



June and July 2024

Dear colleagues:

I hope this message finds you well. Summer is here!

We are in the thick of the 2024 hurricane season, and it is crucial to stay informed and prepared. Architects have an interesting advantage because we understand how buildings are built from the ground up. It is our responsibility to advocate within our own communities how to prepare our structures, so they protect the people inside them during a catastrophic event. If you wish to be involved in the emergency response, there will be one more SAP training in September offered by AIA New York on September 19 and 20. To find out more information and to register, click [HERE](#). AIA Florida, members should select "AIA member" to get the member rate when registering and leave the AIANY component section blank. The Florida Training already happened. Find hurricane preparedness suggestions from the Department of Emergency Operations [HERE](#).

Our National Convention in Washington DC on June 6-8, (In addition to other programming) featured discussions and workshops aimed at enhancing our readiness and resilience in the face of environmental challenges.

In addition to the workshops and discussions, we had much to consider regarding the direction of AIA national. AIA National President, Kimberly Dowdell, AIA summed up the meeting and how we voted in this useful memo: <https://www.aia.org/sites/default/files/2024-06/aia-board-of-directors-june-abm-outcome-memo.pdf>.

Congratulations to the newly elected 2025-2026 officers:
2025 President-elect/2026 President - Illya Azaroff, FAIA
Secretary - Joshua Flowers, FAIA
At-Large Director - Matthew Toddy, AIA

On May 29, the Women in Architecture Committee held a fantastic workshop on Motherhood and the Profession. We learned that Motherhood and working in the field of architecture intersect in complex and meaningful ways. Balancing the demands of a career in architecture with the responsibilities of raising children requires resilience, time management, and often creative problem-solving. Many architects navigate flexible work arrangements, supportive workplaces, and robust childcare solutions to thrive in both roles, contributing to diverse perspectives and enriching the field with their experiences. Congratulations to all the moms who achieve these incredible feats!

2024 Board of Directors

President

Angel C. Saqui, II, AIA

President-Elect

Vanessa Smith-Torres, AIA

Vice-Presidents

Jameson MacNichol, AIA

Wesley C. Kean, AIA

Secretary/Treasurer

Jennifer McConney-Gayoso, AIA

Chapter Directors

Eduardo A. Calil, Jr., AIA

Hermann Gonzalez, AIA

Michelle Lozano, AIA

Naomi C. Harrison, AIA

Shawna Meyer, AIA

State Director

Robert Graboski, AIA

Associate Directors

Nanette Martinez, Assoc AIA

Mayroon Yacoub, Assoc AIA

Immediate Past-President

Amanda S. Barton, AIA

Representative / DASH

Eric J. Hankin, R.A.

Representative / FIU

Henry Rueda, Assoc AIA

Representative / UMSoA

Shawna Meyer, AIA

Representative / Miami-Dade College

Samantha McNeil, Assoc AIA

Executive Director

Colleen M. Stovall

Talented and innovative young architects from both the Miami and the Fort Lauderdale chapters of AIA were honored at our Emerging Professionals Awards event at Ball and Chain on June 20. This sold-out event was an opportunity to honor their achievements and inspire our future generations. Congratulations to all the recipients!

Looking ahead, mark your calendars for our "How to Sell Yourself" marketing event scheduled for July 11, 2024. This event will provide essential insights and strategies for effectively promoting your skills and expertise in today's competitive market. Look for experts on social media, marketing and creating your personal brand. Also on the 11th, and at Perkins & Will is the re-scheduled Resilience committee meeting. Click [HERE](#) for details.

I encourage you all to participate actively in these events, as they are designed to foster learning, collaboration, and professional growth. Together, we can continue to elevate the standards and impact of architecture in our society, one day at a time!

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'AS', with a stylized flourish.

Angel C. Saqui, II, AIA, NCARB
AIA Miami - President 2024
#LetsSOARin24