



Summer 2023 Advocacy Newsletter

Civic Design Awards

The AIA Washington Council Civic Design Awards celebrate design excellence in publicly funded projects located in Washington State. These projects reflect the highest standards in sustainability, innovation, building performance and overall integration with the client and surrounding communities.

The awards will be held in partnership with AIA Spokane on **September 21** at the Spokane Convention Center. Register [here](#).

Meet the Jury:



David Shafer AIA, LEED AP

David is a partner at OZ Architecture, a 150-person firm based in Denver, Colorado, that serves projects and clients around the globe. OZ's work spans multiple practice areas, ranging from Civic to Resort and Hospitality. David leads the Higher Education practice area. He has been with OZ for over 30 years. He has had the opportunity to work on various project types during that time though the last 15 years of his career have been focused exclusively on design for higher education.

Dave has found that this work is his passion and where he can make the most significant difference.

His work strives to balance social, environmental, and economic sustainability while creating beautiful, creative spaces that are lasting assets to their campus. He recognizes that college and university students come from various backgrounds, and for some, especially first-generation college students, the higher education experience can be intimidating. Because of this, he strives to create spaces that are welcoming and inclusive for all. He also prioritizes sustainable design in his work and is helping to lead OZ in the 2030 Commitment.

As David leads his projects, he facilitates a truly integrated design process by enabling an open exchange among designers, engineers, consultants, and clients. He creates a fully collaborative environment that fosters open communication, a true team focus, and the discovery of project synergies that encourage sustainable design principles to flourish.

Meet the Jury, continued



Pauline Souza FAIA, LEED Fellow

With 38 years of experience, Pauline has dedicated her career to the building and advocacy of high-quality, sustainable environments that serve the education and civic sectors.

Recent work includes: Sonoma Academy Guild and Commons, a LEED Platinum, AIA COTE-recognized project that was awarded the first LBC Petal and Net Zero Carbon Certifications in the U.S.; Microsoft Silicon Valley campus, another LEED Platinum and AIA COTE project; and serving as sustainability advisor for Hawaii's Department of Education on their Cooling Classrooms Initiative, a districtwide heat abatement program focused on transitioning all campuses to net zero while creating healthy, culturally-rich schools.

As WRNS Studio's Director of Sustainability, she is responsible for implementing sustainable design principles into all studio projects and business operations. She has served as the Green Schools Advocate for the USGBC Green Schools Campaign since 2007, is a founder of the Bay Area Leaders in Sustainable Architecture and is an active leader in the AIA Climate Action Communication Group — organizations committed to sharing experiences and strategies in the hopes of making collective change.



Dusty Eaton AIA, LEED AP

As the CEO of one of the region's largest and longest-standing design firms, Dusty Eaton is no stranger to civic design. He joined A&E Design after graduating from Montana State University in 2006 and became the firm's youngest partner in 2012. With a passion for innovation, Eaton imagined the future of design as a collective of creatives from diverse disciplines. His firm continues to disrupt convention with architects, interior designers, historic preservation experts, brand developers, and construction administrators working together. United for one purpose, Eaton's team pushes the design envelope to create impactful experiences across the Northwest. They serve clients across myriad market sectors, including education, healthcare, commercial, residential, and more.

Eaton sees civic design – and all architecture – in terms of people. He identifies how to shape a building to enhance the lives of its occupants and solve problems for communities. This zeal for civic improvements has led to award-winning design of libraries, schools, airports, government buildings, and other public spaces. His professional commitments transcend to his personal life, in which he serves on multiple boards and a family run nonprofit, United Luv. Eaton currently lives in Billings, Montana, with his wife, Kara, and their three children.

NCARB AXP Coordinators

The NCARB Architectural Experience Program (AXP) is a mandatory requirement in our state for the Architect Registration Exam (ARE). AXP was formerly known as IDP. Washington has two AXP coordinators who you can contact if you have questions about the program. **Tyler Gates Assoc. AIA** and **Neha Goel, AIA** are appointed by the AIA and are a resource for the profession for Eastern and Western Washington, respectively.



Tyler Gates Assoc. AIA Eastern WA

Tyler graduated from USC in 2020 and recently completed the AREs to become licensed in Washington. With this recent accomplishment, she looks forward to using her journey and testing experience while it is still fresh in her mind. Tyler works at ALSC in Spokane, focusing on K-12 and sports/rec projects.

Tyler grew up in Pasco, WA and has been excited to work on projects that help better communities throughout Eastern Washington. As a developing professional herself, she looks forward to helping support those who are also navigating and expanding their careers.

Contact: tgates@alscarchitects.com or 509-838-8568



Neha Goel, AIA, LEED AP (BD+C) Western WA

Neha is an associate at Weber Thompson and a core team member of firm's internal sustainability task force. She works on high performance building projects in Weber Thompson's workplace studio. She is the Project Architect and Construction Administrator for 35 Stone, a mixed-use mass timber commercial office project in Fremont targeting Living Building Petal Certification.

She earned her NCARB certificate through the Foreign Architect Path in 2021 and has since been a NCARB Licensing Advisor. She is committed to mentoring candidates with diverse foreign architecture education backgrounds to accelerate their path to licensure in the US and to help grow a pool of ethnically diverse next generation architects to meet AIA's Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Belonging goals.

Contact: ngoel@weberthompson.com or 206-344-5700 x240



Updates from AIA National

Revised Federal Research and Development Tax Credit Update

AIA National has shared an important update regarding the revised federal research and development (R&D) tax credit, which came into effect on January 1, 2023. Due to the increasing number of inquiries from concerned parties, AIA wants to ensure that everyone is well-informed about the latest updates on this matter.

Background:

In 2017, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) brought about significant changes to the U.S. tax code. One of these changes involves an amendment to Section 174, which now requires taxpayers to capitalize and amortize R&D expenditures for tax years beginning after December 31, 2021. This change has a notable impact on firms involved in R&D activities.

Impact on R&D Tax Credit:

Additionally, the TCJA affects the eligibility for the R&D tax credit. The definition of "qualified research" has been modified to align with the new rules under Section 174. Taxpayers must now classify expenses as "specified research or experimental expenditures" under Section 174 in order to claim the Section 41 tax credit. This emphasizes the need for careful validation of Section 41 expenditures to comply with the revised requirements.

AIA's Active Engagement:

AIA has been actively engaged on this issue since last year, working to address the challenges faced by firms. AIA continues to collaborate with business groups, collect stories from AIA members, and advocate for revisions to the new law in order to achieve statutory corrections (including retroactive measures).

Legislative Progress:

Encouragingly, a bipartisan bill known as the American Innovation and Jobs Act (S. 866) has been reintroduced in the Senate, with a House bill recently introduced (bill number pending). While these reintroductions are positive steps, further action is necessary. Member participation and advocacy can significantly influence the progress in resolving this issue.

Call to Action:

AIA National urges members to take the following actions:

1. Write to Members of Congress: Utilize AIA National's Action Alert to convey the impact of the changes on your firm and emphasize the importance of addressing the issue.
2. Share your stories: AIA is seeking stories from affected members and firms to highlight the urgency of the issue to Congress. Share your information with Sarah Dodge (sarahdodge@aia.org) for further follow-up.
3. Engage with House Ways and Means Committee and Senate Finance Committee Members: If you have connections with policymakers on these committees, reach out to them. Their support plays a vital role in rectifying this issue.

Your engagement and advocacy are key to achieving a favorable outcome. With possible decisive action in fall 2023, the collective efforts of AIA members can make a significant difference.



Updates from AIA National, continued

Call for Feedback: Updates to Architects are Environmentally Responsible Policy

We are excited to announce that AIA National is undertaking an important initiative to update the Architects are Environmentally Responsible section of the AIA Public Policy statements and accepting feedback from members.

Recognizing the urgency of climate action, AIA declared it a priority in 2019. However, the current Architects are Environmentally Responsible policy was last reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors in 2017, predating this priority declaration. To bridge this gap and ensure this policy aligns with recent AIA statements, a subgroup of the Committee on the Environment (COTE) was assigned the task of leading this effort.

Your input is crucial in shaping the direction of this policy. We invite you to review the proposed updates, which are available in two formats: a redlined version highlighting the changes and a clean version for easy reading. To access these documents, please reach out to Anne Law at annelaw@aia.org.

To provide your feedback, you can send your written comments directly to Anne Law at the aforementioned email address. All feedback must be submitted by the close of business on Thursday, July 27th.

In addition to written feedback, AIA National is hosting virtual Zoom feedback sessions to facilitate interactive discussions. These sessions will provide you with an opportunity to engage with fellow AIA members and share your thoughts on the proposed updates. We encourage you to participate in one of these sessions to make your voice heard. Here are the details for the Zoom feedback session:

- **July 27th (Thurs) 5pm-6:30pm EST**

Please contact [Anne Law](mailto:annelaw@aia.org) to get registered.



Opportunities to Get Involved

Join the Historic Resources Committee at AIA WA and Shape the Future of Preservation!

A new committee, the Historic Resources Committee, has been established to advocate for the preservation of cultural heritage and the built environment in Washington State. This committee believes in the power of preservation as an essential partner in equitable development, environmental responsibility, and cultural enrichment.

If you are passionate about maintaining the legacy of our state's architecture and promoting the reuse of cultural resources, this committee is the perfect platform for you. As a member, you will have the opportunity to shape policies, develop incentives, and foster inclusive dialogue to encourage preservation at all scales.

The committee emphasizes the importance of creating a rich and evolving built environment that celebrates history, beauty, and diversity while encouraging growth and development. By joining, you can contribute to the preservation of legacy businesses, affordable housing, environmental sustainability, and the cultural fabric of our communities.

The committee is seeking members from all around the state take part in this important work. To express your interest in joining or to learn more about the committee, please contact [Tammie](#).

Call for Projects:

We are excited to offer you the chance to showcase your projects to state legislators. This is a fantastic opportunity to engage our government officials, build relationships, and highlight the important work you do. We are specifically seeking **public work**, **affordable housing**, and **civic projects**.

We encourage you to take advantage of this chance to showcase your projects directly to state legislators and have an impact on public policy. Your participation will not only demonstrate the value and impact of your work directly to decision-makers, but also contribute to building a strong relationship between the architectural community and our government officials.

For more details, please reach out to [Tammie](#) and [Samantha](#). We look forward to seeing your remarkable projects and celebrating the important work you do.



COMPONENT EVENTS



2023 Seattle Design Festival

- Theme: **Curiosity**
- August 19-24 (In person and Virtual Main Stage)
- [Learn more here.](#)



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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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