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Greetings to all! I trust that everyone has had a restful and enjoyable holiday season.

As we close out 2023, and begin 2024, I would like to thank my predecessor, Amanda Barton, AIA and her Immediate Past-President, Craig Aquart, AIA for opening doors and demonstrating true leadership during this past year. Thank you both for your professionalism, wisdom, and friendship, which went a long way towards preparing me for the year ahead.

Since joining AIA as an active member in 1985, I have always been interested in the basics that I believe can make a difference for our industry's practices. Architects and emerging professionals can benefit from these basics if they are brought to the forefront of our dialogues, discussed openly and candidly, in a constructive context.

This year, my plan is to focus on sustaining our businesses, understand how we can be resilient in our profession and promote to the industry and the public the value that we provide to our clients, our cities, states, and our nation. In doing so, we as a collective professional industry of architects, designers and creators can solidify our presence for the future and be at the forefront of all the changes and challenges that are currently ongoing.

Today we perform our normal work of providing structures and spaces for people to live, work and play in which require architects to master plan, design vertically, select materials and guide the complex construction process from drawings to the tangible, built environment.

In the midst of our work, we must ensure that we also focus on the future – mentoring young architects and designing projects that are resilient, sustainable and carbon free for a net zero economy by 2050.

We must step into strong leadership positions in our community so that we can lead the way in response to these crucial environmental and socio-economic challenges facing us, while simultaneously educating the public about our work and our value to the built environment.

AIA Miami's responsibility is to act as a beacon of light as we prepare our members and future members to fulfill these obligations as architects.

My focus as the President of AIA Miami will be the following:

1. Work with our local schools of architecture to encourage the addition of a specific course on the business of architecture- how to run an architectural practice. This is essential education that helps to ensure the success of the small to midsize firm.
2. Continue to provide educational opportunities to our membership that emphasize the importance of creating a successful and sustainable business model for architects. We must continue to provide continuing education on topics such as business management and marketing to benefit firms of all sizes.
3. Create a strong leadership group that serves as a watchdog and strong advocate within local and state government to represent the interests of the profession.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your 2024 President and I look forward to working with all of you towards the betterment of our profession and to create a sustainable and equitable built environment that we can be proud to have left behind for future generations!

Sincerely yours,

Angel C. Saqui, II, AIA, NCARB  
President  
AIA Miami  
#LetsSoarIn24

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