly known as IDP, is a mandatory requirement in our state for the Architect Registration Exam (ARE). Washington has two AXP coordinators who you can contact if you have questions about the program. Drew Kleman AIA and Erica Loynd FAIA are appointed by the AIA and are a resource for the profession.

Highlight on Washington's
state liaisons and
committee representatives



Drew Kleman AIA NCARB Eastern Washington

Drew is a Senior Project Manager at Trek Architecture in Spokane with over 15 years of architectural experience. His portfolio includes projects from his work with a variety of award-winning firms, including ZGF Portland, Min Day and Kattera. Most recently, Drew was the lead architect for the Catalyst Building in Spokane. In addition to volunteering as an Architect Licensing Advisor for AIA Washington Council and NCARB, he serves in the Architect Position on the City of Spokane's Design Review Board.

Contact: drew@trekarch.com



Erica Loynd, FAIA Western Washington

Throughout Erica's career with DLR Group's Seattle office, she has worked to develop a practice around government projects, working with agencies from all levels of government to design institutional buildings with modern elements. She emphasizes integrated design with the full design team and a focus on sustainable, passive design strategies. Erica leads mentorship efforts at many levels (cross discipline, peer, AXP, etc.) to provide safe spaces for individuals to develop their personal career goals. With NCARB, Erica has researched the unique perspectives that people with non-NAAB accredited backgrounds and foreign education experience bring in order to help clarify these candidates' pathway to licensure. She has been licensed in Washington since 2009 and in four additional states, so she brings experience related to the process of reciprocity.

Contact: eloynd@dlrgroup.com

Electric Building Database

Shift Zero, AIA's partner for zero carbon building policy, is developing a database of **high efficiency all-electric buildings** that use heat pumps or other technologies and are built or being built in Washington.

You can view the existing database [here](#).

If you have a building to add, please email the details to [Kirsten](#).

Thank you!



COMPONENT EVENTS

AIA Seattle

- Event: **15-Minute Seattle: Creating Livable Places for All**. This series of programs runs throughout June and early July.
- Event: **2021 Seattle Design Festival**, August 21-22. This year's theme is: EMERGE.
- Employment: AIA Seattle is seeking a **Programs Coordinator** to support educational programs and events. Applications are due by June 7.

AIA Northwest Washington

A Section of AIA Seattle

- Course: WA Residential Energy Code Compliance. June 9, 8:30am-1:00pm. 4 LU/HSW. [More info.](#)

AIA Spokane

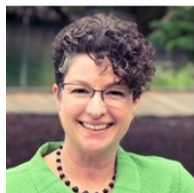
- Course: Architectural & Structural Glass Design. June 15, 12:00-1:00pm, 1 LU. [More info.](#)

AIA Southwest Washington

- AIA Vancouver's **15th Annual Golf Tournament**, Lewis River Golf Course, Woodland, July 15, 12:30 pm
- AIA SWW Firm Forum: June 16 & July 21 at noon.
- AIA SWW's Golf Tournament will be held at The Golf Club at Hawks Prairie, "The Links", Lacey. August 6. Player registration [here](#).

Washington Council

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AIA Washington Council serves as the collective voice for and a resource on state government policies that impact the practice of architecture for all architects and the profession through AIA components in Washington State.

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