**August 2017**

**AIA Policy and Position Statements Review**

**Round 2 Discussion Draft**

This document contains the AIA Public Policies and Position Statements that are up for review in 2017. The Public Policies and Position Statements have been edited in strike out (deletions) and underline (additions) to highlight proposed changes from the first round of comments. Where proposed changes overlapped heavily, they are split into separate proposals; where proposed changes do not overlap or are distinct enough to be combined, the changes are noted in different colors.

This document is provided for your convenience to facilitate discussions related to both changes to existing Position Statements, the proposal of new Position Statements, and for the submission of feedback. Please consider reaching out to proponents of changes where there may be disagreement, or the possibility for collaboration. Ideally, only one consolidated version will be put before the Board of Directors for consideration.

Please use the form provided here for your group, and submit all comments to this draft on the form (adding pages as necessary) no later than Friday September 22, 2017, to Associate General Counsel Jessyca Henderson, AIA, at [jessycahenderson@aia.org](mailto:jessycahenderson@aia.org)

**II. Category: The Practice**

**Original:**

**C** **Public Policy: Architects are Environmentally Responsible**

*The creation and operation of the built environment require an investment of the earth’s resources. Architects must be environmentally responsible and advocate for the sustainable use of those resources.*

**Proposed:**

**Public Policy: Architects are ~~Environmentally Responsible~~ Stewards for a Carbon Neutral and Healthy Built Environment**

*The ~~creation~~ design, construction, renovation and operation of the built environment require solutions that advance carbon neutrality; resource conservation and regeneration; human health and well-being; equity; and resilient buildings and communities. ~~an investment of the earth’s resources.~~ Architects must advocate for programs and policies that create practical solutions to address these challenges. ~~be environmentally responsible and advocate for the sustainable use stewardship of those resources.~~*

**Rationale:**

**Change adding “stewardship” proposed by AIA Resilience Education Working Group and AIA Disaster Assistance Committee, with the following rationale:**

*In regards to natural resources, replacing the term “use” with “stewardship” reminds architects to value and care for natural resources before, during and after use, and ultimately to choose appropriate resources for building use.*

Note: This proposed change was incorporated into the proposed restructuring by COTE, below.

**Above changes to language proposed by AIA Committee On The Environment (COTE), with the following rationale:**

*Revise title and text to align with current language: change broad title to specifically relate to carbon neutrality and the built environment. More specifically define the broad term of sustainability to encompass current language and specific programs and policies.*

**SUPPORTING POSITION STATEMENTS**

**Original:**

1. **Sustainable Architectural Practice and the Built Environment**

The AIA recognizes that current planning, design, construction, and real estate practices contribute to patterns of resource consumption that will inhibit the sustainable future of the Earth. Architects, as the leaders in design of the built environment, are responsible to act as stewards of the Earth. Consequently, we encourage communities to join with us in changing the course of the planet’s future by supporting governmental and private sector policy programs, including the development, evaluation, and use of codes, standards and evidence-based rating systems, that promote the design, preservation, and construction of sustainable communities and high-performance buildings.

(approved December 2014, through December 9, 2017)

**Proposed:**

**Sustainable Architectural Practice and ~~the Built Environment~~ Sustainability**

The AIA advocates for policies, programs, and incentives that promote energy efficiency and renewable energy; materials information transparency; resource conservation; and the protection of water resources. We rely on the development, evaluation and use of codes, standards and evidence-based rating systems to achieve healthy, resilient buildings and communities for all members of society.

The AIA ~~recognizes~~ acknowledges that many current planning, design, construction, and real estate practices contribute to an imbalance that can have disastrous long-term planetary effects on the health of human and natural systems that threaten their survival. ~~patterns of resource consumption that will inhibit endanger the sustainable future of the Earth.~~ Architects, as system thinkers and leaders in the design of the built environment must engage communities to promote solutions that lead to equitable access for all and use their expertise to design healthy, carbon neutral, and adaptive buildings and communities. ~~Architects, as the leaders in design of the built environment, are responsible to act as stewards of the Earth. Consequently, we encourage~~ The AIA advocates for communities to join with us in changing the course of the planet’s future by supporting governmental and private sector ~~policy~~ policies and programs, including the development, evaluation, and use of codes, standards and evidence-based rating systems, that promote the design, preservation, and construction of sustainable communities and high-performance buildings.

**Rationale:**

**Changes noted above in red proposed by AIA Resilience Education Working Group and AIA Disaster Assistance Committee, with the following rationale:**

*In regards to the future of the planet, the term “inhibit” was replaced with “endanger” as a deeper call to action to reflect the decline or demise of natural resources including fresh water, vegetation, and nutrient-rich soil that will ultimately impact the ability to sustain human life in those locations.*

*~~Architects, as the leaders in design of the built environment, are responsible to act as stewards of the Earth.~~: The call for resilience is a call for all to work together in a systems-based approach. “Stewardship” is mentioned in the overarching statement, thus this sentence is deemed unnecessary.*

*“Policies” and “programs” may be separate actions, and thus were separated.*

**Changes noted above in blue proposed by AIA COTE, with the following rationale:**

*Align with other position statements to begin with ‘The AIA advocates for’….and further define sustainability using current language tied to other position statements related to sustainability.*

*Update text to align with current language used around sustainability. Revise text to broaden the architect’s role to encompass current ideas of systems thinking, which will be necessary to combat future challenges (like rising seas, extreme rainfall and longer droughts, more frequent storms). State that architects must engage communities: using their expertise to solve challenges beyond the property line: infrastructure design, building and community resiliency, and neighborhood energy sharing.*

**In addition, COTE proposes to delete the following passage:**

~~Consequently, we encourage communities to join with us in changing the course of the planet’s future by supporting governmental and private sector policy programs, including the development, evaluation, and use of codes, standards and evidence-based rating systems, that promote the design, preservation, and construction of sustainable communities and high-performance buildings.~~

**Change noted in green above proposed by AIA Young Architects Forum and AIA National Associates Committee, recommended adding “and ensure the long-term survival of humanity in the process” to the above (deleted) passage, with the following rationale:**

*By adding the human dimension to our arguments for a more sustainable architectural practice, the AIA can better bridge the bi-partisan divide. Saving Earth is a worthy goal in and of itself but more importantly, saving humanity is part and parcel of that endeavor as well. Giving equal weigh to human life as well as the life of the planet should strengthen our position as we advocate for a more sustainable future.*

1. **Energy and the Built Environment**

**Original:**

The AIA supports governmental policies, programs, and incentives that encourage energy conservation as it relates to the built environment as well as the development and harvesting of energy from renewable sources. Architects are encouraged to promote energy efficiency and waste reduction in the built environment to advance the goal of achieving carbon neutral buildings by the year 2030.

(approved December 2014, through December 9, 2017)

**Proposed:**

**Energy and Carbon in the Built Environment**

The AIA ~~supports~~ advocates for ~~governmental~~ policies, programs, and incentives ~~that encourage~~ for energy efficiency and renewable energy for the planning, design, construction, and operations of buildings. ~~conservation as it relates to the built environment as well as the development and harvesting of energy from renewable sources.~~ These strategies reduce anthropogenic greenhouse gas emission that cause climate change, lowering risks and costs for our clients and the public. Architects ~~are encouraged to promote~~ must prioritize energy efficiency and renewable energy to achieve ~~waste reduction in the built environment to advance the goal of achieving~~ carbon neutral new construction and major renovation ~~buildings~~ by ~~the year~~ 2030 (2030 Commitment) and a carbon neutral built environment by 2050 (2050 Imperative).

**Rationale:**

Changes proposed by AIA COTE, with the following rationale:

*According to the AIA’s* [*values*](https://www.aia.org/resources/77541-where-we-stand-climate-change-)*, “Climate change clearly is one of the biggest global crises of the 21st century.”*

*The recommendation better ties energy to carbon reduction and climate change mitigation via carbon neutral goals adopted in the AIA 2030 Commitment and 2050 Imperative that was presented by AIA President Helene Combs Dreiling at the World Congress of Architecture in 2014 and* [*unanimously recognized*](http://www.uia-architectes.org/sites/default/files/EN_Declaration_Durban.pdf) *by the International Union of Architects (UIA) in Durban, South Africa. Further, the revised position better reflects the architect’s role in solving climate change through energy efficiency and renewable energy as addressed in the* [*AIA commentary on climate change mitigation*](https://www.aia.org/resources/77941-the-architects-critical-role-in-climate-chan) *released earlier this year.*

*Additionally, the team strengthened the verb from “supports” to “advocates” to demonstrate the AIA’s leadership across the industry and in realm of public policy. We also expanded “built environment” to include the scope and life cycle of the project with “planning, design, construction, and operations of buildings.”*

**3. Materials and the Built Environment**

**Original:**

The AIA recognizes that building materials impact the environment and human health before, during, and after their use. Knowledge of the life-cycle impacts of building materials is integral to improving the craft, science, and art of architecture. The AIA encourages architects to promote transparency in materials’ contents and in their environmental and human health impacts.

(approved December 2014, through December 9, 2017)

**Proposed:**

The AIA ~~recognizes~~ advocates for programs, policies, and practices that inform an holistic approach to selecting and using building materials. ~~building materials impact the environment and human health before, during, and after their use.~~ Materials significantly affect human and ecosystem health, well-being, climate, and social equity. Architects’ ability to understand life-cycle impacts ~~of building materials~~ is fundamental ~~integral~~ to ~~improving~~ the art, craft, and science~~, and art~~ of architecture~~.~~ and to making positive material choices that support a healthy, prosperous world. The AIA ~~encourages~~ supports ~~architects to promote~~ transparen~~cy~~t, clear information on the ~~in~~ ~~materials’~~ content~~s~~ and ~~in their environmental and human health~~ impacts~~.~~ of building materials and furthermore urges manufacturers to develop materials that are free of toxic substances, minimize greenhouse gas emissions and are environmentally and socially responsible.

**Rationale:**

Changes proposed by the AIA Materials Knowledge Working Group, with the following rationale:

*The revised Materials and the Built Environment position statement better represents the impacts building materials have on the natural environment, the built environment, and the people who occupy them. It goes beyond environmental and health impacts to incorporate social equity and prosperity.*

*The statement goes on to highlight the holistic approach to building material selection by including human and ecosystem health along with social equity attributes in design decisions. It notably takes climate change mitigation through embodied carbon reduction into account supporting the 2050 Imperative that was presented by AIA President Helene Combs Dreiling at the World Congress of Architecture in 2014 and* [*unanimously recognized*](http://www.uia-architectes.org/sites/default/files/EN_Declaration_Durban.pdf) *by the International Union of Architects (UIA) in Durban, South Africa. According to the AIA’s* [*values*](https://www.aia.org/resources/77541-where-we-stand-climate-change-)*, “Climate change clearly is one of the biggest global crises of the 21st century.”*

*Further, the statement recognizes that material selection is fundamental to the practice of architecture. As such, architects can influence the supply chain by urging manufacturers to offer better options.*

*Additionally, the team strengthened the verbs from “supports and recognizes” to “advocates and supports” to demonstrate the AIA’s leadership across the industry, in realm of public policy, and in support of our practitioners.*

**4. Resilience**

**Current:**

Buildings and communities are subjected to destructive forces from fire, storms, earthquakes, flooding, and even intentional attack. The challenges facing the built environment are evolving with climate change, environmental degradation, and population growth. Architects have a responsibility to design a resilient environment that can more successfully adapt to natural conditions and that can more readily absorb and recover from adverse events. The AIA supports policies, programs, and practices that promote adaptable and resilient buildings and communities.

(approved December 2014, through December 9, 2017)

**Proposed:**

**4. Resilience and Adaptation**

The AIA supports policies, programs, and practices that promote adaptable and resilient buildings and communities. Buildings and communities are subjected to destructive forces from natural and human-caused hazards such as fire, ~~storms,~~ earthquakes, flooding, sea level rise, tornadoes, tsunamis, severe weather, and even intentional attack. The ~~challenges facing~~ forces affecting the built environment are evolving with climate change, environmental degradation, ~~and~~ population growth,~~.~~ and migration; this alters long term conditions and demands design innovation. Architects ~~have a responsibility to~~ design environments ~~a resilient environment~~ that reduce harm and property damage, adapt to evolving conditions, ~~can more successfully adapt to natural conditions~~ and ~~that can~~ more readily, effectively and efficiently ~~absorb and~~ recover from adverse events. ~~The AIA supports policies, programs, and practices that promote adaptable and resilient buildings and communities.~~ Additionally, the AIA supports member training and active involvement in disaster assistance efforts, providing valuable insights and aid to communities before, during, and after a destructive event.

**Rationale:**

Changes to Position Statement title and to the body of the text proposed by AIA Resilience Education Working Group and AIA Disaster Assistance Committee, with the following rationale:

*The last sentence of the statement was moved to the front to be consistent with all other sustainability position statements.*

*The hazards listed in the statement are not all-encompassing, thus they are introduced by the terms “natural and human-caused hazards such as…” The term “sea level rise” is included as a present-day hazard affecting many communities on a regular basis with high tides, regular storms, or even what is called sunny day flooding. “Tornadoes”, “tsunamis” and “severe weather” are included in the list of hazards because of their frequency of occurrence, severity of potential damage and design impacts of more extreme lows and highs of precipitation and temperature. The term “storm” is deleted because it is redundant to the preferred broader term “severe weather” so to include all extremes such as heat waves and blizzards*

*The term “forces affecting” is a more accurate way to attribute the previously described hazards impact on the built environment vs. calling hazards “challenges”. In addition to many locations worldwide, the United States has experienced the first two community migrations due to climate change. In addition, hazards and long term climate change have been and will continue to induce population migration, thus not only is population growth a stress on the built environment but so are population changes triggered by fluctuations in the economy and commerce, among other causes. The addition of “this alters long term conditions and demands design innovation” reminds architects to design for the building’s service life where environmental conditions will likely change over the course of the average 80-year building service life.*

*AIA policies and position statements should not broadly assign responsibilities particularly to outcomes that cannot be easily defined, thus the term “architects have a responsibility to design resilient environments…” is removed and replaced with more tangible goals to design to: “reduce harm and property damage.” It is important to not just protect life safety but to reduce the financial impact of property loss and disruptions of economic activity.*

*Defining “successful adaptation” is difficult because the act of adapting is ever-evolving, hence the inclusion of the term “evolving”. Architects are reminded to incorporate data and future condition projections so to not design for static, but rather dynamic conditions. It is noted that recovery will happen – it’s a matter of doing it well and quickly, thus the more specific qualifiers of “readily, effectively & efficiently” were added.*

**Additional language pertaining to member training and involvement in disaster assistance efforts proposed by AIA California Council, with the following rationale:**

*Adding language to the end of* ***4. Resilience*** *reflects our value in disaster assistance efforts, as well.*

**5. Design and Health**

**Original:**

**Design and Health**

The AIA advocates for policies, programs, research, and practices that promote health through design. Good design advances equitable access to well-being, physical activity, safety, and environmental quality, among other measurable health benefits. Working in collaboration with public health professionals and allied organizations, architects implement design solutions that inspire and facilitate healthy environments for all members of society.

(approved December 2014, through December 9, 2017)

**Proposed:**

**Design For ~~and~~ Human Health In The Built Environment**

The AIA advocates for policies, programs, research, and practices that promote ~~health~~ physical, mental and social well-being through design. Good design advances equitable access to well-being, physical activity, safety, and environmental quality, among other measurable health benefits. Architects should adopt systematic frameworks to consider health impacts throughout the life of a project ~~W~~working in collaboration with public health professionals and allied organizations. A~~a~~rchitects should implement design solutions that promote wellness, inspire and facilitate healthy environments for all members of society.

**Rationale:**

**Proposed changes to language submitted by AIA Design & Health Leadership Group, with the following rationale:**

*Since the Design & Health statement was first introduced in 2014, the landscape related to health and well-being services has radically shifted. The emergence of FitWel and the WELL Building Standard, among others, will further accelerate demand for healthy building attributes across building types. According to AIA research, 84 percent of clients will request healthy building attributes in projects over the next three years.*

*In order to meet demand, architects must continue cross-sector work to move beyond random acts of health promotion. By emphasizing “systematic frameworks to consider health impacts” the AIA recognizes the importance of process innovations—whether integrated process or health impact assessments—necessary for our members to measurable advance human health and well-being.*

*The inclusion of “physical, mental, and social well-being” aligns AIA’s definition of health with that of the World Health Organization and numerous public health entities.*

*Expanding the title from “Design & Health” to “Design for human health in the built environment” better addresses the purpose and intent of the position statement.*

**Proposed language in the last sentence, “promote wellness” offered by AIA Young Architects Forum and AIA National Associates Committee, with the following rationale:**

*By promoting wellness, we are championing long-term, sustained efforts to address the chronic health of the public through design. By promoting wellness through design and advocating in partnership with healthcare stakeholders, the AIA is taking a larger leadership role in the well-being of the society we serve.*

**6. Eminent Domain**

**Original:**

The AIA recognizes that eminent domain can be a necessary tool for government to secure land for the reasonable implementation of publicly owned projects. Only under special and unique circumstances should eminent domain be used for projects that will ultimately revert to private ownership. In these circumstances, eminent domain should be considered a tool of last resort and only be applied when there is a clear and compelling public need and benefit demonstrated after an open, broad-based, and transparent community planning process. In all cases, eminent domain should be applied in ways that fairly consider the value of existing land uses and communities, while respecting citizens’ rights, all community stakeholders, and community history.

(approved December 2014, through December 9, 2017)

**Proposed (1 of 2):**

**~~Eminent Domain~~ Land Use and Environmental Planning**

~~The AIA recognizes that~~ As design professionals we advocate for responsible land use and environmental planning to reduce hazards and other environmental risks and in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public. Land use strategies such as deed restrictions, setbacks, and eminent domain can be a necessary ~~tool~~ means for government to retain ~~secure~~ lands for public safety and benefit for the near and long term. ~~the reasonable implementation of publicly owned projects.~~ Only under special and unique circumstances should eminent domain be used for projects that will ultimately revert to private ownership~~.~~ , and ~~In these circumstances, eminent domain~~ it should be considered a strategy ~~tool~~ of last resort. ~~and only be applied when there is a clear and compelling public need and benefit demonstrated after an open, broad-based, and transparent community planning process. In all cases, eminent domain should be applied in ways that fairly consider the value of existing land uses and communities, while respecting citizens’ rights, all community stakeholders, and community history.~~

**Rationale:**

Changes proposed by Resilience Education Working Group and Disaster Assistance Committee, with the following rationale:

*Eminent domain is not the only land use issue of concern to architects. To protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public for current and future generations, other land use tools such as deed restrictions, setbacks and eminent domain are necessary and / or beneficial.*

*With an increase in the severity, scope and frequency of hazards and sea level rise, the use of these tools, in certain cases, should be advocated for by architects to reduce hazard exposure and risk. A resilient building in a non-resilient community is not resilient.*

*The AIA supports regional land use planning efforts that advance holistic approaches to address disaster mitigation and community resilience. Coordinated efforts magnify effectiveness; for example, buying out flood prone properties in one city to allow flood inundation there can alleviate pressure on neighboring river communities. By maintaining (disallowing development) or creating new wetland areas, mangrove forests, and coastal dunes, inland areas are protected. The scale of these projects calls for coordinated efforts – sometimes of a regional nature.*

**Proposed (2 of 2):**

The AIA recognizes that eminent domain can be a necessary tool for government to secure land for the reasonable implementation of publicly owned projects. Only under special and unique circumstances should eminent domain be used for projects that will ultimately revert to private ownership. In these circumstances, eminent domain should be considered a tool of last resort and only be applied when there is a clear and compelling public need and benefit demonstrated after an open, broad-based, and transparent community planning process~~.~~ to ensure environmental justice. In all cases, eminent domain should be applied in ways that fairly consider the value of existing land uses and communities, while respecting citizens’ rights, equity, all community stakeholders, and community history.

**Rationale:**

Changes to language proposed by AIA Design & Health Leadership Group (DHLG), with the following rationale:

*On the whole, the [DHLG] finds the Eminent Domain statement to be clearly written and balanced. The two proposed additions – “to ensure environmental justice” in the penultimate sentence and “equity” in the final sentence are important to include from a public health lens.*

*Vulnerable populations and disadvantaged communities are disproportionately affected by takings. In the spirit of creating healthy communities that promote well-being, AIA can and should be more explicit about promoting environmental justice in conversations related to eminent domain.*

**III. Category: The World**

**Proposed:**

**Category: The ~~World~~ Public**

**Rationale:**

Change to category title offered by AIA Young Architect’s Forum and AIA National Associates Committee, with the following rationale:

*By shifting from speaking of the world in a conceptual way and emphasizing the public in a more human-centric way, the AIA is better able to relate to and identify with the stakeholder groups we wish to work with. We should be engaging with the public in a real and meaningful manner, not just speaking to people in the abstract.*

**A.** **Public Policy: Architects Collaborate**

**Original:**

*Leadership in design and construction requires collaboration. Architects must encourage and celebrate the contributions of those who bring diverse experiences, views, and needs into the design process.*

**Proposed:**

*~~Leadership in design and construction requires collaboration. Architects must encourage and celebrate the contributions of those who bring diverse experiences, views, and needs into the design process.~~*

*Collaboration is an essential element of the design and construction process. As industry leaders, architects must encourage and celebrate the contributions of those who bring diverse experiences, perspectives, and needs to the design and construction process.*

**Rationale:**

Language proposed by AIA Strategic Council, with the following commentary:

*Collaboration has become more of the norm than not since this original Public Policy was issued.*

**SUPPORTING POSITION STATEMENTS**

1. **Civil Rights**

**Original:**

The AIA supports the promotion of human and civil rights, the universal respect for human dignity, and the unbiased treatment of all persons in employment, civic, and business transactions.

(approval December 2014, through December 9, 2017)

**Proposed:**

The AIA supports the promotion of human and civil rights, the universal respect for human dignity, and the unbiased treatment of all persons in employment, civic, and business transactions.

Embracing a culture of equity, all programs and initiatives of the AIA and its members shall reflect the society that we serve, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, physical abilities, or religious practices.

**Rationale:**

Proposed by: AIA Equity and the Future of Architecture. See below.

**2. Diversity**

**Original:**

The AIA recognizes that diversity is a cultural ethos – a way of thinking or acting that fosters inclusion and enhances our membership, our profession, and the quality of life in our communities. Embracing this culture of diversity, all programs and initiatives of the AIA and its members shall reflect the society that we serve, regardless of race, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical abilities, or religious practices. The AIA supports the development of policies and programs that endeavor to ensure equal access to professional degrees in architecture for those who are underrepresented in our profession.

(approved December 2016, through December 31, 2019)

**Proposed:**

~~The AIA recognizes that diversity is a cultural ethos – a way of thinking or acting that fosters inclusion and enhances our membership, our profession, and the quality of life in our communities. Embracing this culture of diversity, all programs and initiatives of the AIA and its members shall reflect the society that we serve, regardless of race, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical abilities, or religious practices. The AIA supports the development of policies and programs that endeavor to ensure equal access to professional degrees in architecture for those who are underrepresented in our profession.~~

The American Institute of Architects, as part of the global community, champions a culture of equity, diversity, and inclusion within the profession of architecture to create a better environment for all. Achieving this vision has a direct impact on the relevance of our profession and the world’s prosperity, health, and future.

**Rationale:**

Proposed by: AIA Equity and the Future of Architecture, with the following rationale:

*The proposed changes to 1. Civil Rights and 2. Diversity support the Institute’s values for equity and human rights including 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. The revised statement reflects three key strategic concepts. Equity, diversity and inclusion articulates the efforts by the profession to better reflect the society we serve. First, the Equity in Architecture Commission recommended that the Institute going forward use the terms “equity, diversity, and inclusion” in lieu of simply “diversity” to capture contemporary understanding of the issues. Second, the AIA is part of a global community. This has implications for equity, diversity and inclusion efforts both within the US and as AIA architects work abroad. The statement now includes this connection. Third, the statement explicitly ties the work of architects to architecture’s impact on the world’s prosperity, health, and future. As the profession of architecture becomes more equitable, diverse, and inclusive, it will support the Institute in pursuit of one of its values –access to good design is a fundamental right.*

1. **Relationship to National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB)**

**Original:**

The AIA will participate in the establishment of legislative standards for licensing, collaborate with the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB), and advocate the interests of the architectural profession on those issues being considered by NCARB, including the improvement of access and conditions for those aspiring to be part of the profession.

(approved December 2014, through December 9, 2017)

**Proposed:**

The AIA will ~~participate~~ advocate for the interests of the architectural profession and collaborate with the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) in the ~~establishment~~ adoption of legislative standards for licensing~~,~~. ~~collaborate with the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB), and advocate the interests of the architectural profession.~~ ~~on those issues being considered by NCARB, including the improvement of access and conditions for those aspiring to be part of the profession.~~

**Rationale:**

Substantially similar edits proposed separately by: NCARB, AIA Strategic Council

NCARB respectfully suggests that the statement be streamlined and the intent of the AIA’s relationship with NCARB be shifted to emphasize the collaboration needed to support the adoption of licensure standards at the state and federal levels.

The AIA Strategic Council offers comment that the last sentence of the last paragraph is unclear and that rewording is suggested to provide greater clarity to the statement.

**Proposed (New) Position Statement:**

4. Project Team Collaboration

Architectural design and construction is a complex process requiring the coordinated teamwork of many diverse entities. The AIA supports a collaborative teamwork approach among architects, designers, clients, communities, jurisdictions, contractors, and industry partners, to achieve successful project completion.

**Rationale:**

Proposed new Position Statement entitled 4. Project Team Collaboration offered by AIA California Council, with the following rationale:

*The addition of a fourth supporting Position Statement under Category III. The World. A. Architects Collaborate is to better reflect the importance of collaboration. This page is quite inward-looking for the profession, but we must be more outward-looking.*

**Proposed (New) Position Statement:**

5. Inclusive Public Engagement

As a profession that envisions the future built environment and therefore impacts every member of society, we should strive to be inclusive of all stakeholders in the communities we serve. Through community design, social impact design and a spirit of service in practice, AIA members can engage with the majority of society that would never commission our work but whose voices are equally important.

**Rationale:**

New Position Statement proposed by AIA Young Architects Forum and AIA National Associates Committee, with the following rationale:

*By promoting community design, social impact design and a spirit of service in our practices, the AIA can better engage with the rest of society that inhabits the architecture we design but who would never be a client.*

**B.** **Public Policy: Architectural Design Matters**

**Original:**

*Architecture expresses the values of society and has the power to enhance the quality of life for this and future generations.  Architects must advocate for responsible design that results in beautiful and healthy places that respect and accommodate society’s diverse cultures and needs.*

**Proposed (1 of 2)**

*Architecture expresses the values of society and has the power to enhance the quality of life for this and future generations.  Architects must advocate for responsible design that results in healthy, safe and beautiful ~~and healthy~~ places that respect and accommodate society’s diverse cultures and needs.*

**Rationale:**

Changes to language proposed by AIA Resilience Education Working Group and AIA Disaster Assistance Committee, with the following rationale:

*In consideration of the growing hazard threats, it is important for a place to be healthy, but also safe, thus these adjectives were included prior to the term “beautiful” places.*

**Proposed (2 of 2)**

*Architecture expresses the values of society and has the power to enhance the quality of life for this and future generations.  Architects must ~~advocate for responsible design that results in~~ use their unique position to create beautiful, sustainable and healthy places that respect and accommodate society’s diverse cultures and needs.*

**Rationale:**

Changes proposed by AIA Design and Health Leadership Group, with the following rationale:

*Sustainability goals—which encompasses energy efficiency, materials selection, and human health promotion—must not be separated from notions of “good design” in practice or in our policy and position statements. The addition of the word “sustainable” in the final sentence acknowledges that in order to achieve the goal stated in the first sentence, projects must be more than beautiful; they must be environmentally and socially sustainable.*

**SUPPORTING POSITION STATEMENTS**

**1. Accessible Environment**

**No proposed changes received.**

The AIA supports governmental programs, incentives, and policies, including clear and consistent accessibility rules and guidelines, that ensure a built environment that meets the reasonable needs of people with disabilities. Individuals with disabilities should be afforded the means to participate in society to the extent that they are able, through the elimination of physical barriers and through universal design principles that balance the interests of an inclusive society.

(approved December 2014, through December 9, 2017)

**2. Housing**

**Original:**

The AIA believes that access to housing is a fundamental right. The AIA supports governmental policies, programs, and incentives to promote the design, construction, renovation and rehabilitation of safe, healthy, and sustainable housing within the means of all Americans.

(approved December 2014, through December 9, 2017)

**Proposed:**

The AIA ~~believes that~~ advocates for access to housing ~~is~~ as a fundamental right. Architects are at the forefront of the challenges inherent to providing safe, healthy and sustainable housing to all. The AIA ~~supports~~ advocates for governmental policies, programs, and incentives to promote the design, construction, renovation, ~~and~~ rehabilitation, preservation and stabilization of safe, healthy, and affordable sustainable housing within the means of all people. ~~Americans~~ In addition, the AIA supports regional, private-public, non-traditional, holistic approaches to solving the global housing crisis, teaching communities the benefits of higher density housing near transit. We must proactively stem future sprawl and work with communities and legislators to provide real solutions that can accommodate the additional 2.5 billion people estimated to live on this planet by 2050.

**Rationale:**

**Addition to language starting with “Architects are at the forefront” submitted by the AIA Strategic Council, with the following commentary:**

*This statement should be more robust, i.e. something that conveys that not only do we “support governmental policies, programs and incentives to promote the design, construction, renovation and rehabilitation of safe, healthy, and sustainable housing,” but that AIA architects are at the direct forefront of meeting the challenges of providing safe, healthy, and sustainable housing to ALL (and not just Americans as the position currently reads).*

**Addition to language starting with “In addition, the AIA supports…” submitted by AIA California Council, with the following rationale:**

*The proposed addition on 2. Housing strongly reiterates that housing is a crucial issue where architects and the AIA must take the lead on providing equitable, sustainable, innovative, affordable solutions to this global issue.*

**Edits to language deleting “believes that” and adding “…preservation, and stabilization…affordable” proposed by AIA Design and Health Leadership Group, with the following rationale:**

*Housing is well-understood to be a social determinant of health. Safe, sustainable housing reduces eliminates environmental toxins and utility costs, thereby providing additional resources for nutritious food and medical care. As champions for public health, safety, and welfare it is important for architects—and this committee—to weigh in on issues of housing access.*

*The addition of “…preservation, and stabilization” is important from a public health perspective. Stable and affordable housing supports mental well-being by limiting stressors related to financial burden or frequent moves. Two examples from the public health literature:*

* *Children under three who have moved two or more times in the previous year were found to have lower weight for their age when compared to children in stable housing, and are at greater risk of developmental problems.*
* *Less severe manifestations of housing instability—including being behind on utility bills or basic maintenance—are linked to more intense use of medical services, particularly among men.*

*Removing “that” and including “advocates for” are style changes intended to strengthen the position statement.*

**3. Livable Communities**

**Original:**

The AIA recognizes that planning and design that integrates transportation, housing, and land-use policies at the neighborhood, community, and regional scales are prerequisites to the creation of safe, attractive, walkable, and sustainable communities. The AIA supports governmental policies, programs, and incentives that promote well-designed communities and maximize public participation in an inclusive community planning process.

(approval December 2014, through December 9, 2017)

**Proposed (1 of 2):**

The AIA recognizes that planning and design that integrates transportation, housing, and land-use policies at ~~the~~ neighborhood, community, and regional scales are prerequisites to the creation of livable communities – communities that are equitable, safe, attractive, walkable, ~~and~~ sustainable and resilient. ~~communities.~~ The AIA supports ~~governmental~~ policies, programs, and incentives that promote well-designed communities and ~~maximize public participation in~~ an inclusive community planning process.

**Rationale:**

Changes proposed by the AIA Resilience Education Working Group and AIA Disaster Assistance Committee, with the following rationale:

***The AIA recognizes that planning and design that integrates transportation, housing, and land-use policies at ~~the~~ neighborhood, community, and regional scales are prerequisites to the creation of livable communities – communities that are equitable, safe, attractive, walkable, ~~and~~ sustainable and resilient ~~communities~~.*** The growing wealth gap and affordable housing crisis calls for “equitable” communities that provide opportunity for all people. If communities are not resilient to natural hazards and other threats, they will not be livable places, thus the term “resilient” was added.

***The AIA supports ~~governmental~~ policies, and programs, and incentives that promote well-designed communities and ~~maximize public participation in~~ an inclusive community planning process.***

Governmental and non-governmental policies alike should promote these values. In an inclusive and equitable community, public participation is a more natural outcome, but it is not an outcome that can be controlled.

**Proposed (2 of 2):**

The AIA advocates for policies, programs, and incentives that promote well-designed communities and maximize public participation in an inclusive community planning process. ~~recognizes that planning and design that integrates~~ Architects must integrate transportation, housing, and land-use policies at the neighborhood, community, and regional scales ~~are prerequisites~~ to create safe, healthy, affordable, equitable, ~~the creation of safe, attractive,~~ walkable, and sustainable communities. ~~The AIA supports governmental policies, programs, and incentives that promote well-designed communities and maximize public participation in an inclusive community planning process.~~

**Rationale:**

Changes proposed by AIA Design and Health Leadership Group, with the following rationale:

*The committee proposes moving the final sentence, which addresses policies and programs for inclusive planning, to the beginning of the statement, and prefers the verb “advocates” to “recognize” or “support.”*

*Furthermore, the committee acknowledges that some policies, programs, or incentives may not be governmental and our position statement should not be limited to those. For example, project-based adoption of health impact assessments would encourage an inclusive community process to address community health issues.*

*The inclusion of “healthy, affordable, equitable” acknowledges that a livable community must be more than safe and attractive—it must provide a foundation that sets individuals up to thrive physically, mentally, emotionally, and economically.*

1. **Historic Preservation**

**No proposed changes received.**

The AIA supports governmental policies, programs, and incentives to preserve and rehabilitate diverse historic structures, sites, and places.

(approved December 2014, through December 9, 2017)

1. **Design Excellence in Publicly Funded Projects**

**Original:**

The AIA supports the creation and preservation of publicly funded buildings, places, and projects of lasting significance and usefulness that represent the highest ideals of citizens and their government. Society is best served by public building designs that meet the specific requirements inherent in each individual project and site.

(approved December 2014, through December 9, 2017)

**Proposed:**

The AIA ~~supports~~ advocates for the creation and preservation of publicly funded buildings, places, and projects of lasting significance and usefulness that represent the highest ideals of citizens and their government. Public buildings should demonstrate advanced sustainability strategies for integrated teams and systems, resource efficiency, community responsiveness, and human health and well-being. Society is best served by public building designs that meet and exceed the specific requirements inherent in each individual project and site.

**Rationale:**

The addition “and exceed” proposed by AIA Strategic Council.

Other changes proposed by AIA Design and Health Leadership Group, with the following rationale:

*Although the current position statement can be interpreted to support sustainable targets in publicly-funded projects, doing so implies that sustainability is a “ideal” of citizens, rather than a prerequisite for lasting, useful projects.*

*According to the Office of Federal High-Performance Green Buildings (OFHPGB) at the United States General Services Administration (GSA), “high-performance green buildings provide the best value for the taxpayer and for the public through both life cycle cost benefits and positive effects on human health and performance.”*

*As such, components of high-performing sustainable buildings—including integrated systems, resource efficiency, and health promotion—should be expressly stated in the position statement.*