President’s Message: Greetings AIA Montana Members!

Sophia Sparklin, AIA, President of AIA Montana

Have you ever thought about putting your name in for this board? It was just over five years ago that I signed up for this ride. That was before Leonora, my first child, and Billy, my second. We will send Leo to school by the time I retire! Some people claim that I drank the AIA Kool-Aid. For me, AIA has become a special network that is open to all of us, offering connections to like-minded people, learning, and resources to advance our own work, firms, and our profession. In that spirit, here’s what I aspire to as your 2019 AIA Montana president:

1) Newsletter.
   For many members these newsletters are the only way they experience AIA Montana. We are exploring an updated format that allows for better integration of the newsletters with upcoming events, the website, and social media. Why? Many of us just glance at emails on our mobile devices, which makes the PDF as the only option difficult. We’re not giving up on a PDF altogether at this point, but hopefully the new format will make it easier to stay in touch with all of you. If you have any examples of great newsletter formats, please send them my way!

2) Socials.
   Building community in a big state is tough. The AIA MT Board will make an effort to be available to you in different cities around the state throughout the coming year. The Board attended the inaugural Capitol Hill Day in Helena in January. This event was a success and we had the opportunity to visit with those of you that attended. The Board will be at the Meeting in the Mountains in Billings in April and we look forward to seeing and meeting with more of you on April 11-13. This year our Annual Fall Conference will be in Bozeman in September 19-20—a great networking opportunity. The AIA Board has scheduled meetings in Missoula on June 21 and Great Falls on August 22. We are currently working on a plan to co-host a Social after those meetings in both of these cities. Stay posted!

3) Public Image.
   What do architects do? Why do we need architects? Do these questions sound familiar? This is my stretch goal. As architects we often underestimate our soft skills that go well beyond the permit process. As a profession we share a drive to make this world a better place, hobbies, community advancement, and good project management. But the public doesn’t always know this and we often seem to undervalue these skills in ourselves. I’ve heard organizations enthusiastically endorse architects they worked with, saying that those firms will now be a partner that they will work with on many things beyond a traditional set of drawings.

AIA National has a whole campaign on this, reaching from Kindergarten to Wired Magazine, but here is my proposal to move the needle in Montana: Mayors Meet your Architects.

I’ll admit this isn’t my idea. Last week Nicole, Dennie, and I attended AIA Grassroots in DC. Leadership from the US Conference of Mayors formed one of the panels. Many of those mayors hadn’t considered that architects have a skillset that goes beyond a permit process. They were literally blown away by our unique skill set to improve problem solving in their communities, and by the fact that we care! But my real Aha moment was when I talked to the architects in the audience. They were equally blown away by the mayors’ statements that they had never found anybody that had the ability to question assumptions, switch perspectives, bridge between aisles, and come up with actual ideas until they met some architects.

I don’t know the format or date for this yet, but starting today, I urge you to represent our profession. Instead of downplaying what we do, share your stories of what we do. If you find yourself inspired, share your ideas. And don’t forget to share some great work others have done, we all build on each other.

Have a prosperous 2019, and I’m looking forward to meeting you somewhere in Montana!
Grassroots 2019 - People, Purpose, and Partnership

Dennis Stephenson, AIA, Secretary/Treasurer

Another AIA Grassroots has come and gone. We charged the Hill armed only with our wits and charm (Sophia and Nicole provided the wits and charm, I was more comic relief). We were tasked with promoting two issues, both of which are vitally important to our profession and the nation.

The first was ‘Energy Efficiency’. As we all know, Energy Efficiency plays a huge role in our environment as well as our economy. We continue to push for a permanent extension to Section 179D energy efficiency tax deduction as it has expired. In the meantime, we are also trying to sell the idea of expanding the definition of QIP (a tax deduction created in The PATH Act of 2015) to include energy efficiency.

And the second was ‘School Safety’. This is an issue that has become front and center in the last 20 years. Convincing our elected officials that good school design MUST be part of the solution was our objective here. Turning our schools into prison-like buildings will only exacerbate the problem. And so we asked that design services be eligible for existing federal grant funding and to create a federal clearinghouse of resources on school design best practices.

Beyond our Capitol Hill visit, we also had a discussion about leadership in our profession and in our communities. The AIA is strong and keeps getting stronger. The AIA is our best chance for affecting the change that we so desperately desire in our nation and in the world. With that being said, all of us need to do more at our local and state level.

A few weeks ago, we organized and visited our own state capitol. We need to keep up that momentum! But perhaps even more important, we need to get more involved at our city and county levels. How can we do that you say? I am so glad that you asked. Find out how architects are currently involved. Is there a city architect? Talk to your Mayor and build a relationship. Explain how architects can play a vital role in city planning, zoning, or advising on larger projects.

Architects can play a strategic role in helping with some of our larger societal issues, such as homelessness. I want to thank those of you that are out there doing just that. Get involved with planning boards. Perhaps consider running for city council or even mayor.

AIA Grassroots 2019

Nicole Stine, AIA Assoc., Associate AIA Director

 Architects in Action! This was the mantra that embodied AIA’s activity on Capitol Hill, Wednesday March 6th, as AIA Grassroots 2019 kicked off with 550+ Architects meeting with their state representatives to discuss the value an architect can bring when addressing issues like energy efficiency in existing buildings and school safety solutions. Sophia, Dennie, and I were able to sit down with legislative correspondents from Sen. Daines and Sen. Tester’s offices to emphasize the importance of maintaining architects’ seat at the table when congressmen are brainstorming ideas to tackle these nationwide issues. In the afternoon, we had the opportunity to converse with House Rep. Gianforte regarding how he can support the architect’s position in these matters. These conversations were positively received by our representatives and ultimately led to a better awareness of the skills that architects are equipped with given their training in critical thinking and holistic problem solving.

In between the conference sessions and workshops on Thursday and Friday, the AIA Grassroots planning team sprinkled in programs that assembled panels of experts to shed light on the societal issues in our nation, including topics such as homelessness, disaster relief, gentrification, advocacy, and diversity in the workplace. One such panel featured mayors and city commissioners from cities of various populations to specially discuss the role of the architect in their daily responsibilities as a civic leader. The city representatives were overwhelmingly in favor of architect’s voice as a part of the solution. They also believe that architects have a unique commitment to their cities and counties to make a difference by example.

Throughout the week, I had fruitful conversations with component officers from AIA chapters all over the country including Reno, North Alabama, Chattanooga, Pittsburgh, Idaho, and Washington sharing our successes and challenges. While our chapter covers the expanses of one of the largest states in the country, I was encouraged by the involvement of our membership and attendance at our Annual Fall Conference, along with other member events throughout the year. Thank you for your continued support. We are looking forward to another great year!
Billings Architectural Association Presents:

Location and Keynote Presentations

Northern Hotel
Billings, Montana
April 11th – 13th, 2019

Speaker 1 – Keynote: Rural Studio
Speaker 2 – Keynote: Lake Flato
Speaker 3 – Keynote: Graham Baba

For more information, the schedule and to register:
https://aiabillings.org/meeting-in-the-mountains/

Saving Cultural Resources by Learning Place - On Line Course Plus Opportunity

Barry Sulam is offering online course titled: Saving Cultural Resources by Learning Places.

Barry is excited to share an update regarding this course. Barry recently attended the Public History Conference at MSU and met with many nonprofit executive board members. Barry has a commitment from two prominent community groups who have historic property needs that could be assisted by a number of enrolled service learners registered in the course that begins on St. Patrick's Day. Barry would like a mix of enrollees from a number of firms, including planners, preservationists, architects and associate architects, engineers who are seeking CEU's this year to share this opportunity. The two community groups projects could be worked on by a team of 2-3 or the enrolled service learner could work on their own selected historic property. For more information or to register, visit the webpage at: https://www.cascadianow.org/learning-places or Barry at 406 579 8139 or write to barry.sulam@gmail.com.

14th Annual Building Code Education Conference

The 14th Annual Building Code Education Conference will be held in Bozeman on April 22-25. For more information and to register, visit http://bsd.dli.mt.gov/buildingcodes-permits/education-conference.
Networked Lighting Controls

**BEST PRACTICES**
You will learn industry standards and strategies for controls design and layout.
Workshop is eligible for self-reporting seven contact hour CEUs.

**APPLY SOLUTIONS**
In collaborative groups, you will apply lighting controls design strategies to an example project, and install & program lighting controls to the project design.

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**One-day Workshop**
**A hands-on learning experience**

**Monday, March 25th**
8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Hilton Garden Inn
2465 Grant Rd
Billings, MT 59102

**Wednesday, March 27th**
8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Wilson Admin Building
404 W Main St
Bozeman, MT 59715

**Friday, March 29th**
8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Hilton Garden Inn
3720 N Reserve St
Missoula, MT 59808

Each class limited to 24 participants
Register at
www.lightingdesignlab.com/education

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**A’19**
AIA Conference on Architecture 2019
June 6-8, Las Vegas

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**REGISTER FOR A’19**

Early Bird ends 4/10!

There’s only one architecture and design event of the year! Register now to get your top session picks. Then, book your hotel, browse travel discounts, and download the A’19 app.

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For more information and to get registered visit [A’19 Las Vegas](#)!
AIA Montana 2019 Annual Fall Conference: Growth and the Mountain West

Justin Tollefson, AIA, AIA Montana
President Elect & Conference Chair

Happy Spring AIA Montana!

Yes it is nearly spring, even if you can’t tell by looking out your window. More importantly, spring means it’s a short 6 months until the annual AIA Montana Fall Conference.

This year’s conference will be in Bozeman on September 19th and 20th. The theme of the conference is Growth and the Mountain West, and our group of speakers will be discussing how we are and should be engaged in shaping, influencing, and leading it. We’re structuring the conference to be interdisciplinary, informative, and inspiring!

Speakers will include:
- Susanne Cowan, Ph.D. College of Arts and Architecture, Montana State University
- Chuck Travis, FAIA, Principal, LEED AP at Housing Studio in Charlotte, NC and former mayor of Cornelius, NC
- Design Workshop, Landscape Architecture/Planning/Urban Design/Strategic Services
- Future West
- Headwaters Economics
- Evelyn Lee, AIA, Architect-Culture & Experience Designer-Entrepreneur
- Todd Wilkinson, Journalist and author, Founder of Mountain Journal
- Frederick Steiner, FASLA, FAAR, RAAR, SITES AP, Dean/Paley Professor/Co-Executive Director of The McHarg Center at University of Pennsylvania School of Design
- Nathan Gulash, AIA will be offering the ARE Prep Seminar on Friday

Please save the date and we’ll see you then!

The Paint Factory Featured in Distinctly Montana

Jeff Keller owner of The Paint Factory in Bozeman Montana and Allied Member was interviewed and featured in the spring issue of Distinctly Montana.

The collection of colors was developed from nature. The Keller Collection of Nature’s Platte and the complete article can be found at http://www.distinctlymontana.com/index.php/keller-collection

Pictured from left to right: Roper Green, Jim Foster, Jim Schumacher, and Jeff Keller.

2019 AIA Montana Design Award Program

Each year AIA Montana provides a design award program to encourage excellence in architectural design and planning and to provide an avenue through which architects may gain recognition by their peers and the public. The ultimate goal is to raise the standards of architectural design excellence for both the architectural community and the public.

The 2019 AIA Montana Awards Program Committee would like to emphasize that all entrants have an equal opportunity for recognition, regardless of project type, scale or budget. The jury process has been designed to review projects on the basis of individual merit.

Those submissions that receive an award will be recognized on the AIA Montana website, in the AIA Montana newsletter and receive a 2-page spread in the annual magazine. This year AIA Montana will be making the awards at a joint ceremony with the NorthWest Pacific AIA Region during the 2019 Annual Fall Conference at the Awards Banquet on Thursday - September 19 at Montana State University.

Vincent Gavin, AIA Montana Senior Director will be serving as the Design Award Chair. Vince will have more announcements to make in the coming month.

All projects designed by an AIA Montana member architect that have received substantial completion in the past 5-years and have not won an AIA Montana Design Award are eligible.

Important Program Dates:
Open—June 1, 2019
Close—August 15, 2019
Awards—September 19, 2019
The AIA Mission Statement:
The American Institute of Architects is the voice of the architecture profession dedicated to serving its members, advancing their values and improving the quality of the built environment. Through a culture of innovation, the American Institute of Architects empowers its members and inspires creation of a better built environment.

2019 EXECUTIVE BOARD
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Montana Chapter of the American Institute of Architects was founded on June 4, 1921.

From the AIA Montana Office
The 2019 Legislative Session has been a busy one for those involved with over 3,000 bills. With transition happening last week, many have died. The session will heat up and become more polarized as they begin to discuss the budget—what can and cannot be paid for and where to find the money. Ben Tintinger and Shannon Christensen with AIA Montana Lobbyist Jennifer James, will continue to monitor the session and share updates.

If you are willing to be a volunteer, you will receive a FREE registration to the 2019 AIA National Convention in Las Vegas, email: volunteer@conferenceonarchitecture.com. As explained by Sophia, she was required to introduce a speaker and act as host to the session. Check it out!

This issue is packed full of continuing education opportunities. One more that you might want to consider is the 2019 NFPA Conference & Expo on June 17-18 in San Antonio, Texas. This conference is surprisingly affordable if you register early at https://www.nfpa.org/conference/index.html

The 2019 AIA Montana Design Award Program will open for submissions on June 1, 2019. This all on-line submission process helps streamline the costs of making submissions and is a great way to promote and share your work. All projects that have received substantial completion in the last 5-years and have not won an AIA Montana Design Award are eligible. Make your list today!

Thank you,
Connie Dempster, Hon AIA MT