

# Memorandum

**Date:** May 19, 2017

**To:** AIA Board of Directors; AIA Strategic Council

**Subject:** Summary of Actions and Discussions from the May 11, 2017, Board of Directors conference call meeting

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The following actions were taken by the Board of Directors during its conference call meeting on May 11, 2017. After the Board's approval, minutes of this meeting will be available to AIA members upon request; please contact Anne Tyler Feldmann at [annefeldmann@aia.org](mailto:annefeldmann@aia.org).

Jury Appointments: The Board approved appointments to several juries:

*2018 Jury of Fellows:*

- Karen Nichols, FAIA, chair (New Jersey)
- Mary Burke, FAIA (New York)
- Philip Castillo, FAIA (Illinois)
- Paul Mankins, FAIA (Central States)
- Peter Bardwell, FAIA (Ohio Valley)
- Mary Cox, FAIA (The Virginias)
- David Messersmith, FAIA (Texas)

*2018 Jury of Honorary Fellows:*

- Ric Bell, FAIA, chair (New York)
- Lester Korzilius, FAIA (United Kingdom)
- Karen Nichols, FAIA, chair (New Jersey)
- Mary Burke, FAIA (New York)
- Philip Castillo, FAIA (Illinois)
- Paul Mankins, FAIA (Central States)
- Peter Bardwell, FAIA (Ohio Valley)
- Mary Cox, FAIA (The Virginias)
- David Messersmith, FAIA (Texas)

*2018 Collaborative & Professional Achievement Jury:*

- Ric Master, FAIA
- Patrick Burke, FAIA
- Libby Haslam, AIA
- R. Steven Lewis, FAIA
- Linsey Graff, Assoc. AIA

*2018 AIA/ACSA Topaz Medallion for Excellence in Architectural Education Jury (AIA representatives only):*

- Chere LeClair, AIA
- Donna Kacmar, FAIA

Ratification of Resolutions: (For text of the resolutions, please see attached.)

1. *Resolution 17-1, Where Architects Stand: A Statement of Our Values*

The Board sponsored this resolution which effectively affirms the “Where Architects Stand” values statement issued earlier this year. The delegates at the annual meeting approved the resolution. The Board ratified it.

2. *Resolution 17-2, Emeritus Membership – Proposed Amendment to the Institute Bylaws*

Sponsored by AIA California Council, this resolution was approved by the delegates at the annual meeting. The Board ratified it.

3. *Resolution 17-3, Housing Humanity – Elevating the Human Experience*

Sponsored by AIA California Council, and with support from AIA Illinois and AIA Chicago, this resolution was also approved by the delegates at the annual meeting. The Board ratified it.

4. *Resolution 17-4, Specialty Credentialing (amended at the meeting)*

AIA California Council sponsored this resolution, which was amended at the meeting on a motion offered by a delegate from AIA District of Columbia and approved by the delegates. The Board acknowledged the current work of the Board Knowledge Committee on specialty certification, and deferred further action on this resolution.

UIA Gold Medal Nomination: The Board approved the AIA's nomination of Adrian Smith, FAIA, as a candidate for the International Union of Architects (UIA) Gold Medal.

In addition to the actions noted above:

*Waiver of the Rules of the Board*: The Board waived its Rules regarding appointments to the 2018 Gold Medal and Architecture Firm Award Advisory Jury to allow the President broader discretion when making those appointments later this year.

*Management Report*: EVP/Chief Executive Officer Ivy provided a preliminary report on the 2017 Conference on Architecture.

*Written Reports*: The Board received written reports on the sunseting of the Education Coordinating Council, the AIA's statement on climate, and continuing education requirements for International Associate members.

*Governance Task Force*: The Board will be asked to engage in a discussion of the task force's recommendations, at its meeting in September. Several directors volunteered to review those recommendations, noting where the Board could be more engaged with the membership and make informed decisions on the strategic deployment of resources.

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# 2017 Convention Resolutions (as adopted by the delegates at the 2017 Annual Business Meeting)

## Resolution 17-1

<b>Title</b>	Where Architects Stand: A Statement of Our Values
<b>Sponsor</b>	AIA Board of Directors
<b>Intent</b>	To confirm the enduring values of the American Institute of Architects and its members.
<b>Text of Resolution</b>	<p>WHEREAS, the American Institute of Architects works to advance our nation's quality of life and protect the public's health, safety and welfare, as it has done for 160 years; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, today our nation faces unprecedented challenges; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, now more than ever, the collective voice of architects is essential for designing a better future for our country and planet; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, even in times of change, the AIA's values remain constant.</p> <p>NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we stand for equity and human rights. Access to good design is a fundamental right, and architects are the agents of change to make this right a reality. We stand for human and civil rights, and the unbiased treatment of all persons in employment, civic, and business transactions regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical abilities, or religious practices. Our commitment to tolerance is evidenced not just by the policies we adopt, but in the words we speak, the actions we take, and the buildings we design. This is why we advocate for protecting and expanding laws that reflect these values, such as fair housing policies, civil rights protections, and accessibility to the built environment for all; and</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we stand for architecture that strengthens our communities. Infrastructure is more than roads and bridges. It is the public buildings that are the bedrock of our communities—like schools, hospitals, libraries, police and fire stations, parks and government buildings. For too long, policymakers allowed these spaces to deteriorate, reducing safety and diminishing the quality of life for millions across the nation. Architects are uniquely positioned to guide policymakers to make informed decisions about reinvesting in our communities' essential buildings and spaces. That is why we advocate for policies that invest in well-designed civic infrastructure; and</p>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we stand for a sustainable future. At a time when the world is feeling the damaging effects of excessive carbon in our atmosphere, the AIA will continue to advocate for policies that protect the environment by encouraging the design, preservation and construction of high-performing buildings. Reducing the carbon footprint of buildings is not just good for the environment; it's good for business. According to a 2015 study, from 2011 to 2014, the green construction market generated \$167.4 billion in Gross Domestic Product, supported over 2.1 million jobs and provided \$147.7 billion in labor earnings. That is why we advocate for policies that lead to energy efficient, carbon neutral buildings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we stand for protecting communities from the impact of climate change. Global warming and man-made hazards pose an increasing threat to the safety of the public and the vitality of our nation. Rising sea levels and devastating natural disasters result in unacceptable losses of life and property. Resilient and adaptable buildings are a community's first line of defense against disasters and changing conditions of life and property. That is why we advocate for robust building codes and policies that make our communities more resilient; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we stand for economic opportunity. Architects, the backbone of the nation's design and construction industry, are entrepreneurs and small businesses. Working in offices, storefronts, and home offices in every community, design firms do more than simply create great spaces: they create well-paying jobs and opportunity. But with narrow profit margins and increasing costs of running a firm, many struggle just to meet their business plans. We stand for federal policies that help firms thrive, not hold them back. That means a tax code that treats architects fairly, small business programs that provide loans and financing support and programs that give small firms the chance to compete. That is why the AIA advocates for policies that ensure small firms remain strong contributors to the nation's economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we stand for investing in the future. A generation of young people is being held back by a lack of access to education and the crushing burden of student debt. Nowhere is this truer than in architecture, where recent graduates are often forced to leave the profession to pay down student loans. Without a pool of qualified architects to design buildings, projects will not move forward, stifling economic development. That is why the AIA advocates for policies that provide better access and financing for young people to enter and remain in the profession of architecture; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we speak up, and policymakers listen. Together, AIA members carry a powerful voice for the values they uphold in their practices each and every day. As natural facilitators and problem-solvers, architects stand ready to develop new policies that create a better, stronger, and more equitable and sustainable society. Through a culture of values-based advocacy, AIA members are committed to engaging in the policy-making process and to focus the power of design on solving the challenges facing our great nation.

## Resolution 17-2

<b>Title</b>	Emeritus Membership – Proposed Amendment to the Institute Bylaws
<b>Sponsors</b>	AIA California Council
<b>Intent</b>	<p>To amend pertinent sections of the Institute Bylaws concerning specific eligibility criteria for AIA Emeritus Membership; specifically, current language in the Bylaws provides that AIA members who have maintained membership for a minimum of 15 successive years, are fully retired, and 70 years of age, are eligible to upgrade to Emeritus status in order to maintain membership rights and privileges.</p> <p>This proposed change to the Bylaws would retain the age of eligibility at 70 years of age, fully retired, and 15 years of successive AIA membership, but would allow eligibility if the applicant has been an AIA member for at least 25 years.</p>
<b>Text of Resolution</b>	<p>WHEREAS, Section 2.3 of the Institute Bylaws states that any Architect member may apply for Emeritus status who has been in good standing in the Institute for 15 successive years immediately prior to his or her application, and either (i) has attained the age of 70 and is retired from the profession of architecture, or (ii) is so incapacitated as to be unable to work in the profession; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, Section 2.312 of the Institute Bylaws states that any Associate Member may apply for Emeritus status who has been in good standing in the Institute for 15 successive years immediately prior to his or her application, and either (i) has attained the age of 70 and is retired from an occupation related to the profession of architecture, or (ii) is so incapacitated as to be unable to work in an occupation related to the profession of architecture; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, there are a considerable number of Architect members who may, for reason of inadequate resources, allow their membership to lapse upon retirement waiting to reach the age of 70, only to find themselves ineligible because they do not have the required successive 15 years of membership, yet they have been AIA members most of their professional careers; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, because there are a number of retired members choosing to terminate their membership in lieu of paying the full dues rate, AIA fails to retain and engage the talents, contributions, and advocacy of members who have long supported the AIA at all three levels of the organization, thereby impacting the AIA's desire to maintain and expand the strength, visibility, and influence of the AIA; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, never before has the need been greater for mentorship and professional guidance to be actively encouraged between AIA's more experienced members and emerging professionals.</p>

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors shall direct the AIA Secretary and the Secretary's Advisory Committee to prepare amendments to Sections 2.311 and 2.312 of the Institute Bylaws, for presentation at the Institute's Annual Business Meeting at the AIA 2018 National Convention, which would allow Architect and Associate members who retire at the age of 70 be allowed to elevate to Emeritus status if they have been AIA members for 15 successive years or 25 non-successive years when all other criteria for eligibility for Emeritus status are also met.



## Resolution 17-3

<b>Title</b>	Housing Humanity – Elevating the Human Experience
<b>Sponsor</b>	AIA California Council
<b>Intent</b>	To elevate the discussion and the duty of the AIA to prioritize and develop a member engagement strategy to address the challenge of housing affordability and homelessness and their impact on society.
<b>Text of Resolution</b>	<p>WHEREAS. AIA California Council, AIA Chicago, and AIA Illinois, authors of this resolution and full partners in its envisioning and creation, ask for the full support of the convention delegates in recognizing and prioritizing this issue of National importance; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, housing is a fundamental need and expectation of the human experience; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, addressing the nation’s housing crisis and its impacts on social equity is one of the most difficult challenges facing America’s policymakers and shapers of the built environment; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, there is a growing body of evidence linking poor health to a lack of adequate housing as evidenced by research conducted or published by the American Public Health Association, Annual Review of Public Health, Corporation for Supportive Housing, National Center for Healthy Housing, World Health Organization and Yale Global Health Leadership Institute among others; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the scope of the affordable housing problem is massive, impacting the homeless, low income families and individuals, student debt holders, first-time buyers, and long-term tenants of rental properties across the nation; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the lack of affordable and safe housing results in many workers not having access to job markets within their own communities, lower income households are being forced to locate farther from places of employment and thereby encouraging blight, urban sprawl, traffic congestion, and the loss of greenfield and vital farm lands; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, a host of organizations are urging comprehensive action to treat housing as health care, including the American Hospital Association, Association of American Medical Colleges, Catholic Health Association of the United States, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, National Health Care for the Homeless Coalition, and the World Economic Forum, among others; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the combined impacts of underfunded urban planning, housing policies that encourage low density development, community resistance to new higher density housing, and cumbersome, lengthy, and expensive entitlement and plan review processes, all contribute to the problem of</p>

housing availability and affordability that contribute greatly to the increasing challenges of homelessness.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The American Institute of Architects reasserts its belief that “access to good design is a fundamental right” and that, as change agents, members, firms, and components require the vision, tools, and guidance on potential methodologies to mitigate the problem of the nation’s homelessness and housing affordability crisis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as architects are duty-bound to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public in the built environment, and this organization is the voice for the profession acting collectively to advance shared goals and implement such a nationwide engagement strategy that shall include a sustained public outreach and aggressive communications plan that stimulates the engagement and support of concerned public agencies, construction industry stakeholders, and like-minded allies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a report and plan of action (comparable to the example of the AIA-led Resilience Building Coalition which produced a joint industry statement and commitment), will be presented no later than at the 2019 AIA Conference on Architecture to the delegates assembled thereat to include measurable goals, recommendations, ongoing progress reports and member engagement opportunities that accomplish together what cannot be achieved alone.

## Resolution 17-4 – AS AMENDED

<b>Title</b>	Specialty Credentialing
<b>Sponsor</b>	AIA California Council
	Passes
<b>Intent</b>	Establish an inventory of principles and guidelines to shape development and implementation of Specialty Credentialing programs and activities.
<b>Text of Resolution</b>	<p>WHEREAS, The American Institute of Architects, as the principal membership organization of licensed and emerging architects in America, is exploring the benefits and the challenges of Specialty Credentialing; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, as a result of several studies in 2016, AIA members appear to generally support the idea of the AIA being engaged in Specialty Credentialing, the American Institute of Architects' Board of Directors has authorized launching of Specialty Credentialing programs by 2018; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, Specialty Credentialing within the design and construction industry is widespread and many organizations are currently offering a variety of specialties to be recognized; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, emerging generations appear to value and appreciate the need for Specialty Credentialing much more than previous generations; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, there exists a multitude of possibilities for Specialty Credentialing related to the work of architects, including but not limited to building types, disciplines, and skill sets. Accordingly, AIA Specialty Credentialing needs to proceed very carefully so as not to challenge the traditional roles of the architect as a generalist and team leader; constrain the scope or validity of an architectural license, or encumber the value and benefits of AIA membership; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, there is strong probability that failure to proceed with the AIA's involvement in Specialty Credentialing may create a vacuum that other organizations may occupy, thereby enhancing public and client confusion regarding architectural services and the scope of licensed practice; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the AIA's established committees, continuing education and Knowledge Community infrastructure provide existing platforms that can be refocused on Specialty Credentialing and elevate the value of continuing education, while also expanding the definition of architecture and of architectural practice; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, since the impact of AIA Specialty Credentialing is likely to change member relationships and has the potential of changing the nature of competition among members.</p>

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the AIA should adopt a code of principles to shape the development of Specialty Credentialing, specialty certification, or specialty designation. The code of principles would help foster and sustain foundational beliefs and principles such as:

- Ensuring equality and inclusiveness of AIA members.
- Any specialty credential or recognition program should be an integral part of the AIA member benefit landscape, and price, as a prerequisite to accessing Specialty Credentialing, should not be a real or perceived barrier to members enrolling in Specialty Credentialing programs and activities. **The cost to earn a credential should be set in a way that allows the AIA to achieve its operational objectives without creating a barrier to credentialing based solely on individual financial resources.**
- Before launching Specialty Credentialing, AIA should commit to a robust and sustainable marketing and public outreach program to help enhance client demand.
- Specialty Credentialing should be based on added value and responsive to the needs of society. Service to society is at the core of most respected credentialing programs.
- To avoid tarnishing the AIA brand, tactical efforts and activities supporting Specialty Credentialing must be predictable, dependable, and ensure quality.
- The AIA has clear policies and a strong commitment to discourage misuse of titles or designations that might impair or weaken the value of Specialty Credentialing and the AIA brand.
- Specialty Credentialing should be integrated with AIA's Code of Ethics.
- While appreciating the need for a certain level of confidentiality in research and development of Specialty Credentialing, the AIA should nonetheless conduct an ongoing national conversation with the membership, especially AIA component leadership.
- The AIA's venture into Specialty Credentialing should remain a voluntary framework of engagement, and that any Specialty Credentialing effort be conducted with a philosophy of "doing no harm" to those who members who choose not to embrace Specialty Credentialing.
- **The code or principles should consider the following concerns:**
  - **That credentialing could serve to deepen the divide between different "specialist" tracks within the design industry;**
  - **That credentialing could construct a barrier to entry for small- or medium-size firms in competing for specific types of project work;**
  - **That clients, if not properly educated, might overlook other experience in favor of credentials; and**
  - **That ultimately, credentialing could serve to devalue the meaning of "AIA," as a stand-alone designation.**