



Dear Members,

Hello! I would like to introduce myself. I am Michael R. Mauch, AIA, LEED A.P. with RWA Architects, and your AIA Cincinnati President for 2009. My friends call me Mike. I want to thank you all for allowing me the opportunity to serve you once again, having been a past Director, Treasurer, and President Elect of this great Chapter. Having been properly sworn in as the 2009 President of AIA Cincinnati, I took note that it was on the same day that our 44th President of the United States, Barack Obama was sworn in, and although I am making no comparisons between me and our President, I did take note that there are some mutual challenges we both inherited. Although our Board swearing in ceremony was not quite as large in attendance as Barack's, and we had no Presidential balls to go to after our ceremony, the new Board takes their responsibilities in serving the Chapter as serious as our President does. We both took office during one of the worst economic downturns in memorable history. We both have limited funds to work with. We both represent groups with high unemployment. We both represent groups which work in a global arena. We both must focus on Sustainability. And we both go into our respective positions with Hope and Determination, looking to our constituents to get involved and help solve this mess we find ourselves in. To paraphrase another, faced with tough challenges, "**ask not what AIA Cincinnati can do for you, but ask what you can do for AIA Cincinnati.**" That may sound corny or over-used but it is the truth and what I have personally experienced. Hopefully after reading this, you will realize as I have that many among us have stepped up and begun the hard work of running a Chapter, it's committees, and providing value to you, the members.

I have the great pleasure to serve with the following Board members:

**Doug Richards** of FRCH, Vice President

**Randy Merrill** of MSP, Secretary

**Paul Muller** of Paul Muller Architects, Treasurer

**Chris Patek** of MSA, Director

**Bill Casler** of Casler Architects, Director

**Larry Tokarsky**, Larry Tokarsky Architects, Director

**Tonia Edwards**, Hamilton County Building Department, Past President

**Alan Warner** of GBBN, AIA Ohio Representative

**Patrick Quinn** of MSP, Associate AIA, Associate Director

and of course, last but not least, **Pat Daugherty**, Executive Director.

It is somewhat late in my term as AIA Cincinnati 2009 President to be addressing the Chapter for the first time, however, don't think that your Board has not been busy. We have been very busy adjusting to a budget deficit and reduced membership, all due to the collapse of the economy, while supporting the members and their interests.

I am writing you after returning from a week in San Francisco attending the American Institute of Architects 2009 National Convention. This year's convention had over 21,000 attendees from around the United States and beyond, down somewhat from past conventions. (If you have not been to an AIA Convention, I urge you to sign up for next year's Convention in Miami, FLA. You will not be disappointed in the experience or the value to you as a professional.) This year's convention seminars like in the past, were relevant and timely. The General Session keynote speaker **Peter Head**, chairman of **ARUP** International put the tenuous condition of the environment into perspective and suggested opportunities we as Architects have to stop the degradation through thoughtful design of the built environment. There were also many awards programs showing off the best of projects from around the United States and beyond. The Product Expo displayed the best and newest of materials and building products. And of course there was the city of San Francisco itself. Amazing. Best of all for me was the opportunity to see old friends who I have met over the years at different conventions, and network with others who practice Residential Architecture as we do at RWA. Oh, and yes, there was the

business meeting to debate and vote on new amendments and listen to how the National Board is working in the profession's best interests. And it would be remiss not to mention that AIA Cincinnati's own **John Rogers** of GBBN won his seat as the 2010 AIA National Board Treasurer, keeping up the tradition of AIA Cincinnati members providing service to the National Board. Congratulations John!

Although I had planned on focusing my term on Sustainability, a funny thing happened on the way to the Forum, so to speak. The economy took a deep dive and changed the way we practice as well as put many of us in the uncomfortable position of being unemployed. Membership is down. Sponsorship dollars are down. Financially speaking, the Board has less dollars to work with. The Board has acknowledged with each other that we are in unique economic times and that our Board will have a slightly different role than in the recent past. We recognize that the Board needs to be there for many of you who are looking for the support, encouragement, and help in finding employment during this unprecedented downturn in the economy. Please keep in touch with us. Even with this downturn, there is an incredible amount of energy and commitment going into AIA Cincinnati and its many committees. Many members (even when finding themselves unemployed) are stepping up and providing leadership to the members, devoting many hours and their own dollars to their respective passions.

AIA Cincinnati's Construction, this year chaired by **Stephanie Kirschner**, SDA/C of MSP and co-chair **Mark Streicher**, AIA of Abacus Design Group, provided an opportunity for members to reach out to the public by "can-structing" unique displays made entirely of food canned goods which are then donated to the very appreciative Free Store Food Bank. 68,000 cans were used and donated to those in greater need than those who designed and built the beautiful and fun displays. To get involved, contact: **Stephanie Kirschner** at <[skirschner@mcgillsmithpunshon.com](mailto:skirschner@mcgillsmithpunshon.com)>

The AIA Cincinnati Communications Committee chaired by **Donna Wirth** of GOP Limited with Co-Chair **Pat Daugherty**, SDA/C, AIA Cincinnati Executive Director, has been working on the new website as well as exploring other initiatives to help display and market the great work that is coming out of the Cincinnati Chapter. We have also been discussing many of the ways we need to reinforce the brand of AIA Cincinnati. To get involved, contact: **Donna Wirth** <[dwirth@gopltd.com](mailto:dwirth@gopltd.com)>

The AIA Cincinnati Congress of Residential Architecture (CORA) is in the middle of their CORAwards Roadshow showcasing the winners of the first in the United States CORA awards program. You may not have heard of CORA but it is a relatively new committee within AIA Cincinnati providing an opportunity for Architects who practice in the Residential arena, a unique and important area of Architecture, to dialogue together and convey to the public the importance of hiring a Residential Architect for their homes. This Committee is open to all those interested in Residential Architecture and is lead this year by Chair **Mark Streicher**, AIA of Abacus Design Group and Co-Chair **Rick Koehler**, AIA of Architects Plus. It typically gets 20 to 30 attendees at its monthly meetings. 40 showed up this last Wednesday for a presentation on Green Roofs. CORA meets the first Tuesday of every month at noon (typically but not always, at Queen City Repro.) To get involved, contact: **Mark Streicher** <[mjs@abacusdesigngroup.com](mailto:mjs@abacusdesigngroup.com)>

Of course, the next round of AIA Cincinnati's Architecture by Children (ABC) is getting started and is once again chaired by **Zoe Hardy**, AIA of Architects Plus. This is one of the most successful outreach programs AIA Cincinnati offers and I suggest that if you haven't presented an ABC program to a class of enthusiastic school children, you contact Zoe and get in line. To get involved, contact: **Zoe Hardy** <[zhardy@architectsplus.com](mailto:zhardy@architectsplus.com)>

Mark your calendars for Monday, June 15th. The AIA Cincinnati Golf Outing is well underway in the planning and sponsorship works. Chaired by **Bill Casler**, AIA of Casler Design Group and Co-Chaired by **Doug Burkey**, AIA of RWA Architects, the golf outing is one of the Chapter's best fundraisers and a time to get out of the office and enjoy the day for a little friendly competition and fun. To get involved, contact: **Bill Casler** <[wcasler@caslerdesign.com](mailto:wcasler@caslerdesign.com)> and most importantly, contact **Doug Burkey** <[dburkey@rwaarchitects.com](mailto:dburkey@rwaarchitects.com)> for SPONSORSHIP opportunities!

One of the most important comebacks this year is the AIA Cincinnati's Emerging Professionals. Chaired by **Mercedeh Namei**, Associate AIA working with GBBN and **John E. Back** of FRCH Design Worldwide. The group is working tirelessly to bring value to it's members including a survey to find out just exactly what are on the minds of the young Architects and interns. (Firm Principals, I ask you to support your Emerging Professionals as they are the future of not only this profession, but our firms as well.) To get involved, contact: **Mercedeh Namei** <[mnamei@wa-inc.biz](mailto:mnamei@wa-inc.biz)>

Under the Emerging Professionals banner is the A.R.E. coordinator **Crystal Montgomery**, Associate AIA providing study sessions and materials for those studying to become licensed, and IDP coordinator, **Rex Atkinson**, Associate AIA of Cole + Russell Architects. as well as the Cincinnati IDP/Mentor Coordinator, **Jim Titus**. International Associate AIA of Dunn & Titus PSC. Contact the IDP coordinator **Crystal Montgomery** at <[cmontgomeryarchitect@gmail.com](mailto:cmontgomeryarchitect@gmail.com)>, the IDP coordinator **Rex Atkinson** at <[r.atkinson@colerussell.com](mailto:r.atkinson@colerussell.com)>, and the Cincinnati IDP/Mentor Coordinator, **Jim Titus** <[dunnandtitus@usa.net](mailto:dunnandtitus@usa.net)>

As mentioned above, one of my interests is Sustainability and has been since I attended my first AIA Cincinnati COTE meeting over ten years ago. This year, I wanted to find a way for a joint meeting between AIA Cincinnati and the local USGBC chapter, having many common interests, to join hands. With my friend and past AIA Board member **Alan Warner**, AIA, LEED A.P., and this year's President of the local USGBC chapter, I was ready to do whatever needed to be done to make a successful event. While attending one of USGBC's committee meetings, the Residential Green Builders Committee (RGBC) chaired by **Sanyog Rathod**, AIA, LEED A.P. of SOL Architects, which just happened to be attended by Larry Falkin of the City of Cincinnati's Office of Environmental Quality, a discussion ensued concerning a fall program focused on Residential Sustainable Architecture. The perfect storm was starring us in the face. I suggested that the USGBC's RGBC, AIA's CORA (lead by Mark Streicher), and IIDA (a long time AIA Cincinnati October meeting partner), join with COTE for the October Chapter meeting (a COTE tradition in AIA Cincinnati) for an unprecedented all day Residential Sustainability program including not only the Chapter meeting and keynote speaker but a series of continuing education classes as well. The Office of Environmental Quality offered to help with publicity and advertising. This in fact is what is going to happen and a planning committee has been formed and is beginning the intensive job of planning such a large public event. The joint venture should draw hundreds to the event and be a first in the region. To get involved, contact the chair of COTE: **Lyn Liming** <[lliming@cinci.rr.com](mailto:lliming@cinci.rr.com)>

The Urban Design Committee chaired by Frank Russell, AIA of the University of Cincinnati organizes public forum events addressing local Urban Design issues. These events are always well attended by a diverse crowd of Architects, politicians, planners, students and citizens. To get involved contact: **Frank Russell** <[russellfp@ucmail.uc.edu](mailto:russellfp@ucmail.uc.edu)>

I am sure I have missed someone or some group so I apologize to those I might have missed. There are other committees working to keep the Chapter solvent as well as reviewing our by-laws as they relate to the changing professional environment. I thank each and every one of you who have worked so hard to make this one of the most respected Chapters in the United States.

If you find yourself interested in one of these committees or perhaps unemployed and wanting to stay involved in the profession, take a look at one of the Committees listed above and get involved. This is a great way to participate and stay up on what is going on in our Chapter as well as let those who will hopefully be hiring soon, get to know you through your involvement in the Chapter.

And lastly, I heard something at one of the seminars I attended that rings in my mind as the truth that I would like you all to consider when thinking of participating:

**The AIA does not make Architects. The AIA makes Architects better Architects!**

Thank you for taking the time to read this unexpectedly lengthy letter.

Sincerely,

Michael Mauch, AIA, LEED AP  
AIA Cincinnati 2009 President