

Thank you!

Thank you for making this last year a rewarding and wonderful year!

### PURPOSE

A year ago, in my initial message to you, I spoke of *Passion and Legacy*. We provided a number of opportunities for you to be engaged with the Chapter- and many of you took advantage of these.

We focused this last year on meaningful events. Our Chapter meeting was typically held on the evening of the third Tuesday of the month. These were more social in nature and allowed for discussions and networking. We reestablished the *Practice Thursday* lunch meeting- every second Thursday of the month. These programs were focused on three major aspects of our practice: **Collaboration, Enterprise and Regulations**. All of our meetings this year had an increase in participation- a signal from you that we have found topics that are relevant and intriguing. One thing to note, this next year we will be switching the dates of our "standard" meeting times in order to provide more flexibility with National caliber speakers. You will see more about that in future correspondences.

This last year had also been about opening more opportunities and creating better ways to communicate. We have put in place a new branded look with our *Event Flyers*. The monthly *President's Message* focuses on what the chapter is doing. And most importantly, our monthly *Upcoming Events* flyer gives you advance notice of events so you can mark your calendars with enough early warning. I want to thank our Communications Committee led by **Donna Wirth, Cindy Jackson** and **Cindy Griffin**. I want to also especially thank **Patrick Quinn, Assoc. AIA** for leading the charge in pulling together all the graphics for these pieces- usually on a very short notice.

### ACTIVITY

Our more established committees had a great year also:

Our **Architecture By Children (ABC)** program has shown its longevity by reaching 58 classrooms in 37 schools with a total of 1,780 students- thanks to the leadership of **Zoe Hardy, AIA** and her committee.

**CANstruction** spread into more venues and collected over 50,000 pounds of food that was then donated to the Freestore Foodbank. Thanks to **Stephanie Kirschner** and **Mark Streicher, AIA** for their continual efforts in managing this event so fluidly.

The **Cincinnati Design Awards** found a media sponsor in *Cincinnati Magazine* and as a result took on their Interior Design Awards. There were around 100 entries this year and 25 projects were recognized with awards. This year also brought a new look and website for the awards to be showcased. Special thanks to **Michael Schuster, FAIA** for guiding this program to the next echelon of success.

**COTE** had a successful awards program earlier in the year and teamed up with CORA, USGBC & the local HBA for a great outreach opportunity to the public with the *Green Homes Summit*. Thank you **Alison McKenzie, AIA** for chairing the committee.

**CORA** has continued to grow and make an influential contribution to the Chapter. Their monthly lunch and learn meetings have brought together residential architects- the majority of which are sole practitioners or part of small firms- who typically do not have many opportunities for acquiring CEUs or networking. The *CORAWards* program recognized fourteen projects for excellence in residential design. And as mentioned above, the *Green Homes Summit* made a large impact to the community. All this through the leadership of committee Chair **Rick Koehler, AIA**; Co-Chair **Cynthia Williams, AIA**; and CORAWards Chair **Brad Ewing, AIA**.



**YAIF** continues their evening meetings monthly the last Tuesday of the month at Arnolds and has initiated a book club that meets the final Saturday of the month. This next year they will be focusing on establishing an Architecture Week to promote the great buildings and the profession across the city. Thank you **Mercedeh Namei, Assoc AIA** and **John Back** for keeping with this charge.

In a year where sponsorships were very hard to come by, our primary fundraiser- the **GOLF Outing**- actually beat estimated goals and raised more than expected. Thank you to **Bill Casler, AIA** and **Dave Morehead, AIA** for keeping this event fruitful.

In an unprecedented request, AIA Cincinnati was asked by Cincinnati City Council to help guide them through the different green initiatives related to residential construction. From this, **Andy Corn, AIA** led a group of members to create a *LEED for Homes and NGBS Code Comparison* report that you can download from our website.

### **CREATION**

This last year also marked the time for the creation of a number of new committees:

The **Committee on Design** gathered to appreciate and promote design excellence and discourse among members of the AIA, the design community and the public at large the second Thursday of the month. In the first nine months of their existence they: hosted a Postcard Campaign (“Design Is...”) which brought in entries from across the globe; hosted a *Tour of the Columbia Sussex Tower*- a past CDA award winner; and co-sponsored a *lecture by Guy Geier (FXFowle)*. Thank you to **Tom Arends, AIA** and **Cori Cassidy, AIA** for the vision to bring this together.

The **Membership Task Force** formed to respond to members and potential members’ needs in order to strengthen membership. An extensive survey of the members provided a lot of feedback and information that will help form and craft the Chapter’s future events and direction. Thank you **Larry Tokarsky, AIA** for leading this group.

The **Sole Practitioners Forum** convened for the first time this last year and plans on gathering again this coming year. **Alex Christoforidis, AIA** and **William Ream, AIA** will be heading the group and help them discover where they will head in the future with new discussions and activities. Their third partner in the initial meeting, **Nevine Noujaim, AIA** will be sorely missed.

The **Urban Design Committee** lead a collaboration with the AFC, USGBC, ASHRAE, CPA and UC on a one-day design charrette for the Casino District that had over 200 participants, many of whom were local citizens and neighbors to the project. Follow up to the charrette has led to presentations of the findings to a number of City Departments as well as participation from the project developer. The group continues to meet monthly on the second Thursday of the month to discuss urban design issues and their impact. We will miss the leadership of **Michaele Pride, AIA** as she heads out west. **John Kornbluh, AIA; Jeff Raser, AIA;** and **Couper Gardiner, AIA** have also been instrumental in the committee’s successes.

Of all the accomplishments of this past year, I am most proud of kicking off our **VISION** program. After close to two years of planning, the inaugural class was selected last fall and sessions began. VISION is a 10 month long leadership program designed especially for established architects licensed less than 10 years who want to gain the skills necessary to advance to higher levels within the architectural profession. The program includes seminars, workshops, professional networking opportunities, exposure to local and national leaders and issues, a group service project, panel discussions moderated by local AIA Fellows and firm CEOs, monthly presentation and discussion forums, and a mechanism to provide continuous feedback to participating architects and firms. Four supplementary keynote evening meetings in conjunction with the AIA Cincinnati Chapter will take place at critical months in the architectural community’s calendar. A very special thanks to **Miranda Mote, Assoc. AIA** and **Marcene Kinney, AIA** for not only taking on this large endeavor, but do it so well and with such a high caliber of aptitude that it will rival all other local leadership programs.

## **LEADERSHIP**

I wish to also thank the **Board of Directors** for their consistency and foresight guiding the chapter during some tough economic times. The proposed budget for this last year expected a negative profit- we would have to dip into our reserves slightly to keep the Chapter running. While not ideal, it is financially tolerable. When the budget was proposed at the beginning of last year, the Board approved it- but only with that knowledge that we would revisit it monthly to be able to make any modifications if something was dramatically askew. I am very happy to announce that due to this determination we did not suffer a loss this year- thanks to all the great things listed above.

I would like to especially thank those Board Members who will be stepping down this year after many years of dedicated support: **Alan Warner, AIA; Mike Mauch, AIA; and Patrick Quinn, Assoc. AIA.**

Finally, I want to thank **Pat Daugherty- HONORARY AIA.** None of this could rise to the caliber that it has without her input, years of collective knowledge and dedication to the profession. I am proud that she received her Honorary membership during this last year.

I strive to make the legacy I leave behind known for collaboration, positive growth, personal engagement and inner passion. I hope that being an AIA member can be a source of Pride and Importance for all of us.

Thank you for a great year! I have enjoyed leading the chapter into what will hopefully be just the beginning of something more...

Respectfully,

Douglas Richards, AIA, LEED AP  
AIA Cincinnati Past President

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**“Sometimes our light goes out but is blown into flame by another human being. Each of us owes deepest thanks to those who have rekindled this light.”**

~Albert Schweitzer

**“Happy trails to you, until we meet again.”**

~Dale Evans Rogers