



SUMMER 2024

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.

Thank you to EHDD for hosting the awards on Pier 55 in Seattle on **September 19**. Tickets will go on sale in August.

Meet the Jury:



Liz Hallas, AIA, principal at Anderson Hallas Architects, leads a team of talented designers and preservationists who impact legacy projects throughout the West. Fueled by a love of the outdoors and an adventurous spirit, Liz has played a key role in building Anderson Hallas' national recognition through their work with the National Park Service – including the award-winning Sperry Chalet, many National Historic Landmarks, and hundreds of designated sites. Liz is a firm believer in giving back to the community. Currently, she is chair of the national AIA Historic Resources Committee, is a Colorado Historical Foundation trustee, and a member of the Grants Council with History Colorado. With a keen eye for design, she has served on several AIA chapter design juries including AIA Baltimore, as well as a past jury member of the AIA National's Honor Awards.

Elizabeth (Liz) Hallas, AIA, LEED AP BD+C
Anderson Hallas Architects, PC | Golden, CO

Meet the Jury, continued



**Nasra Nimaga (she/her), AIA NOMA
Senior Associate | Perkins Eastman**

Born in Hong Kong and raised in Nairobi, Nasra Nimaga is an architect and Senior Associate at Perkins Eastman's NY location where she works on primary and secondary education projects and civic work. Nasra is interested in the intersections of architecture, advocacy, and policy. These interests are shaped by her experiences as a third-culture transplant and the unswerving belief that architecture can and should improve the lives of people and all work should be approached with an openness to being self-critical and an awareness of its potential impacts.

Nasra's commitment to advocating for equity in the AEC industry and the built environment is exemplified by her various pursuits. Nasra is the acting chair of Nycoba | NOMA's marketing committee, the New York Champion of A4LE's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, and a volunteer with NCARBS's Certification Alternatives Review Team (CART) and has been a juror for the AIA's Honor and Awards program. She is also an alumni of AIANY's Civic Leadership and AIA Next to Lead Programs and is currently an Urban Design Forum Forefront Fellow, where she is doing a yearlong exploration that seeks to inspire centering youth in the built environment.



**d'Andre Willis
Assist. Vice Chancellor for Planning & Design | Campus
Architect | University of Colorado Boulder**

d'Andre Willis is the Campus Architect and Associate Vice Chancellor for Planning & Design at the University of Colorado Boulder. She is a licensed architect and LEED Accredited Professional (BD&C) with over 30 years of experience in architecture and planning. At CU she is responsible for ensuring the overall form, function, and appeal of the campus, leading the planning and design of all capital improvement projects at CU Boulder, and leading the units responsible for campus master planning, space optimization, and CAD/GIS. Prior to joining CU in 2021, her work as an owner's rep and as a vice president at HGA Architects & Engineers provided her with leadership opportunities on projects including the Folger Shakespeare Library expansion, the Northern Virginia Science Center, the Contemplative Site and African American Burial Ground at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, and multiple campus buildings, including at the University of Virginia, University of Wisconsin, Cornell University, Washington College, Wheaton College and Marquette University. Her experience with sustainable design includes numerous LEED certified projects, including several at the Platinum level, as well as projects with net zero energy and low-embodied carbon goals. Willis holds a bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College and a Master of Architecture from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She is a Certified Facilitator with the National Charrette Institute who provides expertise and leadership in facilitating communication among diverse user groups, in gathering public input and buy-in, enabling collaboration, and in building community.

AIAWA Architects Political Committee



AIAWA | **ARCHITECTS
POLITICAL COMMITTEE**

Support Your Profession: Invest in APC

Your advocacy matters, and so does your role in shaping the legislative landscape that influences our profession. AIA Washington Council is your advocate in state government, diligently working on key issues that impact the architecture community.

The legislative and regulatory environment is a critical arena that directly affects how we provide professional services. The AIAWA Architects Political Committee (APC) is a vital part of our advocacy efforts. It supports lawmakers who champion our priorities, endorsing their campaigns and raising awareness about issues crucial to architects.

What APC Does:

- **Supports Advocacy Priorities:** APC backs lawmakers aligned with our advocacy priorities and the values of our profession.
- **Builds Relationships:** By supporting campaigns and engaging with legislators, APC strengthens the relationships between AIAWA and lawmakers.
- **Amplifies Your Voice:** APC enables architects to become a powerful voice for the design and construction industry, positively influencing legislative decisions.

We can't do it alone. Your expertise and advocacy are critical for the architectural profession. Investments in APC ensures face-to-face opportunities to educate legislators about our work and provides a platform to advocate for the priorities of Washington architects.

Benefits of Your Investment:

- **Education Opportunities:** Your support enables face-to-face interactions, educating legislators about the architectural profession.
- **Advocacy Platform:** APC provides a platform for architects to advocate for our priorities, ensuring our voices are heard.
- **Political Influence:** By contributing to candidates aligned with our values, APC gives architects a strong political voice in state offices.

How You Can Contribute: Your investment in APC is an investment in the future of our profession. Contribute to support candidates who align closely with AIAWA's legislative priorities and our shared values.

Visit the [APC Contribution Page](#) to learn more.

2024 Legislative Campaign Contributions:

Rep. Davina Duerr (1 LD)

Rep. April Connors (8 LD)

Rep. Stephanie McClintock (18 LD)

Rep. Strom Peterson (21 LD)

Rep. Jessica Bateman (22 LD)

Rep. Steve Tharinger (24 LD)

Rep. Julia Reed (36 LD)

Rep. Amy Walen (48 LD)

Sen. Nikki Torres (15 LD)

Sen. Chris Gildon (25 LD)

Sen. Joe Nguyen (34 LD)

Sen. Liz Lovelett (40 LD)

President's Corner

Dear Members,

As we move into the second half of 2024, I am thrilled to share some significant developments and call upon each of you to help drive meaningful change within our profession.

Celebrating the Practice Committee's Hard Work

First and foremost, let us take a moment to celebrate the incredible work done by members of our Practice Committee. Their diligent efforts in collaborating with the state have resulted in much-needed update to the fee structure for architectural and engineering services for public projects. This achievement is not only a testament to the committee's dedication but also a significant step forward in ensuring transparency and fairness within our industry. Kudos to everyone involved for their relentless hard work and perseverance!

Opening Doors for Smaller Firms

I would also like to address an important issue within our community: the participation of smaller firms in state projects. It is crucial that larger architectural firms take proactive steps to open up opportunities for smaller firms. By doing so, we can foster a more inclusive and diverse professional environment, allowing for a richer exchange of ideas and innovation. Collaboration, mentorship, and partnership between large and small firms can significantly enhance the quality and creativity of our projects. The benefits of such inclusivity extend beyond the firms themselves, as a more diverse pool of contributors leads to more varied and innovative solutions to the challenges we face in our work.

Addressing Incumbency and State RFP Challenges

Another pressing issue is the incumbency and the format of state RFPs, which often hinder small firms from having a real chance of securing public work projects. The current system tends to favor established players, leaving little room for new and emerging talent. This not only stifles innovation but also perpetuates inequities within our profession. We must work together to advocate for changes that allow for a more level playing field, giving all firms, regardless of size, a fair opportunity to compete. It is essential that we challenge and revise these processes to ensure that every firm, regardless of its size or tenure, can contribute to and benefit from public work. By doing so, we can ensure a more dynamic and competitive market that ultimately benefits the public through improved design and service quality.

Call to Action: Seeking Your Feedback

Finally, I am soliciting your feedback on how we can make these processes more equitable for all members. Your insights and experiences are invaluable in shaping the future of our profession. Please share your thoughts, suggestions, and ideas on how we can create a more inclusive and supportive environment for all architects. I encourage each of you to engage in this dialogue actively, as your contributions are crucial in identifying the barriers we face and crafting the solutions we need. Together, we can work towards a future where every architect can thrive and make a meaningful impact on our built environment.

Let us continue to work together, support one another, and strive for excellence in all that we do. Together, we can make a lasting impact on our profession and the built environment.

- Dave Buescher, AIAWA President



Apply Now: SMR Architects-AIA Washington Council Diversity Scholarship

Are you passionate about architecture and seeking financial support for your education? The SMR Architects-AIA Washington Council Diversity Scholarship is now accepting applications for 2024!

This scholarship aims to encourage and elevate diverse voices in architecture by providing financial assistance to students from marginalized and underrepresented communities. Two scholarships will be awarded this year.

Eligibility:

- Washington state residents (minimum 2 consecutive years)
- High school students planning to enroll in a WA technical school or community college architectural program
- Technical school or community college students intending to transfer to UW or WSU architecture programs
- A student admitted to the undergraduate architecture program who is in the first year of study within the major at University of Washington or Washington State University.

Application Requirements:

1. Completed scholarship application form and written portion
2. Two letters of recommendation
3. 3-5 examples of creative works

Key Dates:

- Application Opens: August 1, 2024
- Application Review: September 1 – October 21, 2024
- Recipients Notified: November 1, 2024

Don't miss this opportunity to kickstart your architectural career! For questions about eligibility, application specifics, or timeline, please contact [Tammie Sueirro](#).

Invest in your future and contribute to the diversity of our profession. **Apply** for the SMR Architects-AIA Washington Council Diversity Scholarship today!

"Receiving the AIA and SMR Architects - AIA Washington Diverse Student Scholarship has provided me with benefits far exceeding the financial aspects. I've made connections in the field, had meaningful conversations with potential future employers, but more importantly I've found a way to showcase and reinforce what it means to come from a diverse upbringing. Not only has the scholarship helped me financially, but it also has shown me there's a place for me and my future in the field of Architecture"

-Matthew Jordan, WSU

"Receiving this scholarship helped me put more focus into my architecture studies and be able to push myself further. When being presented with the scholarship I was able to meet many architects in the Spokane area which allowed me to grow my network and see how close this group of architects is. I am very thankful for all the opportunities this scholarship has allowed me to be a part of."

-Trevor Waggoner, SCC

Shape the Future of Architecture: Become Washington's Young Architect Representative!

Are you passionate about representing young architects and shaping the future of the profession? If so, we invite you to consider applying for the Young Architect Representative (YAR) position with the AIA Washington Council.

As the YAR, you will serve as the voice of recently licensed architects in Washington State, contributing valuable insights and leadership to influence decisions at both state and national levels. This is a unique opportunity to actively participate in promoting leadership, mentorship, and fellowship within the architectural community.

Goals of the AIA Young Architects Forum (YAF):

- ENGAGE recently licensed Architects in leadership to become agents of change within the Institute and the profession.
- INSPIRE professional growth among recently licensed Architects through fellowship within the Institute.
- ADVOCATE for issues of particular relevance to recently licensed Architects to the Institute.
- SERVE to make AIA memberships meaningful to recently licensed Architects through effective programs and services.
- PROMOTE mentorship at all career stages to enhance personal growth, community involvement, and professional development.

Key Responsibilities:

- Serve as a liaison between local YAF chapters and the YAF Advisory Committee (AdCom).
- Communicate with AIA Associate Members and emerging professionals throughout the state.
- Participate in YAF meetings, working groups, and national initiatives.
- Collaborate with College of Fellows Regional Representatives and NAC Representatives.
- Promote awards and leadership opportunities for young architects.

Why Apply?

- Make a meaningful impact by advocating for the architectural profession.
- Make a meaningful impact by advocating for recently licensed architects.
- Build lasting connections with peers from around the country.
- Contribute to the growth and mentorship of emerging professionals.
- Receive financial support for travel to conferences and events.

Eligibility and Application:

- Must be an AIA member and licensed architect for less than 10 years.
- Submit a one-page letter of interest, resume, employer support letter, one-page essay, and letter(s) of recommendation by **September 1, 2024**.
- Visit the [AIAWA website](#) for all the details.

How to Apply: Email your application, including all required documents as a single PDF file, to [Tammie Sueirro](#).

This is a fantastic opportunity to represent our vibrant architectural community and make a lasting impact on the profession. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact the current YAF Regional Director, [Tanya Kataria](#).

AIWA Board Votes to Support “No on I-2117”

In June, the AIWA Board of Directors officially joined a coalition of over 350 organizations in Washington State, including leading companies and small businesses, environmental leaders, Tribal nations, labor unions, faith groups, transportation advocates, and community organizations, to support the “No on 2117” campaign. This initiative is critical as it seeks to repeal the Climate Commitment Act (CCA), a key law in our state’s fight against climate change. Here’s a brief overview of Initiative 2117, the potential impacts, and the arguments surrounding it.

What is the Climate Commitment Act (CCA)?

Enacted in May 2021, the CCA ([SB 5126](#)) is a significant climate policy designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through:

- **Cap-and-Trade System:** Requires major polluters to purchase emissions allowances, with decreasing limits over time to drive down emissions.
- **Emission Reduction Targets:** Aims for reductions of 45% below 1990 levels by 2030, 70% by 2040, and net-zero by 2050.
- **Revenue Generation:** Funds from emissions allowances are used to support clean energy projects, transportation improvements, and other environmental initiatives.

What Would We Lose if I-2117 Passes?

If Initiative 2117 succeeds, the repeal of the CCA would allow more pollution and strip away billions of dollars in investments in community priorities in every county in our state including:

- **Loss of Environmental Protections:** Cuts to funding for clean air and water programs, forest health, and wildfire prevention.
- **Increased Costs for Consumers:** Elimination of programs offering energy-efficient appliances, utility bill discounts, and no-fare transit for youth.
- **Transportation Infrastructure Risks:** Potential reductions in public transit, ferry services, and road maintenance, which could worsen traffic and limit accessibility.
- **Impact on Tribal Nations:** Loss of support for flood protection, clean energy projects, and transit services on tribal lands.
- **Reduced Fish Habitat Protection:** Cuts to funding for salmon recovery and fish habitat improvements.
- Learn more [here](#).

Arguments For and Against Initiative 2117

- **Supporters of I-2117 Argue:**
 - ⇒ **Cost Concerns:** They believe the CCA has led to higher costs for fuel, food, and energy without sufficient environmental benefits.
 - ⇒ **Alternative Approaches:** Repealing the CCA would allow for other strategies to reduce emissions without imposing financial burdens on consumers.
- **Critics of I-2117 Argue:**
 - ⇒ **Loss of Climate Progress:** The CCA is crucial for reducing emissions and tackling climate change, setting important pollution reduction standards.
 - ⇒ **Impact on Revenue:** Funds from the CCA are vital for environmental projects, transportation, and community support, which would be at risk if the initiative passes.

Why AIWA Supports “No on 2117”

By joining this broad coalition, the AIWA Board stands firm in our belief that repealing the CCA would undermine Washington State’s climate goals and disrupt essential investments in environmental and community programs. Supporting the “No on 2117” campaign is a commitment to continue advancing toward a sustainable future.

Interim Activities

Kit Kollmeyer to Represent AIAWA on SHB 2071 Advisory Group Standard Plans

The 2024 legislature enacted **SHB 2071**, which introduces an optional standard energy code plan set (Standard Plans) designed to meet or exceed all residential energy code regulations under the International Residential Code. AIAWA has been actively involved in shaping this initiative and has a seat on the advisory group guiding the project. This group, comprised of experts from design, construction, and development, will support the Office of Regulatory Innovation and Assistance (ORIA) and the WSU Energy Program in ensuring the plan set meets its objectives.

We are pleased to announce that Kit Kollmeyer, from Twisp, WA and owner of Serious Fun Studio, will represent AIAWA on this advisory group. Kit brings valuable experience with the IRC and a deep understanding of both western and eastern Washington.

We will keep our members updated on any developments as the project progresses.

AIAWA Efforts Result in Key Wins on State Fee Schedule and Public Project Guidelines

We are pleased to announce that our collective advocacy efforts have led to a significant win for AIAWA members. On May 15, AIAWA submitted a letter to the Office of Financial Management (OFM) with recommendations regarding the proposed changes to the state fee schedule and guidelines for public projects.

In response, OFM informed us that, based on the comments received, they have decided to remove the new basic services for the 2025-27 biennium. The basic services will remain as they are in the current guidelines. Furthermore, OFM has committed to engaging in a consultative process with stakeholders, including state agencies and the construction community, to review the rates and services for the 2027-29 biennium.

Additionally, the proposed 2025-27 maximum negotiated hourly billing rates and the updated Building Cost Index (BCI) ratio, as recommended by AIAWA, have been adopted.

We extend our huge thanks to our Practice Committee members, advocacy team, and all members who contributed by sending letters urging OFM to reconsider their changes. This outcome is a major victory that protects the livelihood of our members working in the public sector and those involved in projects using these contracting tools.



CHAPTER EVENTS

AIA Northwest Washington

- AIA NWW [Tour of WWU](#): Sept. 13

AIA Seattle

- AIA Seattle [Design Festival](#): Aug. 17-22

Other Events

Sustainability Ambassadors is a nonprofit empowering teens from the PNW run impact projects in their communities and schools all aimed at “rapidly advancing a sustainable future.” Their upcoming virtual event envisions a world where we have created that sustainable future by 2050 and showcasing the steps it took to get there. It should be an inspiring event highlighting the passion and dedication of the next generation as they advocate for sustainability and combat climate change in their communities. [RSVP](#) and tell your coworkers!

Details: August 22 | 7–8pm | Virtual



AIA 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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