President’s Message: . . . Should Not Stay in Vegas!

Sophia Sparklin, AIA, President of AIA Montana

Let me qualify that. I was happy to make it back to Montana late Saturday. Vegas is deliberately designed to make wayfinding difficult, with each venue rolling out all its tricks to trap you right there. Slot machines hold no appeal to me so attempting to get from one location to the next had me wandering through dead end back alleys, parking garages, and jumping walls.

What I did want to take away from Vegas are the lessons to be applied, and people to stay in touch with. I might have developed a little crush on our profession – ok let’s make that a major crush! You guys are smart, friendly, enthusiastic, collegial, and walk the talk.

When I was not on official AIA business, I loved the exchange with fellow firm owners. Aligned with the AIA’s commitment to help practices be successful, AIA provided a complementary business can be added from the floor. In unprecedented fashion, Grassroots resolution 19-11 about climate action was introduced, enthusiastically endorsed by many, and passed by a majority vote. While it acknowledged regional differences in practical application, it will boost many efforts towards carbon neutrality. As members, we might see more related changes in our Code of Ethics and in the framework of Health, Welfare, and Safety.

Continued to Pg 2—
“Ryan Smith, AIA, loved all the interactive flow of the entire event, and insights into what the future might hold in various fields, citing medication delivery via drones.”

Elections
I have to admit that I found myself torn between likable enthusiasts and more down-to-earth folks with a track record of getting things done. The enthusiasts won the vote, and with that we can look forward to charismatic leadership with a British accent and fantastic storytelling skills – maybe just the right medicine to get our profession more public awareness. Show us what you got, Peter!

Montanans
It was good to see so many of you there! We missed not having an MSU/SOA social and look forward to one in 2020 but we were welcomed by the NW&P Region. Some members attended solo, others, like Nelson Architects made it an off-site team outing.

Scott Deitle, AIA, Incoming Director
After a sudden nomination and election to the AIA board last year, my head was swirling with excitement and some trepidation this spring. What does it mean to be a part of the Montana AIA board, what would it involve, and would it be worth it? I knew I wanted to become more involved in AIA and understand more about what the organization was about but had no idea where to start. With these questions in mind, I reached out to a friend and co-worker who was involved in AIA on a national level. Her response was one I have heard many times throughout the years: I would get out of AIA what I put into it. What exactly did that mean? My previous experiences with AIA have been minimal – paying dues to an organization that I wasn’t intrinsically getting something back from. What was I spending my money on?

I wanted to experience and document the full aspect of getting involved in the AIA. My first involvement this year, aside from board meetings, was joining Dennis and Nicole for the MSU SOA scholarship interviews in April. We interviewed five incredibly talented and motivated students, and the process opened my eyes as to how the Montana AIA is providing leadership around the state. As I watched our final scholarship recipients accept their awards at the Scholarship dinner at the Baxter Hotel, and I felt a sense of excitement and energy within the group that was new to me, and was eager to be part of the process that provides not only financial help to aspiring students, but a sense of leadership and mentorship for new architects and designers.

I’m starting to understand how becoming involved in the AIA becomes more fulfilling and understanding how we can make a difference as an organization.”
Jack Smith, FAIA is the NWP Region Representative to the AIA National College of Fellows:

AIA Montana is pleased to announce the appointment of Jack Smith, FAIA as the Northwest and Pacific Region representative to the AIA National College of Fellows. This is a significant position within the region and one that will enable Jack to shine as mentor to other AIA Montana members that are interested in advancing to Fellows status.

Jack Smith is an architect’s architect, recognized by his peers as an accomplished designer, distinguished teacher, land steward and active contributor to the profession. He holds a doctorate degree in architecture and is both a practicing architect and teaching professor. With a resume spanning six decades, over seventy projects in four countries, in 1996 he was elevated to Fellow, FAIA, for notable contributions to the aesthetic, scientific and practical efficiency of the profession of architecture.

Smith was president of the Idaho Chapter of the AIA in 2000 and was co-founder of the Mountain Section of AIA Idaho for which he served two terms as its president. The recipient of numerous design awards, Jack’s most notable projects include lead architect and master planner of Snowbird Resort in the Wasatch Mountains of Utah, high-rise office buildings in Calgary, Canada and several custom homes in Utah, Idaho and California.

Having influenced over 2000 students throughout his career, his belief in education and mentorship has gained him the respect of both students and peers. Steven P. Juroszek, AIA, prior Director, MSU School of Architecture explains, “He teaches our students not only about architecture but also what it means to be an architect—the responsibilities, the ethics and the purpose that are at the core of our profession.” From a student’s perspective, “His constant wit, constructive criticism and raw intelligence ask you to ask more of yourself.”

Congratulations Jack!

AIA Montana members that are interested in applying for Fellows, should reach out to Jack for advice and mentorship.

Frank Lloyd Wright - Project Partnership Proposal

Jon Sand, City of Missoula Historic Preservation Office Intern

It has been over forty years since Montana has seen an exhibition about the work of Frank Lloyd Wright. The recent demolition of one of a handful of remaining buildings in the state points out the need to re-educate the public about the man who was arguably America’s greatest architect and his work in Big Sky Country.

Curated by the Montana Museum of Art & Culture at the University of Montana, the proposed exhibit will highlight Wright’s ties to the state, especially his projects in the Bitterroot valley that constitute one of his first forays into the field of urban planning. The exhibition, proposed for an opening in early 2021 in Missoula, will feature Wright’s planned communities of University Heights and the Town of Bitter Root as well as his influence across the state. The story will be told through historic photographs, facsimiles of his plans and drawings, architectural models, and recreations of his furniture.

In 1907 the Como Orchard Land Company was created by the Bitter Root Valley Irrigation Company (BRVlco) and, in 1908, work began on the 1600-acre University Heights development west of Darby, MT. Wright became involved and designed the summer colony getaway with dozens of bungalows surrounding a central clubhouse intended for socializing and gathering for meals. Five acre parcels with fruit trees surrounded the community and provided an opportunity for out of state professionals to invest in the fertile Bitter Root Valley. The clubhouse was torn down in the 1940s and few remnants of the summer colony bungalows exist today.

Additionally in 1908, Wright was commissioned by BRVlco to design the Town of Bitter Root, southeast of Florence, MT. This community plan included an inn, train station, municipal buildings, and workforce housing. The Bitter Root Inn was one of the only buildings from this design to be constructed; it was lost in a fire in the 1920s. Although BRVlco filed for bankruptcy in 1916 and the projects never fully developed, they represent Wright’s first endeavors in community planning and took place right here in Montana.

Site plans, floor plans, elevations, sections, and details will be featured in this exhibit. Models of selected buildings will be constructed by students from the Montana State University School of Architecture. The exhibit will be made available to the Montana Art Gallery Directors’ Association following the initial showing at the Montana Museum of Art & Culture.

AIA Montana is exploring forming a partnership with James R. McDonald, FAIA, Senior Preservation Architect H. Rafael Chacon, Ph.D, Bruce and Suzanne Crocker Director at Montana Museum of Art and Culture

Jon Sand, City of Missoula Historic Preservation Office Intern
to promote Frank Lloyd Wright’s work in Montana!
**AIA Montana 2019 Annual Fall Conference: Growth and the Mountain West**

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

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. This session is titled “Planning for Equitable Growth”.
- **Chuck Travis**, FAIA, Principal, LEED AP at Housing Studio in Charlotte, NC and former mayor of Cornelius, NC. This session is titled “The Power of Architecture”.
- **Design Workshop**, Landscape Architecture/Planning/Urban Design/Strategic Services. This session is titled “Collaborations to Drive Innovative Land Stewardship for Western Living”
- **Future West**: Randy Carpenter will present this session titled ”Big Sky or Big Sprawl? The Architect’s Role”.
- **Headwaters Economics**: Kelly Pohl, Kimiko Barrett and Ben Elias will present this session titled ”Burning Down the House: Building Homes in the Era of Megafires”
- **Todd Wilkinson**, Journalist and author, Founder of Mountain Journal. The title of this session is “Building in Eden: What Kind of Blueprint Do We Need to Save the Most Iconic Ecosystem in America?”
- **Frederick Steiner**, FASLA, FAAR, RAAR, SITES AP, Dean/Paley Professor/Co-Executive Director of The McHarg Center at University of Pennsylvania School of Design. The title of session is “Ian McHarg, Design with Nature, and the Advance of Ecology in Design.”

Nathan Gulash, AIA will be offering the ARE Prep Seminar on Friday

More information to come!

---

**2019 AIA Conference on Architecture in Las Vegas**

Dennie Stephenson, AIA, Secretary/Treasurer

What can I say? It's Vegas, Baby! With it's dichotomy of the absurd and elegant, Las Vegas definitely plays by a different set of rules when it comes to designing spaces.

This conference was like many others before it, speaking on the urgent need for sustainable, efficient buildings. The American Institute of Architects has committed to 'regenerative design' thru 2030. What does this mean for us? It means that by the year 2030, the average net energy output of all buildings must be positive (not just zero). The surplus energy would then be used for transportation among other needs.

At the AIA annual meeting, there was one particular Resolution that stood out. This was Resolution 19-11. To paraphrase, it says that three actions be taken for sustaining the health, safety, and welfare of human life on our planet:

1. Declare an urgent climate imperative for carbon reduction.
2. Transform the day to day practice of architects to achieve a zero-carbon, equitable, resilient and healthy built environment by adopting the AIA Framework for Design Excellence.
3. Align and utilize our external messaging to leverage support of our peers, clients, policy makers, and the public at large.

This Resolution passed by a whopping 93.5%!

It was good to see so many familiar faces from Montana and our Region at this convention. It was reported that there were about 20,000 attendees this year. Next year's Conference on Architecture will be in Los Angeles. Hope to see you there!
Call for 2019 AIA Montana Design Award Submissions!

Vince Gavin, AIA, Senior Director & Design Award Chair

It is my pleasure and honor to announce the 2019 AIA Montana Design Awards Program is LIVE and ready to take submissions starting TODAY. Projects that are eligible must have been completed by January 1, 2014. Projects are not limited to the state of Montana but you must be an AIA Montana member to submit. The entry fee is $150.00 per submission. Please consider this opportunity to promote your talent and share your projects with us. No project is too small or large for consideration!

We are proud to welcome back Grace Kim (Schmata workshop, Seattle) as our Jury Chair for this year’s awards selections. Grace was chair in 2008 for our design awards and has since then participated in other awards selections throughout our region. It’s an honor to have her accept this duty as chair and I’m confident that her jury selection will be insightful and fair for each award submittal.

The deadline for submissions is 3:00 pm, August 15, 2019. Submissions are made online at: https://www.abstractscorecard.com/cfp/submit/login.asp?EventKey=DMSZHHEL.

The awards will be presented at the Awards Banquet on Thursday—September 19 during the 2019 AIA MT Fall Conference in Bozeman, Montana.

A Global Architecture Ideas Competition

One Drawing
Tell an Architectural Story With a Single Drawing

Send Us a Drawing.
Tell Us a Story.
Win $2,500.

The #OneDrawingChallenge
Presented by Architizer

From humble hand-drawn sketches to complex digital graphics, drawings can communicate ideas in the most inspiring ways. They are an architect’s most powerful creative weapon — and the best drawings deserve to be celebrated on a global stage.

The Challenge
Create one drawing that powerfully communicates an architectural proposal and the experience of those that would inhabit it. It can take the form of a plan, section, elevation, perspective, sketch or abstract artwork. As long as it includes architecture, it is eligible.

The Prizes
$2,500 for one top student winner
$2,500 for one top non-student winner

100 finalists will be published on Architizer and shared with an audience of millions!

Enter at Onedrawingchallenge.com

Competition launch: June 10th 2019
Final entry deadline: August 9th 2019

Architizer
2019 Legislative Session Review & Look to 2020

Darry James, AIA Montana Lobbyist

The 2019 legislative session saw very little activity related to professional licensure or building codes which typically draw the interest of the architectural industry. However, as your government affairs representatives, we tracked legislation that had the potential to affect broader community development concerns of interest to architects.

This session, the Montanan Infrastructure Coalition and its individual members actively engaged with legislators on about 25 key bills, and provided direct lobbying on 17 of those. The majority of the bills tracked by the Coalition focused on funding for critical infrastructure like roads, bridges, water and sewer projects, but also included funding for a wide array of state-owned vertical infrastructure.

Montanans have not seen a significant infrastructure package come out of Helena since before 2011. With Coalition support, this Legislature accomplished some major objectives with regard to infrastructure investment:

- With the passage of HB 553 and HB 652, the Legislature has changed the dialogue and broken the log jam on the use of bonding for state infrastructure investment.
- With the bonding bill and SB 338, the Legislature has finally dealt with both Romney Hall and the Museum, so future bonding discussions will not be bogged down with those contentious projects.
- TSEP monies raked out during the Special Session have been restored, and a modest amount has been added for local infrastructure projects.
- While there were numerous discussions around property taxes, entitlement share and the budget for the Office of Public Defender, local government infrastructure funding remains largely in tact.
- The Legislature committed to a detailed examination of the state’s overall tax structure, and we’ve been offered an official seat at the table during the interim.

Not at all surprisingly, four separate approaches to a local option tax and one attempt to amend out the arbitrary inflationary cap on property taxes were swiftly killed in committee. In spite of informed, bipartisan support as well as the support of the trade unions, legislation to provide an innovative project delivery tool involving private financing for public infrastructure continued to face opposition from organized labor. Unfortunately, the measure still failed to gain traction and we continue to be left with too little funding and too few tools to address the mounting deficit in vertical infrastructure demands.

In sum, the Coalition and AIA should consider the 2019 legislative session a success in that the dialogue around infrastructure investment continues to turn in our favor due to the narrative we’ve established and the commitment of our membership to stay engaged in the conversation during the session and beyond. Whether AIA is involved in legislative debate about industry-specific issues, or community development issues, or infrastructure investment concepts, you – as an industry professional – have a significant role to play.

Even during the interim, remember that your Executive Director and government relations team are here to support you and your interests in any way we can, so please don’t hesitate to reach out with questions, concerns or ideas as we already set out sights on the 2021 legislative session. We’re pleased to be part of your team and look forward to working with you on your most important policy issues.

Run Up to 2020 Elections

Like it or not, the 2020 election cycle is already in full swing. Current Attorney General, Tim Fox, is the front-runner in the race for Governor but is likely to face a primary challenge from current U.S. Representative, Greg Gianforte. Few Democrat names have been thrown into the ring to date.

If Congressman Gianforte enters the Governor’s race, current State Auditor, Matt Rosendale, is likely to run for Montana’s sole Congressional seat and likely face former state legislator Kathleen Williams in the general election. Both candidates have strong legislative records and good state-wide name recognition. Rosendale easily won his current position and Williams nearly upset Gianforte in his previous bid for Congress. This will be an interesting race to watch and should involve serious policy debate.

Jon Bennion, who spent several years as the government affairs director for the Montana Chamber of Commerce and the last eight years as a deputy to Attorney General Tim Fox, has filed to fill his outgoing boss’ post. Bennion is likely to face a primary challenge from former state legislator, Austin Knudsen, from Culbertson. Again, this primary race should include an interesting ideological debate even before meeting probable Democrat challenger, Kim Dudik in the general election. Dudik is a long-time, well-respected state legislator who has consistently weighed in on legal and criminal justice issues in the legislature.

Other statewide offices and legislative seats will also be hotly contested in 2020, but those races are still barely shaping up.

Also grabbing headlines is the Presidential candidacy of current Governor, Steve Bullock. Many have suggested that he challenge Gianforte, or even current U.S. Senator, Steve Daines for a seat in our Congressional Delegation. Instead, Bullock has thrown his hat into a very crowded field of Democrat candidates for President. Having recently failed to meet the fundraising and polling threshold to take the stage in televised national debates, Bullock faces a significant challenge in gaining early traction in this crowded race. We also encourage you to reach out individually and ask questions of these candidates to understand where our elected leaders stand on the issues most important to us as business professionals.

"AIA also expressed concerns about the traditional “public-private partnership” tool, and the Coalition worked to develop something more suitable to Montana."
From the AIA Montana Office

The 2019 AIA Montana Design Awards program is now open online for your submissions! This is a great opportunity to showcase your projects. Each project that receives an award will be featured on the opening page of the AIA Montana website and receive a two-page spread in the annual Montana Architect magazine. This is a great way to promote your work!!

Since AIA Montana will not have an event in the Missoula area this calendar year, the AIA Board will host a Social from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm on Thursday—June 20 at the 501 Lounge (upstairs in the Iron Horse Lounge). The purpose of the Social is so that local area architects and designers have a chance to network and share with the AIA Montana Board. If you are in the area, do stop by to meet your future director: Michele Munson!!

Justin Tollefson is putting together an exciting Fall Conference: Growth and the Mountain West! The speakers are in place. The sessions will be reviewed by AIA National over the next few weeks prior to officially advertising or opening registration so that each of you know exactly what type and number of credits will be available from the Conference. The lineup is GREAT! Make plans to be in Bozeman on September 19-20, 2019!!

Dani Gordon - editor for the annual Montana Architect magazine - is now contacting AIA Montana Firms to gather firm ads. If you are interested or have not been contacted, email Dani: dani@thenewslinkgroup.com

The next AIA Montana newsletter will be an all new look! Watch for it!

Thank you,
Connie Dempster, Hon AIA MT
Just because it tells you it’s a duck...

doesn’t mean it’s a duck

Don’t be fooled by imposters!

There is another organization claiming to be the “Montana Bid Network” and “Owned by the people of Montana”.

THIS IS NOT YOUR LOCAL MONTANA BUILDERS EXCHANGES!

Don’t get scammed!

Your local exchanges will never call you from an out of state number. We don’t call from “call centers”. Our emails will only come from addresses that match our websites. If you are contacted by someone that leaves you wondering if you are actually talking to your “local” exchange - ask to speak to Luke (Billings), Stan (Bozeman), Krista (Great Falls), Erick (Helena), Twyla (Missoula) or Sarah (Kalispell).

www.montanabid.com