



Resolutions

*Excerpted from the 2021 AIA Annual Meeting:
Official Delegate Information Booklet*

6. 2021 Convention Resolutions

Resolution 21-1

Title	Conduct Research into Investments Made in Underserved Communities
Sponsor	AIA Pennsylvania
Intent	To conduct and distribute research into underserved community investment.
Text of Resolution	<p>WHEREAS, economic information regarding the impact of investment in underserved communities can help to improve those communities as found in studies conducted by the Urban Land Institute, Strong Towns, and The Brookings Institution; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the benefit of development in underserved communities is measured in benefits beyond financial; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, encouraging investment in underserved communities is integral in promoting greater equity because studies have proven that more minority architects will have projects in those communities; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the development of underserved communities can be implemented by people who are of the community with access to adequate capital; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, development projects have more positive impacts and reception when community involvement in development decision-making is elevated from a consultative model to a model of co-creation, where the community is a partner; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, case studies that explain and promote positive triple bottom line (profit, people, and planet) outcomes over time are essential in measuring the value of engagement and investment; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, equity benefits of investment in underserved communities can improve overall firm culture as measured in International Living Future Institute (ILFI)'s Just label and B-Corp;</p>

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that AIA advocates for gathering case studies to help clients and others in those communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AIA obtains meaningful economic data from studies by recognized agencies and institutions to further these goals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AIA shares these studies via www.aia.org; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AIA builds on our existing “Blueprint for Better” campaign with case studies, anecdotes, project profiles, and/or firm profiles addressing the need for metrics around successful development in underserved communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AIA creates new resources for how to properly engage in and with underserved communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AIA expand existing firm surveys to include categories of client types; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AIA advocate for access to capital for those client types that support small and/or minority businesses in underserved communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AIA compiles a set of best practices for community aligned development that improves the quality of life of communities.

Resolution 21-2

Title	Arch-Elect Initiative
Sponsor	AIA Pennsylvania
Intent	To provide training and support for members who are running for public office.
Text of Resolution	<p>WHEREAS, architects' expertise and experience as design thinkers are assets to their communities; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, architects are leaders and problem solvers to complex technical and social issues; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, AIA has promoted and recognized civic engagement amongst its members through its Citizen Architect program; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, AIA has had a goal of attaining more elected leaders at all levels of government; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, AIA members are in need of detailed resources in order to enter, manage and run a successful political campaign because of the many legal and some unspoken requirements of such; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, running for public office requires mentors and resources to ensure AIA members can increase their presence in the elected official ranks in local, state and national levels; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, other organizations and groups have created how-to tool kits in order to encourage and train their members to do so; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the current Citizen Architect program provides no such critical tools or resources to our AIA members; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, architects' perspective is critically important for so many facets of public policy but is not sufficiently currently present;</p> <p>NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that AIA shall create resources and other materials and provide the same to AIA components, to recruit, train, and support members in their campaigns for national, state, and local elections.</p>

Resolution 21-3

Title Promotion of the U-Dream Program

Sponsor AIA Pennsylvania

Intent To promote the UDream Program

Text of Resolution

WHEREAS, from 2009 to 2016, the UDream program increased diversity in the profession of architecture in the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania region by offering opportunities for permanent employment in Pittsburgh; and

WHEREAS, the UDream program had a documented impact of increasing the diversity of the architectural workforce with a low-risk self-selection engagement model to established firms; and

WHEREAS, the UDream program demonstrated its ability to fill gaps in the diversity pipeline by giving qualified graduating minority candidates meaningful and career-building work experience, as

- UDream increased the number of black and Hispanic architects in the Pittsburgh region by 400%
- UDream created NOMA Pittsburgh, which created Project Pipeline (involving 60 students and additional volunteers)
- UDream is responsible for more than 85% of all Black and Hispanic Architecture graduate students at Carnegie Mellon University

WHEREAS, the UDream program at Carnegie Mellon University was partly intended as a prototypical framework that can be replicated in medium- and large-sized cities across the country; and

WHEREAS, many AIA components would benefit from having a program like this in their communities;

WHEREAS, the UDream program led to the first African American woman to be licensed in the City of Pittsburgh; and

WHEREAS, the UDream fellows mentored and instructed K-12 students in the outreach education pathway, building youth confidence and supporting the next generation of diverse Architecture students; and

WHEREAS, several UDream fellows have subsequently created nimble minority-owned practices centered around design and development in the Pittsburgh region;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that AIA provide funding for components to apply for and obtain support to replicate the UDream program as a model customizable to their communities; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that replication of the UDream model can help the AIA work towards the eventual goal of diverse and established architects thriving in firm practice and in ownership.