

# AIA Buffalo/WNY

A Chapter of the American Institute of Architects



August 19, 2008

2008 President's Summer Message

My Fellow AIA members,

As the summer winds down, I would like to update you on the work of the Chapter. My mission this year was to focus on diversity in the profession and to restructure the Component to ensure its relevance to your career and the general public. The following is a summary of this year's highlights.

## Vision Session

In March, the Board held a Vision Session with past Board members to craft a 5-Year plan for the Chapter. From that session, a new Board structure has been drafted and is currently under implementation.

The Board will be divided into four categories (reflecting the priorities of the AIA) and chaired by the executive committee:

1. Communication Committee, chaired by the President.
2. Governance Committee, chaired by President-Elect and composed of Board members and invited parties.
3. CEU Management/Programs Committee, chaired by the Treasurer.
4. Membership Committee, chaired by the Secretary.

In addition, a **5-Point Plan** was developed to be initiated immediately:

1. Create a new **website** that is more interactive, current and helpful for members and the general public.
2. Establish an **e-newsletter** that is tied to the website.
3. Provide frequent **CEU programs** that enable members to obtain credits.
4. Establish a working relationship with **AIA Rochester** to collaborate on Upstate New York programs and for assistance in administering AIA Buffalo/WNY operating duties.
5. Create a **Communications Committee**, for press releases, to offer opinions on local issues and to publish articles for public outreach.

To date many of these points have been implemented or they are work in progress.

## New Website

A new website is currently in the design phase. We plan to unveil it this fall. A new e-newsletter will be designed with the website and unveiled at the same time as the website.

## CEU Programs

We have always offered monthly programs for our members but we are also offering day-long seminars to achieve HSW credits. The year began with a well-attended program in January entitled "Women in Architecture" and a program entitled "Diversity in Architecture" is scheduled for October. In August, we held a one-day ADA Seminar and in October we are planning an HSW day, where members can attend a variety of Affiliate Member seminars. We are planning a code seminar in January, 2009. Finally, we have offered several very well-attended building tours and we have collaborated with The Graycliff Conservancy and the Martin House Restoration Corporation to offer CEU credits to some of their lectures and tours. This sort of collaboration with our local cultural institutions is just beginning and will, I hope, continue to grow. On April 4, we also sponsored our second Bethune Lecture at UB School of Architecture and Planning, highlighting the work of an important woman architect. This year Benedetta Tagliabue from Barcelona was the visiting lecturer.

## AIA Rochester Collaboration and the Upstate New York Network

In late July, our Chapter formalized a working relationship with AIA Rochester that has been

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planned for over a year. In this agreement, Linda Hewitt, Executive Director for AIA Rochester, will answer all phone calls from our new phone number 716.774.3340. Linda will also assist us with program announcements and membership tasks. Our intention is to provide to our members a knowledgeable voice of our Chapter members and the general public who can assist with queries on local matters as well as State and National AIA issues. In addition, the executive committee has been active on the newly formed AIA Upstate New York Network. The Network is comprised of representatives from AIA Syracuse, Southern, Rochester and Buffalo/WNY.

## Communications and Awards

This year Chapter members and friends have been particularly productive in obtaining attention locally, state-wide and nationally. Assemblyman Sam Hoyt was awarded the 2007 AIA NYS Legislator of the Year Award and he was honored at a reception hosted by AIA NYS at the Martin House on April 17<sup>th</sup>. This event received local press coverage. In April, Matt Meier, AIA, was profiled in the Buffalo News for his work with R/UDAT and its impact on the development of Buffalo. At the AIA National Convention, Robert Coles, FAIA, was honored twice: at the Whitney Young Award Ceremony he was honored as a past recipient and vigilant voice for minorities in the architectural profession. And at a general session, Mr. Coles was honored for his life-long support of the AIA, having attended 40 consecutive national conventions.

## Committees

Our committees have been particularly active this year:

**Architecture + Education:** After last year's success, this committee is planning for an even more successful year. The workshop for this year's event is scheduled for October 3-4 and the exhibit at CEPA Gallery is scheduled for January 9-18, 2009. Committee Chair: Erika Abbondanzieri, Watts Architecture and Engineering and James Lai, Cannon Design.

**BEP:** The Buffalo Emerging Professionals celebrated their inauguration with a party at Shanghai Reds in July. Over 80 architects and emerging architects attended this successful event. The group has many projects planned such as a quarterly newsletter, book review meetings, charettes and design competitions.

**Committee Chair:** Shanntina Moore, AIA Buffalo/WNY Board of Directors (Seneca Construction Management Corporation)

**Residential Committee:** This committee has focused on writing articles in local residential publications and is planning for participation in the Buffalo an Erie County Home and Garden Show in 2009, where they will invite a guest lecturer and hold an exhibit showcasing the work of local residential architects.

**Committee Chair:** David Flemming, AIA Buffalo/WNY Board of Directors (DRF Design/Architecture)

**Urban Design Committee:** As the Component recipient of the AIA 150 grant, this committee has focused on completing the form based code report, which was the topic for the grant. This report has been produced in collaboration with the City of Buffalo and we are hopeful that it will be implemented by the City when complete.

Committee Chair: Peter Murad, Architectural Resources

**AIA NYS Convention 2010 Planning Committee:** Plans are underway for the 2010 Convention, which will be held in Buffalo. The committee is exploring convention themes and a logo.

Committee Chair: Paul McDonnell, AIA Buffalo/WNY Board of Directors (Buffalo Public Schools)

**Program Committee:** This committee is currently under construction. We hope to have a very active committee to plan, review and initiate an array of programs starting in 2009.

Committee Chair: Paul Herendeen, AIA Buffalo/WNY Board of Directors (Silvestri Architects)

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As always, we invite you to participate in any of these committees. Feel free to contact me or a committee member to become active.

## **Upcoming Events- the best is yet to come...**

We do hope that you will plan to attend the following events.

### **Annual Business Meeting**

Scheduled to take place on September 11 at the Bijou Restaurant, the business of the Component will be presented. Also on the agenda: the election of four new Board members and the election of officers. Following dinner Howard Zemsky, Vice Chairman of the Richardson Center Corporation and Richardson Architecture Center and Monica Pellegrino Faix, Project Coordinator will present the work Richardson Center Corporation to date.

### **AIA/PE Golf Outing**

This year's event is scheduled for Monday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at Tan Tara. It promises to be one of the best events of the year.

### **AIA Buffalo/WNY Design Awards**

Honoring architectural service and excellence in this region, the Design Awards will be held at the Mansion on Delaware on November 20<sup>th</sup>. New categories have been added to both the design and honor awards, promising that this year's event will be our best ever.

### **Holiday Party**

To be held on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Pearl Street Grill, it's always fun, always crowded and always free. It's our gift to you, our membership for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Kelly Hayes McAlonie, AIA, MRAIC, LEED® AP  
[www.aiabuffalowny.org](http://www.aiabuffalowny.org)