

Young Architects Forum



The Young Architects Forum is the voice of recently licensed architects and a catalyst for progress within the Institute.

2023 marks the first year under the 5-year Strategic Initiative of ‘Architects in Action; Catalyzing for Change.’

2023 Priority Areas



ADVOCATE [FOR CHANGE]:

- Connection Q2 theme is “Advocacy and Empowerment.”
- Resource young architects to champion mental health and equity in the workplace.
- Spotlight the YAF Mission 2130 and its outcomes.
- Amplify existing initiatives and new resources to help young architects to advocate for action.
- Partner with COTE, LFRT, and SFx to strengthen existing synergies and identify untapped opportunities.



EDUCATE [FOR IMPACT]:

- Connection Q3 theme is “Education and Professional Development”.
- Foster opportunities to engage with young architects through “Open Mic Nights” and “Now Ya Know” publication.
- Collaborate with College of Fellows and Large Firm Round Table to incentivize innovation in the profession.
- Facilitate relevant and impactful content at A’23 and other conferences.
- Host a series of webinars to increase the accessibility of information available to young architects.



DIVERSIFY [FOR THE FUTURE] :

- Connection Q4 theme is “Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Belonging”
- Feature the work of diverse young architects through various social media channels.
- Create space for growth and learning opportunities, inspire initiatives, and partner with those experienced in equity work.
- Amplify the AIA Guides for Equitable Practice.
- Share resources for young architects to advocate for more equitable office environments, profession, and communities.

OUTREACH & COLLABORATION:

- Foster strategic partnerships internal and external to AIA to strengthen collective goals.
- Perpetuate Mission 2130 as a toolkit for continued exploration of the future of practice and the agency of young architects for change in the profession.
- Broaden engagement through ‘Open Mic Nights’ to share knowledge and crowd-source opportunities for young architects.
- Reevaluate the needs of young architects and push boundaries to propel the profession forward.
- Introduce and perpetuate the YAF Strategic Initiative for 2023-2027.

MENTORSHIP & COLLEGIALITY:

- Empower young architects to advance their careers by making notable contributions to the profession and their communities.
- Partner with the College of fellows to propel mentorship through the official rollout and next phases of the YAF + COF ALIGN Mentorship Program.
- Build community within and among young architects by focusing on the YAF value of collegiality.
- Strengthen existing collaborations with AIAS, NOMAS, and NOMA.
- Recognize, celebrate, and platform recently elevated Fellows and Young Architect Award recipients.

CONNECT WITH US:

- **Issuu:** issuu.com/youngarchitectsforum
- **KnowledgeNet:** tinyurl.com/yafknowledgegenet
- **Instagram/Twitter:** @AIAYAF
- **Facebook:** AIAYAFNational
- **Connection:** YAF’s quarterly digital publication is produced by young architects with practical takeaways for all members of our profession.
- **Toolkits:** Resources for young architects and AIA components, past toolkit topics include: ‘How to Facilitate the Emerging Professional Friendly Firm Program,’ ‘How to Start or Grow an Emerging Professional Committee,’ and ‘How to Facilitate a Practice Innovation Lab.’