

January 19, 2009



It only takes one. It only takes you!

Dear AIA Cincinnati Member:

My friends, this is the end of my year as President, as tomorrow, Mike Mauch will be installed as your 2009 President. We have accomplished good things, but there is still much to do.

As members, we have spent time together at our chapter events, including two Procrastinator Universities which totaled 21 CEUs. Our committees brought us several meetings with good content and the passion that the members bring to those groups, including the CSI/COTE event in March, the 2008 ABC awards and CORA meetings, the Emerging Professionals' program on the new IDP requirements and examination changes, and the GBBN hosted meeting celebrating its 50th anniversary as a firm and the future of architecture in the world, specifically China. In addition, we had many other meetings with tours and powerful information.

Our annual events brought AIA members together with other organizations showing the public that we, as Architects, care about our community including Construction, the AFC Charrette on Findley Market, the COTE Cincinnati Sustainable Awards Celebration, ABC, the 12th annual CDA Awards, and the golf outing, where we met to have fun with our colleagues and other professionals.

In this past year our Communications Committee under the leadership of Donna Wirth has worked hard on defining our message as an organization to our members, to prospective members, and to the general public. We have created the "elevator" messages for our members and for the public which will follow this letter. As a result of our old website being hacked in late 2007 and again in January of 2008, we suddenly faced an unusable website. The Communications Committee went into action, and our new website was launched at the beginning of October. We focused on functionality, information, look, and cost. The result is an excellent website; it is user friendly and information can be easily added for your information on the calendar, events, news, and committee news. The Board has also signed a contract with Ascribe whose product will enhance our website and your firm's ability to post your work through AIA Cincinnati's website. The Communications Committee will be working early this year to make this product available to you.

At the beginning of last year, we knew there was change in the wind, but how could we know so much would change. Looking back at 2008, it seems many times, we, as Americans were on a luge at the Olympics where you keep your head down and your arms and legs close. Our country and its people are refocusing on goals, values, and needs. The good news is that these changes in community and in individuals will be reflected in our built communities and spaces. This will be good for our profession.

For Architects, we saw the economy starting to slow, and today, we are struggling to find work. The future of our organization *is* change. At the national level, the bylaw change that removed supplemental dues takes effect in 2009. As a local component, the Board, in making its budget for the coming year, may be looking at a proportional drop in dues income as firms decide whether to continue their contributions for their employees for AIA membership and as firms, unfortunately are forced to downsize.

The members of the Board have focused on the membership and how the economy affects our members' lives. For 2009, educational programs will have *one price* for all levels of membership. As Architects in Ohio, the end of 2009 will bring the reporting of CEU's. AIA Cincinnati will still be here for those members of 2008 who may lose their employment. If you or your firm can still provide outreach to those in need, check out the 1% Solution program on AIA National's website. There is also much other information on what the national organization is doing to help promote the profession in these new times of hardship.

To those newly Registered Architects, congratulations! Many of us also started our careers in times of change and bad economies. Out of the ashes rises the phoenix, and so will you. Some of you will move to atypical specialties of the architecture field, and some of you may leave the field permanently, but this time will be the impetus for you and all of us to evaluate our goals and our habits and then follow-through on our new dreams.

Continued....

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Congratulations also to those newly certified LEED professionals! Thank you for orienting your knowledge and professionalism to the future of our world and our profession.

John Rogers, AIA, ACHA, currently representing us as Regional Director for AIA national is running for the national board as Treasurer. As he finishes his term on the national board, I give him my thanks, and ask you all to support him in the election for national office.

I would also like to thank John Rademacher who has represented our component on the national advocacy committee.

Congratulations to Zoe Hardy for her Outstanding Citizen award from the Ohio Art Education Association, and all of her hard work and dedication to our local youth (and hopefully, some future architects) through her continued work on Architecture By Children.

In closing this letter, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent you as President and at the national and state conventions and at AIA national and state grassroots events. I would like to thank the members of the Board this last year: Mike Mauch as Vice President and his work with CORA, COTE, and the Program and Communications Committee; Paul Muller as Secretary and his work on the final report and presentations for AIA150 and the Bylaws Committee; Doug Richards as Treasurer along with his work on the Communications and Finance Committees; Randy Merrill as Director-at-Large who headed up the Program Committee; Chris Patek, Director-at-Large who has worked on COTE; Bill Casler, Director-at-Large who has worked on the Golf Outing and is the chair of the Building Lease Task Force; Marcie Kinney as Legislative Affairs Director and her work on the Finance Committee and Advocacy issues for our component; Callie Porter as Associate Director for her work with the Emerging Professionals; John Rademacher, Past President and his work on advocacy issues for our profession, our organization, and our component; and finally Alan Warner as our AIA Ohio representative. These people made up my Board, and they have been a great Board.

To those many hardworking members and associated organizations members that have made this year a success, too many to name specifically, you are part of the backbone of this successful organization, and thank you too!

Lastly, I need to tell you all that we are blessed with our Executive Director, Pat Daugherty. To all of you that have called with questions or problems, you know she is there always to help you. She is a great asset to our component, and I will again thank her for her help, support, and strength.

So this is my time to say thank you again. It's been a great experience. We are headed for great changes, some will be hard and some will be fun. And I will end as I began my first letter saying, *It Only Takes One, It Only Takes You!* May your life be blessed.

Sincerely,

Tonia F. Edwards, AIA, CBO
2008 AIA Cincinnati President

AIA Cincinnati Elevator Messages:

General Public: *AIA is the professional organization of Registered Architects who work to create, improve and sustain the communities where we live, work and play. We do this through high-quality design, which identifies and communicates your dreams for better homes, parks, offices, schools, museums and other private as well as public buildings. AIA Architects are the voice of the profession, who strive for excellence, while looking to the future.*

Prospective Members, Students, etc.: *AIA Cincinnati is a chapter of the American Institute of Architects, dedicated to serving its members by advancing their value while improving the quality of the built environment. We serve our members by advancing their value through active governmental advocacy, community outreach, continuing education, marketing, mentoring and networking. We serve our community by providing and encouraging leadership through volunteer involvement, public forums, and design award programs. See our website at aiacincinnati.org for more information.*