



October 13, 2020

Dr. Ben Carson
Secretary
Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 Seventh Street SW
Washington, DC 20410

ATTN: Regina Gray, Director, Affordable Housing Research and
Technology Division
Paige Esterkin, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Deputy
Assistant Secretary for Policy Development

The American Institute of Architects

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Washington, DC 20006

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RE: American Institute of Architects (AIA)/HUD MOU for the Secretary's
Award Program

Dear Secretary Carson:

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) wants to thank the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) for efforts (albeit unsuccessful) to reach an agreement with AIA on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish and codify a formal Secretary's Award program. Although we had hoped to reach a successful outcome to these efforts, we certainly appreciate your consideration of our requests.

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) is committed to protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public. Since 1857, this concern is central to all that we, as architects, do. AIA's over 92,000 members have worked to advance our nation's quality of life through design. From designing the next generation of energy-saving buildings to making our communities healthier and safer, architects play a central role in influencing and improving the built environment through their work. Housing is clearly a huge piece of the work we do.

The AIA/HUD Secretary's Award program, supported by the AIA Housing and Community Development Knowledge Community and managed by AIA and HUD staff, emphasizes the importance that affordable, accessible, and well-designed housing are not exclusive from each other. In 2020, AIA and HUD had 2 projects that were recognized for this honor considered across four categories. However, AIA is tightening its standards for these awards and was not able to reach the finish line with HUD on parameters for that work, moving forward.

Regardless, thank you to you and your staff for the efforts made to reach an agreement. AIA hopes to work with the agency in the future, where we may have mutual goals and objectives. If you have any questions concerning the details of these negotiations, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah Dodge". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sarah Dodge
Senior Vice-President of Advocacy + Relationships