

Federal Policy Wins

HIGH PROFILE WINS

Lobby Day 2022

- » AIA hosted a successful, hybrid Lobby Day in April 2022. The event included live remarks from Congresswoman Dina Titus (D-NV) on the Democracy in Design Act and recorded remarks from Sen. Todd Young (R-IN) about the Yes In My Backyard Act. Those two bipartisan bills were the focus of the Lobby Day.
- » Congressional support for both bills has grown since the Lobby Day:
 - Democracy in Design Act ([H.R. 5291](#))
 - AIA secured the bipartisan introduction of the Democracy in Design Act, a bill to prevent a federal mandate on architectural design styles.
 - The bill has four cosponsors in the House (two Democrats and two Republicans).
 - Yes In My Backyard Act (YIMBY) Act ([H.R. 3198/S. 1614](#))
 - Following Lobby Day, HR 3198 gained an additional six Congressional cosponsors, including four from offices that AIA advocates met with in April.
 - Following Lobby Day, S. 1614 gained an additional Senate cosponsor (Sen. Van Hollen), an office that AIA advocates met with in April.

Climate & Equity: Inflation Reduction Act

- » Continuing AIA's Buildings Are Infrastructure initiative from 2021, AIA successfully secured multiple priorities in the Budget Reconciliation package, called the Inflation Reduction Act (H.R. 5376), including:
 - **\$330 million** in grants to states and local governments to adopt the latest energy codes
 - **\$670 million** for jurisdictions to adopt zero-energy stretch codes
 - **\$4.3 billion** for a residential energy rebate program
 - **\$4.275 billion** for an energy-efficient electric home rebate program
 - **\$1 billion** for grants and loans to improve energy efficiency and resilience in affordable housing



- **Updated tax incentives** for energy efficient commercial and residential buildings, including 179D, 45L, and 25C
 - AIA staff put together [a comprehensive memo of the building sector provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act](#).
- » These investments are on top of the building sector investments AIA secured in the [bipartisan infrastructure law](#) from 2021, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

Equity: Preservation

- » AIA secured an opportunity for Katie Irwin, AIA to [testify](#) before the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress. She provided the bipartisan committee with a starting point to assess and develop improvements to workplaces across the U.S. Capitol Complex.
- » Following Katie's testimony, the House Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress unanimously approved [29 recommendations](#) to make Congress more effective, efficient, and transparent on behalf of the American people, several of these recommendations may be attributed to her testimony.
- » AIA led a multi-year, [nationwide effort](#) alongside congressional leadership in support of President Biden's June 2021 nomination of AIA-member Sara C. Bronin which successfully yielded her December 2022 confirmation to Chair of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP). The ACHP is an independent federal agency that promotes the preservation, enhancement, and sustainable use of our nation's historic resources and is tasked with advising the President and U.S. Congress on national historic policy.

Equity: Student Debt Relief

- » AIA's bipartisan efforts in tandem with House Ways and Means and Education & Labor Committees' and Senate Finance Committee leadership culminated in the Securing a Strong Retirement Act of 2022 ([H.R. 2954](#)) passing the House, which included the AIA-endorsed Retirement Parity for Student Loans Act of 2021 ([H.R. 2917](#)), and successful [inclusion in the final FY23 Omnibus Appropriation package](#).
- The [impact of student loan debt on the profession](#) has been an AIA priority since 2018.
 - The H.R. 2917 provision permits employers to provide matching contributions under 401(k) and other tax-preferred retirement plans for employee student loan payments as if those payments were elective deferrals.



Equity: School Safety

- » AIA, in conjunction with its member-led Committee on Architecture for Education (CAE), advanced the authorization of the Federal School Safety Clearinghouse in the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act ([S. 2938](#)).
- » An AIA and member-backed priority since 2018, the Clearinghouse is now ensured to operate through future administrations and features CAE design best practices that create safe and welcoming learning spaces which encourage diversity, equity, and inclusion for the well-being of students and educators.

ADDITIONAL SUCCESSES

Climate & Equity: Resilience

- » AIA worked successfully with Senate staff to ensure AIA-priority legislative text was added to the National Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy (NCARS) Act ([S. 3531](#)). The bipartisan bill would require the federal government to produce a National Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Strategy that presents a unified federal plan to increase the resilience of frontline communities.
 - AIA’s proposed legislative text encourages the standardization of the term “resilience” across the federal government.
- » AIA led the BRAC coalition in developing two action letters in 2022, including:
 - [BRAC Coalition FY2023 Homeland Security Appropriations Request Letter \(May 17, 2022\)](#)
 - [BRAC Coalition Letter to OMB RE: Recommendations to FEMA’s BRIC Program \(June 13, 2022\)](#)
- » A resilience-focused, bipartisan, AIA-endorsed bill called the Disaster Resiliency Planning Act ([HR 7863/S. 3510](#)) passed the Senate under unanimous consent in June 2022, although it still needed to pass the House. The bill would require OMB to establish guidance requiring the head of each federal agency to incorporate disaster resilience into asset management and investment decisions made by each respective agency.
- » President Biden signed the Community Disaster Resilience Zones (CDRZ) Act ([H.R. 7242/S. 3875](#)), a bipartisan bill inclusive of [key provisions which address AIA’s strategic imperatives](#) focused improving climate and natural hazard resilience among vulnerable communities, into law in December 2022. By establishing a new CDRZ classification and requiring the Federal Emergency Management Agency to maintain and update the National Risk Index, this legislation advances both resilience and equity.



Additional Historic Preservation

- » Upon joining the Historic Tax Credit Coalition, AIA's collaborative advocacy has helped usher in a double-digit bicameral and bipartisan increase in sponsorship for the Historic Tax Credit Growth & Opportunity Act of 2021 ([H.R. 2294/S. 2266](#)).
 - This AIA-endorsed legislation increases the historic tax credit (HTC) from 20% to 30% for projects with less than \$2.5M in qualified rehabilitation expenses, reducing the burdensome rehabilitation threshold, eliminating IRS restrictions that hinder nonprofit community-oriented projects and removing the building basis HTC deduction requirement.
 - These changes to the HTC will enable the credit to work better for smaller, rural communities.
- » In collaboration with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and each congressional delegation affected by the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* case, AIA successfully championed the *Brown v. Board of Education National Historical Park Expansion and Redesignation Act* ([H.R. 920/S. 270](#)) into law.
 - This AIA-endorsed bill redesignates the *Brown v. Board of Education National Historical Site* as the *Brown v. Board of Education National Historical Park* and expands the park to create National Park Service designations in SC, KS, VA, DE, and D.C.
 - This expansion into more locations will help depict the full history of the separate-but-equal doctrine in public education and the public-school desegregation mandate.
- » AIA joined more than 150 organizations to advocate for making the preservation of historic African American cemeteries a federal priority by securing the bipartisan passage of the AIA-endorsed African American Burial Grounds Preservation Act ([H.R. 6805/S. 3667](#)). Included as part of the FY23 Omnibus Appropriation package, this legislation directs the Department of the Interior to establish the United States African American Burial Grounds Preservation Program within the National Park Service (NPS). The Program will help identify these sacred sites ahead of infrastructure projects and commercial development as well as assist descendants and communities in honoring and remembering their shared past by providing grant monies to identify, interpret, and preserve historic cemeteries.
- » AIA's [engagement with key congressional appropriators](#) resulted in significant funding victories that will enhance the stewardship and preservation of historic resources, including an 18% increase for the Historic Preservation Fund totaling \$204.5M for the first time in the vital National Park Service program's history.

*AIA is the voice of architecture to policymakers at the federal, state, and local levels. Our [advocacy](#) champions policies that further [sustainable, resilient and inclusive design](#) by building power for architects and advancing AIA's [strategic imperatives](#).

