

2020 YEAR IN REVIEW

Despite challenges brought upon us in an unexpected year filled with unrest and anxiety, there is still much to celebrate in the way of accomplishments and movement. From our climate action efforts, to hosting more than 330 virtual meetings and reaching more than 10,300 individuals, the architecture profession came together and began to communicate differently, able to assist their local communities in ways not usually associated with the traditional definition of architect. Here are a few major highlights of the year in AIA California's (AIA CA) perspective.

Climate Action

The AIA CA recognizes that the planet is experiencing an urgent climate emergency, and that California should continue to elevate its position as a global leader in addressing the grave challenges of advancing climate change and natural resource depletion.

The architectural profession must take a leadership position in the development of energy, carbon, water and resource-related practices and policies that will lead to a viable future.

To build upon the policy adopted in 2019, AIA CA continued climate action efforts by producing free monthly webinars for members to gain insights and instruction for what efforts can be taken within the firms and profession.



AIA CA created a new seat on the Executive Committee, the Vice President of Climate Action, to oversee the environmentally-conscious programs and initiatives, but to also create symbiosis and natural connections to other efforts. For example, climate action involves more than simply Committee on the Environment (COTE) meetings. There is also advocacy and legislation, communication tools and efforts, education for members, and general awareness for architects and the public. This position will ensure all programs take climate action into consideration and/or implementation.

Also created: the ever-popular "Things you can do NOW" website page and newsletter. This special edition section to proffer easily digestible information and instructions on how to further ensure the resiliency of buildings and structures.



And let's not forget the *Los Angeles Times* Letter to the Editor in response to an op-ed piece: "This is easy—new buildings should be designed for a fossil fuel-free future" from October 19. AIA CA's response was published and went live on October 25 and stated the association is in agreement that the time is now to insist future buildings are designed to be more energy efficient and to be ready for renewable energy sources.

In addition to these strategic moves, the AIA CA Headquarters moved into the newly remodeled office. It is featured as one of the first Zero Carbon through electrification commercial projects in Sacramento as a case study for Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) in SMUD's Integrated Design Solutions.

The new headquarters is a space that truly reflects the core values of AIA membership and boasts a collaborative work environment. It implemented the positive effects of natural daylighting and has the latest in streamlined technology for individual working and meeting spaces. All are encouraged to visit once the world once again opens and travel is safe.

COVID-19 Response

AIA CA assimilated as deftly as possible, and staff positioned the organization to provide resources and tools to keep architects, firms, healthcare workers, and staff healthy and safe. Some of the ways this was accomplished were:

- Created the COVID-19 Resources Page
- Donated to PPE effort coordinated by architects in Los Angeles
- Created a text-donation campaign to fund PPE material needs
- Surveyed how firms and individuals were doing and what they needed

Facilitated partnership with California Medical Association in order to have local chapters assist smaller institutions needing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Quickly pivoted all meetings to virtual format via Zoom: Board Meetings, committees, Executive Committee, chapters, member conversations, staff strategic sessions, editorial meetings, and many more.

Government Relations

AIA CA has and continues to actively promote standards to reduce the impact the built environment has on the climate. A sizeable percentage of greenhouse gas emissions in California come from the operation of homes and buildings. AIA CA believes California can be a leader in fighting climate change through the enactment of zero net carbon standards.



Our efforts include:

Local Electrification Codes

AIA CA has joined with several local chapters to support efforts to adopt local electrification reach codes. The jurisdictions include: San Carlos, Los Altos, Sunnyvale, Colma, Petaluma, San Francisco, and San Luis Obispo. This is an ongoing effort that continues to grow.

Zero Code for California

AIA California has petitioned to include the Zero Code for California in CALGreen. Amending CalGreen to include the 2022 Zero Code for California will create a consistent, replicable reach code framework for decarbonization by electrification and renewable energy for commercial and large residential developments.

California Existing Building Code

AIA California has petitioned to amend the California Existing Building Code to include all three national model code compliance methods. This will support increased retrofit and reuse of our urban existing building infrastructure for greatly reduced embodied carbon emissions, while at the same time providing urban revitalization, infill housing and employment opportunities.

Local AIA Chapter Support

Networks, Sharing Resources, Membership Development, Etc.

- Created Zoom platform available for local chapters to host meetings, bringing all chapters and member services along for COVID's forced transition in virtual business operations
- Provided local chapters with information on how to legally conduct electronic elections and how to navigate CA Attorney General's Emergency Provisions for nonprofit Governance during COVID
- Set up regular CA CACE Meetings to support chapters to Increased frequency of CA CACE meetings to provide an enhanced level of support and resources to help local components navigate chapter operations and member services through the Pandemic

Disaster Assistance

Between wildfires, COVID response, and social unrest, disaster assistance became a significant focus. While the list below features the successes, AIA CA understands this is an ongoing effort and remains at the ready to adjust however needed to the demands of the architecture profession. It was in this light that these successes were initiated and fulfilled:

- Updated and made available the AIA CA Local Component Disaster Response Online Toolkit
- Launched our Disaster Assistance Network (DAN) with 16 local components participating, and hosted the first DAN Training as a virtual event
- Supported AIA Monterey Bay to participate in community response and rebuilding due to wildfires by sending a Disaster Response Box and \$1K grant
- Safety Assessment Program (SAP) Trainings –AIA CA worked with CalOES to make virtual trainings an option for local chapters to host, increasing the amount of architect SAPs available to deploy should a disaster occur
- Coordinated with and offered support to Oregon and Washington AIA components to help with wildfire response

Healthcare Facilities Forum

- Over 230 virtual registrations, exceeding capacity of our regular in-person program
- International! With a handful of viewers in Canada



- Program covered 2021 Outlook for California Hospitals, Capital Planning in the Midst of a Pandemic, the Customer Revolution in Healthcare, Telehealth in the time of COVID and Beyond
- Honored Robert Kain's, AIA memory by awarding him with AIA CA's Lifetime Achievement Award for Healthcare Facility Design
- Recognized three students receiving the Bob Kain Scholarship to support their pursuit of a career in Healthcare Facility Design
- The bottom line: AIA CA reached and engaged with more members than as would happen with strictly in-person programming