



December 2023

Advocacy Newsletter

Interim Activities: WAMOA Partnership

Last session AIAWA opposed SB 5343, which outlined a process to create a library of stock school plans in an effort to reduce school construction costs. During the interim, we got to work on creating a taskforce to address the cost of school construction and ultimately had the amazing opportunity to partner with WAMOA, the WA Association of Maintenance and Operation Administrators, to attend their legislative schools tour all around the state. In total, 10 architects joined WAMOA on 15 school visits with 17 different legislators.

It was the perfect venue for legislators to understand the complexities of school design and construction first hand, from a diverse group of professionals. These tours allowed us to highlight the design process, the complexities of designing for learning communities, and the enormous need for funding for these projects. Our advocacy work was strengthened considerably through this partnership because we were able to share ownership of a common goal and advance our priorities through a unified voice. We look forward to joining WAMOA for future tours in 2024.



Retire the Rolling Clock

Here's your opportunity to contribute to AIAWA's advocacy efforts surrounding the Rolling Clock.

AIAWA is actively championing the passage of HB 1880 and SB 5794, two bills aimed at **retiring the Rolling Clock** policy governing architectural licensure.

The current Rolling Clock policy, enshrined in Washington state statute, mandates that aspiring architects must successfully pass all six divisions of the licensing exam within a stringent five-year timeframe. This arbitrary barrier has proven to be a significant hurdle for qualified individuals, impeding their path to licensure.

Recent analysis by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) has revealed that the Rolling Clock disproportionately affects candidates facing financial pressures, family care obligations, and diverse lived experiences. The impact of this policy is felt more keenly by women and individuals from racially and ethnically diverse backgrounds.

As of October 2023, Washington remains one of the two states still bound by the Rolling Clock policy. Nearly 100 individuals have lost exam sections due to its constraints, with an additional 40 candidates facing the same fate by the end of 2024 if these bills do not pass this legislative session.

The legislative change proposed in HB 1880 and SB 5794 isn't merely about policy; it's a lifeline for dedicated professionals who have invested time, energy, and resources in pursuing licensure. AIAWA believes we cannot afford to let more talented architects miss opportunities due to unnecessary regulations.

Your support during this session is pivotal in breaking down barriers, providing flexibility, and ensuring a more inclusive path to licensure. As architects, we play a crucial role in shaping the future of our profession and contributing to the creation of a diverse, thriving built environment.

Let your voice be heard! **Contact your legislators** and convey the importance of retiring the Rolling Clock policy to advance a healthier, safer, and more inclusive architectural landscape in our state. You can also support AIAWA's advocacy efforts by attending Capitol Connections and **testifying** during committee hearings in support of HB 1880 and SB 5794. Together, let's make a difference and shape the future of our profession.





CAPITOL CONNECTIONS

Jan. 23, 2024 | Olympia, WA

Registration is open for Capitol Connections, which will be held in person at the state Capitol in Olympia on January 23, 2024. AIAWA will be using these meetings to discuss HB 1880 and SB 5794, our rolling clock bills. This event will be a great opportunity to connect with your legislators and share how this policy has impacted your professional journey.

This lobby day promises not only to be impactful but also an enjoyable experience for both members and legislators alike. Your participation is crucial in making our collective voice heard on this important matter that will help shape our industry's future for the better.

As always, AIAWA will organize prep sessions for each district ahead of the event to get you familiar with your legislators and the bill itself. Additionally, we will set up your meetings with legislators and provide talking points to ensure a smooth and productive meeting.

This is a great opportunity to get a glimpse into how your state legislature operates and an easy way to start building relationships with your legislators. Please consider joining your fellow architects from across the state in this important outreach effort!

Please [register](#) by December 22, 2023.

AIA Washington Celebrates Douglas Ito, FAIA, for Winning Whitney M. Young Jr. Award 2024



AIAWA proudly celebrates Douglas Ito, FAIA, Managing Principal of Seattle's SMR Architects, as the recipient of the Whitney M. Young Jr. Award 2024 from AIA's Board of Directors and Strategic Council. Recognized for his outstanding contributions to affordable housing, social equity, and community transformation, Ito's leadership and commitment to mission-driven projects have earned him this well-deserved accolade.

Over 26 years at SMR Architects, Ito's designs have positively impacted communities statewide. His influence extends to diversifying SMR's staff, supporting underrepresented communities, and advocating for inclusivity within the architectural profession.

Ito's active role in AIAWA, leadership in city and state advisory groups, and pivotal role in the Housing Development Consortium highlight his dedication to social impact. The 2016 housing levy campaign's success and his recent co-chair role in the 2023 Housing Levy Committee underscore Ito's profound impact on affordable housing initiatives.

The Whitney M. Young Jr. Award 2024 reflects Ito's exceptional contributions to architecture and his commitment to addressing social issues through innovative design and advocacy. AIA Washington applauds his achievements and anticipates his continued leadership in fostering an inclusive and impactful architectural community.

Read more [here](#).

Take Part in the 2024 Legislative Session

There are plenty of opportunities to take part in the legislative session, both as part of AIA's efforts or on your own. The first step is deciding which issues you are most interested in, then finding out how best to engage. We can help!

Ways to Participate

Follow Your Legislators

You can sign up for your legislators' update emails via the [Legislature's website](#). Find each of your three legislators and go to their home pages to register.

Contact Your Legislators

Email or call your legislators to let them know your opinion on a specific bill. Include the bill number if possible, and offer points specific to your experience. You can email your legislators [here](#).

Testify on a Bill

Any member of the public can sign up to testify on a bill at its public hearing (this is the first step to considering a bill in committee; any bill may have multiple public hearings if it keeps moving through the process). Testimony is limited to two minutes (sometimes less depending on the number of people testifying and the committee's agenda) and can be done both in-person and virtually. After signing up on Legislature's website for virtual testimony, you'll receive a Zoom link to enter the hearing. Learn more [here](#).

Track A Bill

Sign up for notifications regarding specific bills via the [Legislature's website](#). Enter the bill number and hit Search. Then click Get Email Notifications.

Register Your Position on a Bill

You can weigh in pro or con on a bill by entering your name, email and city. Committee members receive pro/con lists as they are considering legislation. Get your position on a bill noted for the legislative record [here](#).

Need Help?

Contact [Samantha](#) for help accessing the Legislature, commenting on bills, figuring out a bill's status, or to participate in a committee.



Help AIA Evaluate Legislation that Impacts Architects or the Practice of Architecture

During the session, AIA members meet via Zoom or by email to evaluate legislation and provide feedback to AIA staff and ultimately to legislators. All members are welcome to participate. Email and/or Zoom groups are active for the following categories:

- ⇒ Practice, Taxes, & Budget
- ⇒ Climate
- ⇒ Housing & Livability
- ⇒ Historic Resources

SMR Architects - AIA Washington Council Diverse Student Scholarship

The SMR Architects-AIA Washington Council Diversity Scholarship was created in 2023 with an initial investment from SMR Architects with a goal of providing financial assistance to students early in their architectural education who come from marginalized and underrepresented communities. With the addition of an AIA Component Matching Grant from AIA National, a total of \$3000 was given out. Half of each award went directly to the school to go toward tuition and the remaining half could be used for any expenses the students may have.

On December 5 AIAWA 2024 President Dave Buescher AIA presented the first SMR Architects – AIAWA Diverse Student Scholarship in Spokane at the AIA Spokane Winter Party. Two scholarships were given out: one to a student attending a community or technical college and one to a student attending a Washington university

Trevor Waggoner, a first generation college student attending Spokane Community College, received \$1000. When asked what potential impact he could make in his community as an architect, he answered, "My overall passion for architecture is functionality, creativity, and the ability to bring people closer together. This will not only improve the current environment, but it will allow for future generations to enjoy this type of lifestyle as well."



Matthew Jordan, a first year student at Washington State University, received \$2000. When asked about his potential impact Matthew responded, "One of my biggest goals in my career has been and will continue to be to improve the experience of family in not just the home, but public spaces as well, furthermore in countries that need it most urgently."



Thank you SMR Architects and the AIA Component Matching Grant program for making these awards possible. In 2024 AIAWA will seek additional investors to increase the number of scholarships we are able to award. If you or your firm is interested in investing in this program, please contact [Tammie Sueirro](#).

COMPONENT EVENTS



- AIA Seattle Parti
- January 23, 2024 6-8:30pm
- Celebrate leadership and achievement in design and the built environment
- Tickets and details [here](#)



HAPPY
Holidays



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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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