# YAF Summit 30: Mission 2130 Event Findings

## **Young Architects Forum**

AIA Member group

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Foreword from the YAF Summit 30 Steering Committee Chair

Over the past several years, the entire world has catapulted into a new era that has redefined how people live, work, and play. Impacts of COVID and the great resignation left many reassessing their individual priorities and identifying their preferred work-life balance scenarios. The architectural profession was forced to evolve, and from this came a much-needed infusion of newer practice models and innovative ways of conducting business. There has also been more focus on a global scale and the interrelationships amongst the built environment, society, and both human and ecological health. This cataclysmic series of recent events raised many questions about what the future could bring and how we could collectively work towards a prosperous future for the planet and all who live here.

Throughout 2022, the Young Architects Forum (YAF) hosted a series of Code Red Charrettes that brought to light both current and future strengths, weaknesses, threats, and opportunities related to the built environment, society, and the planet. The Mission 2130 event homed in on these ideas and generated thought-provoking challenges aimed at obtaining a prosperous future. With targeted actions, goals, and measurable success metrics, the Mission 2130 challenges can make a tangible impact on our global society in both the near-term and in the many years to come.

This YAF Summit 30: Mission 2130 Event Findings is meant to be a catalyst for change while providing actionable steps that we can each start tomorrow. The framework from the Code Red Charrettes and Mission 2130 event can easily be adapted to strategically assess and identify tangible actions for a myriad of topics, professions, and practices. No one can predict exactly what the future will look like, but we do need to take proactive steps to ensure we are heading down a viable path for a prosperous future. We hope the opportunities identified during Mission 2130 inspire everyone to dream big while making small, tangible impacts to restore our society, enhance our built environment, and safeguard our planet.

Jessica M. O'Donnell, AIA

YAF Summit 30 Steering Committee Chair

2022 AIA Young Architects Forum Chair

## Acknowledgements

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**Ricardo A. Rodriguez, Assoc. AIA** Bytes & Mortar | A.I. Generation

A special thank you goes to the College of Fellows for sponsoring Mission 2130 and to the staff at the August Wilson African American Cultural Center for opening their doors with such warmth and hospitality.

## **Event overview**

On August 25 to 27, 2022, the American Institute of Architects invited 50 architects, designers, and affiliated professionals to YAF Summit 30: Mission 2130, the 30th anniversary summit of the Young Architects Forum (YAF). These individuals were asked to imagine the world 100 years into the future and to develop a roadmap to a better society. The goal was to orient attendees beyond the immediately accessible into a truly future forward mindset. The two-day event was preceded by a three-part series of virtual charettes called the Code Red Charettes. The Code Red Charrettes were open to the larger AIA membership and beyond, and served as a crowd-sourcing event to do a SWOT analysis of how our profession and society could evolve over the next 100 years, drilling down into themes that would inform the programming of Mission 2130.

In preparation for Mission 2130, the attendees were split into "Mission Crews" focused on a specific theme around the future: Architecture, Society, or Planet. Each of the Mission Crews were asked to define their vision of the future, develop a roadmap to that vision, and identify 3–5 actionable steps that could be taken immediately following the 2030 challenge. The Mission Crews were assigned homework to be completed during the 5 weeks leading up to the Summit. The homework included required reading, determining their Mission Crew names, and developing their roadmaps to focus the work they would do at the in-person event. As an added twist, the crews participated in a creative exchange with an A.I. image generator managed by Bytes & Mortar to conceptualize their vision of the future.

Over the course of the summit, the crews heard inspiring stories from leaders in sustainability and futurism to help refine their visions, encourage them to think bigger, and set boundaries based on emerging trends in technology and practice. The crews spent the rest of the time at the Summit preparing to deliver a pitch outlining their vision, roadmap, and 3–5 actionable steps. The crew with the most compelling pitch would be determined by audience vote. A runner-up would be determined by special vote from the speakers and AIA leadership present at the event.

Each crew presented their challenge pitches in a Pecha Kucha format and, with only seven slides in seven minutes, the groups were forced to distill their visions and roadmaps, highlighting actionable steps the AIA could take in the next 5 years to start on a better path. The audience determined that the <u>Mission Crew O3: the Archinaries</u> offered the most compelling narrative for the future with the 75-mile Amoeba. They proposed a global network of 75-mile Amoeba communities that create a closed loop system for resource creation, collection, manufacturing, and reuse within the 75-mile ecosystem. Integrated with technology, these closed loop systems would create self-sustaining communities with unique local identities. The architect is the primary activator for these amoebas, educating their communities about the value of regenerative design, responsible development

models, and healthy integration of technology. The summit speakers and AIA leadership found Mission Crew O4: Janus' Catalyst Challenge to be especially compelling. Mission Crew Janus proposed the AIA incorporate civic engagement into its continuing education requirements, a tangible step that could yield prodigious results for our society.

The Mission Crew outcomes varied in scale and execution, but had common themes of reforming education, social responsibility, and ecological resources. The following document will elaborate on these themes and identify the Mission Crews that best align with each theme.





Image credit: By Ricardo J. Rodríguez | @bytesandmortar

## **Reforming education**

The most prevalent theme throughout each of the group's proposals was education reform of different scales. The commonality between them being, the profession is not staying informed on the issues that matter. Some crews believed an upheaval of the architectural education system was necessary to refocus emerging designers and practitioners on the issues that most urgently needed to be solved. Though outside the purview of the AIA, some crews believed the profession should be working hard to illustrate that more sustainable and equitable thinking is needed of designers and practitioners when they enter the workforce. Other crews focused their efforts on changes they believed could be made now.

Mission Crew O4: Janus suggested the AIA require 80 hours of continuing education in civic engagement to encourage architects to get more involved in their communities. They calculated this level of engagement would introduce "14.4 Million hours of curated civic engagement by architects provided to communities at large." In doing so, the AIA would be providing architects with the tools they need to make change and informing the public of the issues that are critical to the health, safety, and welfare of our society, getting at the heart of the problem: misinformation and lack of understanding.

Mission Crews focused on Reforming Education:

**Mission Crew Janus** 

**Mission Crew Futurespectives** 

Mission Crew Future OCCUR



Image credit: By Ricardo J. Rodríguez | @bytesandmortar



#### Vision of 2130

A densely populated world in which humanity lives in a symbiotic ecosystem between the built and the living environment where communities live in cities filled with public spaces resplendent with flora, fauna, and freshwater. Spaces are created in collaboration between designers, civic leaders, and the greater public.

Janus has developed the Catalyst Challenge to empower the architect to disrupt the profession, the community, and the planet's current trajectory; as an investment in the future of our world and our communities, prompting a responsibility to heal and not harm.

#### **Challenge Goals:**

- <u>Disrupt the profession</u>: Shatter professional silos and affect change through diversity of valued, engaged decisions, and multidisciplinary collaboration.
- <u>Disrupt the community</u>: Redefine relationships between architects, communities, and other disciplines in order to properly advocate for policy, legislation and investment.
- <u>Disrupt the trajectory</u>: Stop the bleeding Guarantee the ecological and social health of the planet and attain 22nd century Nirvana.

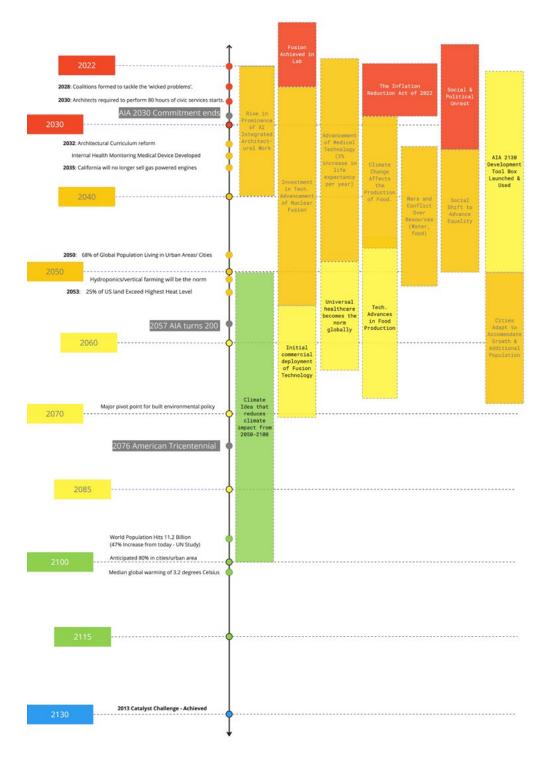
#### **Measurable Successes:**

- 14.4 Million hours of curated civic engagement by architects provided to communities at large.
- 15% of Licensed Architects in U.S. will hold elected or appointed office in political or social leadership and/or contribute to policy and community improvement.
- The planet's resources (water, air, food, flora and fauna) have reached healthy levels (per EPA standards) universally.

#### **Three Actions to Start Tomorrow:**

- Reform architectural curriculum (through NAAB endorsement) to focus coursework on social, mental, physical, environmental, economic health, justice, and collaboration; reinforced by a revised AIA Code of Ethics.
- Require all licensed architects to dedicate 80 hours annually towards public and broad civic engagement efforts.
- Build coalitions between the professions, government and general public to work together to tackle the complex social, environmental and technical issues to create a balanced, sustainable future as originally envisioned by Indigenous peoples.

#### **Mission Crew Timeline: Janus**



### FUTURESPECTIVES

#### Vision of 2130

Future is a system of neighborhoods on the periphery of a monumental relic - A past darkness, a towering lesson in failure. This quilted community surrounding it is a physical manifestation of a new culture of belonging - where subject is valued over object and human is symbiotic with environment.

The Futurespectives have developed the Commitment to the 99% to support future generations in addressing societal inequities through a redefinition of shared values.

#### **Challenge Goals:**

- Initiate radical change to reach symbiosis in global shared values to galvanize future action.
- Redefine the role of the architect as champions for humanity and stewards of the environment (new Standard of Care).
- Expand the definition of basic necessities to Committed Intention to Thrive with Inclusive and Equitable Society necess[CITIES].

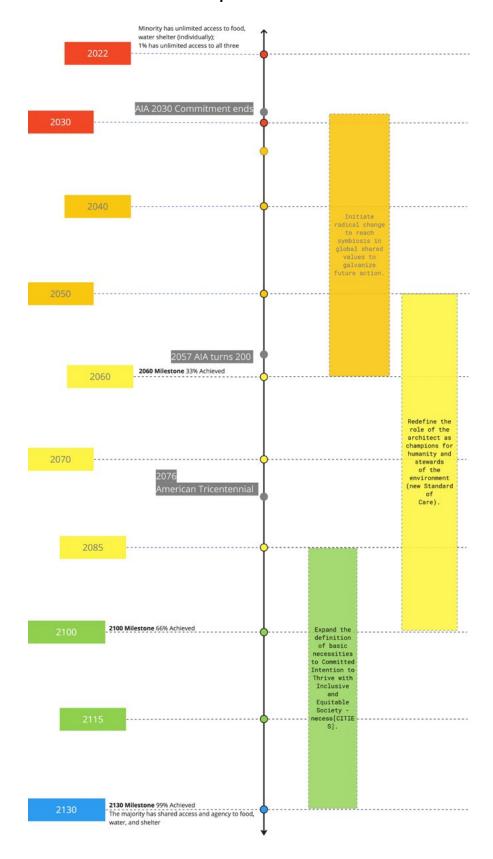
#### **Measurable Successes:**

Increase majority access to agency:

- Success #1 33% by 2060
- Success #2 66% by 2100
- Success #3 99% by 2130

#### **Three Actions to Start Tomorrow:**

- Youth: Integrate critical / design thinking within K-12 systems to develop agency in the next generation.
- <u>Higher Education</u>: Prioritize empathy for cultural and socio-economic considerations affecting the built environment.
- <u>Architects</u>: Require community action continuing education credits. Not only focus on Health, Safety & Welfare, but rather, Community, Empowerment & Understanding credits.



#### **Mission Crew Timeline: Futurespectives**

### FUTURE-OCCUR

#### Vision of 2130

We revolutionized resource consumption and production. Society is defined and rewarded by what we save and protect. Through creating a coexistence with nature, we have addressed societies biggest challenges through impact-driven tasks. Real time positive feedback loops have aided in foreshadowing a more efficient and equitable society.

Future OCCUR, has developed [ \_\_\_\_ ]ism (blank-ism) to avert human extinction through "mycelial networks".

#### **Challenge Goals:**

- We reclaim existing systems and establish [ \_\_\_\_\_ ]ism, a new approach to recognizing the real value of our shared finite resources.
- Leverage technological innovation to alleviate obsolete tasks for improved human connectedness.
- The education system evolves to mission-based learning, focused on placemaking & solving local challenges.

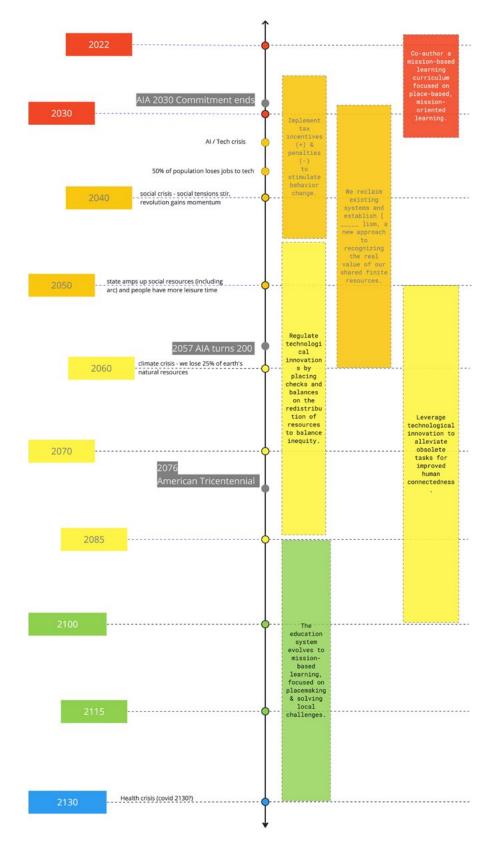
#### **Measurable Successes:**

- People are rewarded for better climate choices. Society no longer solely values wealth, we live in a behavior-centric economy that values symbiosis & conservation.
- · Everyone has basic human needs met.
- Everyone is engaged in the building process. People are made aware of their agency in design. Architects are prepared to support their cause.

#### **Three Actions to Start Tomorrow:**

- Implement tax incentives (+) & penalties (-) to stimulate behavior change.
- Regulate technological innovations by placing checks and balances on the redistribution of resources to balance inequity.
- Co-author a mission-based learning curriculum focused on place-based, mission-oriented learning.





## Social responsibility

Regenerative Revolutions suggested the implementation of a Social Responsibility Metric (SRM) to ensure architects are creating a just and empathic society through the built environment. Empathy was a common theme within several of the crew presentations. Attendees posited that higher levels of empathy for one another would foster greater collaboration and consideration to each the needs of the greater good. The idea of empathy among the crews led to a larger discussion on equity and inclusion around the built environment.

Several crews looked at equity and the sharing of resources as another way of measuring social responsibility. The crews posited there would be greater responsibility for each other and the Earth's resources if everyone had access to the same critical information. How that critical information is defined would be determined through a review of existing educational systems to ensure the best resources are in place.

Mission Crew RE/ACTIVE

Mission Crew Regenerative Revolutions



Image credit: By Ricardo J. Rodríguez | @bytesandmortar

### RE/ACTIVE

#### Vision of 2130

The rain clears, the world brightens. People begin to gather. It is 2130 – symbiotic communities, like the one pictured here, spread throughout the planet. These communities are locally focused, regenerative, and socially robust. Radical changes in policies, economic structures, and social values have created freedom for locally driven solutions to opportunities out of crisis.

RE/Active, has developed the Community Imperative Challenge to drive symbiotic development for society at the neighborhood scale by empowering local leaders.

#### **Challenge Goals:**

- Develop long-term strategic partnerships with parallel organizations to promote joint interest and facilitate a broader understanding of the value of architects.
- Create an aspirational framework that neighborhoods can adopt to drive equitable solutions to the challenges of climate change.
- Expand architect's value and the role we play as community builders and conveners of change.

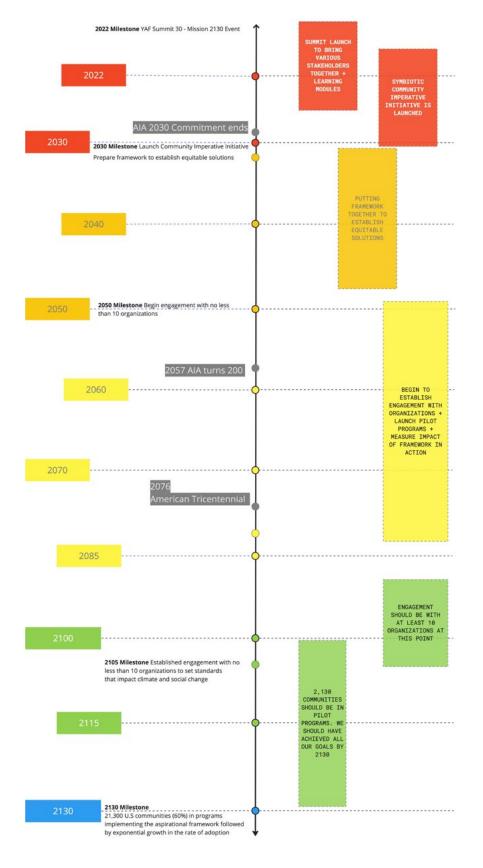
#### Measurable Successes:

- Established engagement with no less than 10 organizations to set standards that impact climate and social change
- 21,300 U.S communities (60%) in programs implementing the aspirational framework followed by exponential growth in the rate of adoption
- Know where the can lands when it is kicked understand and measure the downstream impact of decisions within the neighborhood symbiotic framework

#### Three actions to start tomorrow:

- Empower and equip architects with education and resources to be problem solvers, change makers, and creative thinkers.
- · Author adaptive frameworks ranging from value statements to policy and code implementation
- · Hold the first annual, Architecture+Beyond, summit





### R E G E N E R A T I V E R E V O L U T I O N S

#### Vision of 2130

A pluralistic society with decentralized collective leadership at the helm which embodies and resonates values that embrace mutually respectful relationships, permeable societal boundaries, and equitable and accessible access to all resources which results in thriving communities which live in harmony locally and with humanity as a whole.

Regenerative REVOLUTIONS has developed VALUE\shift to help you + me resolve apathy by designing value systems to encourage interdependent compassion and celebrate cross-cultural connections.

#### **Challenge Goals:**

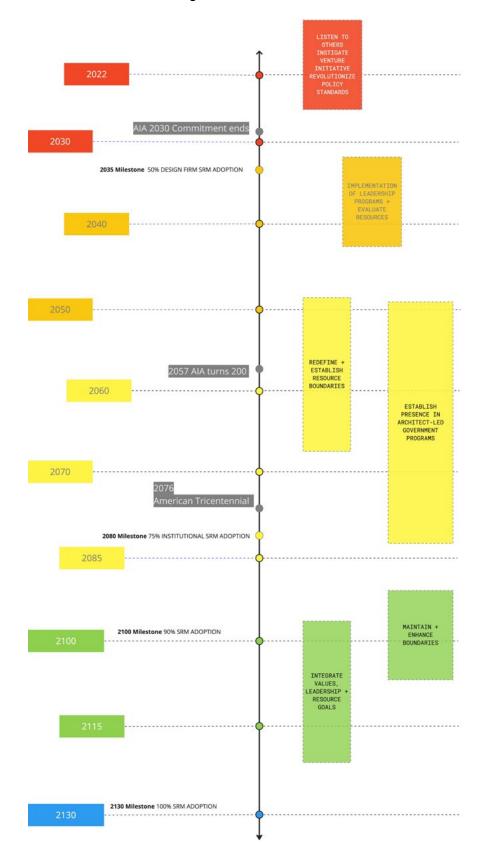
- SOCIETY\values: Pluralistic society embracing mutually respectful relationships
- <u>SOCIETY\leadership</u>: Permeable societal boundaries supported by decentralized and collective leadership
- <u>SOCIETY\resources</u>: Equitable access to resources facilitating community engagement + development

#### **Measurable Successes:**

- · Values: The adoption of Social Responsibility Metric
  - » 5 years: 50% Design; 50 years:75% Institution; 100 years: 100%
- Leadership: Designers in leadership role
  - » 5 years: creation of programs; 50 0100 years: established presence
- Resources: Redefining Boundaries
  - » 5 years: evaluation; 50 years: Establishment; 100 years: Maintenance

#### Three actions to start tomorrow:

- Listen to others: Establish a Social Responsibility Metric (SRM)
- · Instigate venture initiatives: Founded by regional, architecturally-led government councils
- · Revolutionize policy standards: Organizing zones of climate change to utilize resources



#### **Mission Crew Timeline: Regenerative Revolutions**

## **Ecological Resources**

The A.I. generated image process with Bytes & Mortar yielded thought provoking results. Each of the crews was asked to develop a short summary of their vision for 2130 and that information was fed into the A.I. image generator. Over the course of the crews' preparation for the summit, the A.I. generated thousands of images based on regular prompts and reactions from the crews and the Summit steering committee. The result is eight images that responded to each team's vision of the future. Many of those images were representative of post-apocalyptic cityscapes intertwined in regenerative ecosystems because those crews were focused on the planet's ecological health.

The Planeteers focused their pitch on the elimination of linear resources, pushing circular resources and the adoption of adaptation regulations in building code by 2030. Crews believed stricter policies around climate change would be the most effective change agents in improving our society. While many focused on resource allocation and green tactics, The Form Follows Function came up with a slightly different response in their Palimpsest Project proposal, calling for an overhaul on the documentation and preservation of the built environment as a way of learning. In remembering its past, humanity would stop the cycle of destruction for the future.

**Mission Crew The Planeteers** 

Mission Crew Form Follows Function

Mission Crew Archinaries



Image credit: By Ricardo J. Rodríguez | @bytesandmortar

### PLANETEERS

#### Vision of 2130

A city of the past transformed by biotechnological advancements. What was once a crowded, polluted place is now a diverse ecosystem in a de-globalized society. There are soft intertwined edges where land and water meet. Trash does not exist. Materials are repurposed and bio-engineered. Waterways are food, farm, and infrastructure. Everywhere is nature.

The Planeteers have developed the Atlantis 2130 Challenge to help humanity rapidly evolve toward a harmonious relationship with the planet. We will incrementally propel society to adapt to a changing world and eliminate our reliance on linear resources.

#### **Challenge Goals:**

- · Enhance adaptability
- · Establish independence from linear resources
- · Deglobalize physical resources and reglobalize information

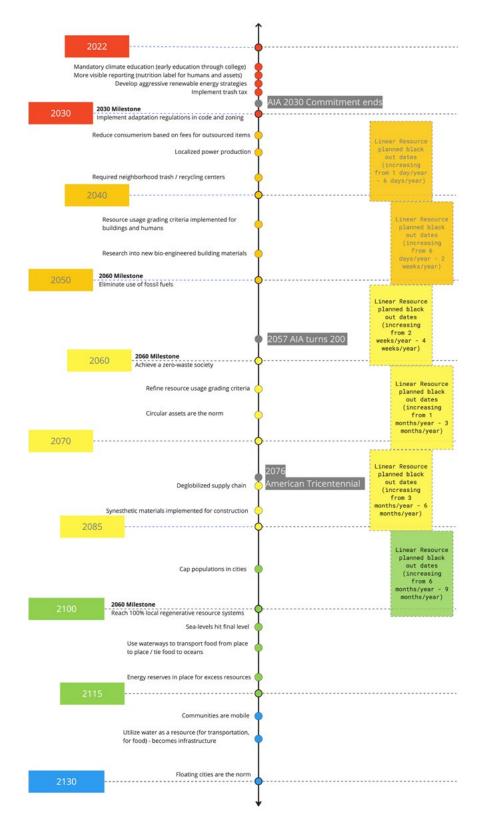
#### **Measurable Successes:**

- · Implement adaptation regulations in code and zoning by 2030
- Eliminate use of fossil fuels by 2050
- Achieve a zero-waste society by 2060
- Reach 100% local regenerative resource systems by 2100

#### Three actions to start tomorrow:

- · Update zoning and building codes to mandate adaptation of buildings in hazard zones
- AIA to gather and analyze data that measures the current use of linear resources. Develop two scoring systems: one for individual humans and one for built assets.
- Research, plan, and establish localized neighborhood resource hubs.

#### **Mission Crew Timeline: Planeteers**



### FORM FOLLOWS FUNCTION

#### Vision of 2130

The built environment experienced metamorphosis through periods of destruction and renewal; A.I. accelerates recovery after each catastrophe. Connections between Humans and A.I. result in an iterative process of evolution; cities never forget and future iterations of architecture are apparent.

Form Follows Function, has developed the Palimpsest Project to help humanity remember itself through AI integration.

#### **Challenge Goals:**

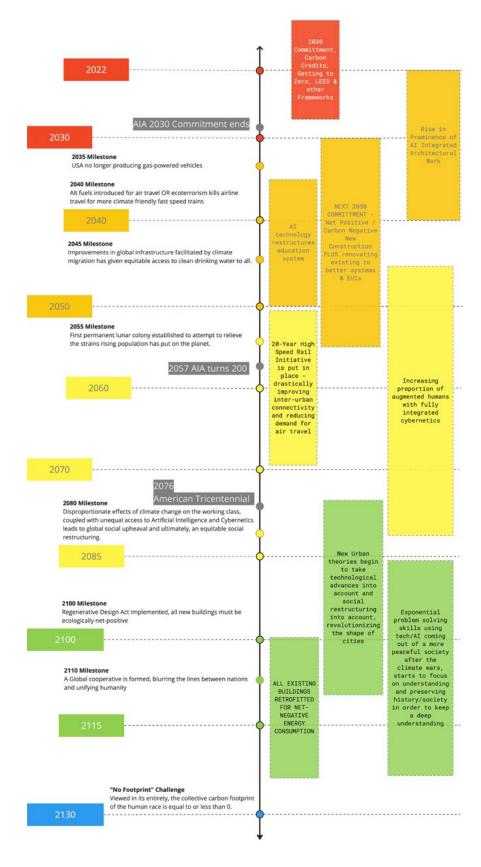
- Establishment of Collective Education Ecosystem that documents present and future iterations of the built environment.
- Restructuring educational approach to encompass a broad definition of human development & AI integration as a fundamental right.
- Equitable access to the collective experience promotes greater civic engagement and healing within communities.

#### Measurable Successes:

- Checks and balances are implemented ensuring that the Ecosystem remains unbiased and secure.
- Equitable access to immersive and lifelong education.
- · Greater civic engagement increases agency and representation.

#### Three actions to start tomorrow:

- Pilot to mandate that all new construction must dedicate funds to document and memorialize the history of the site.
- · Spreading advocacy knowledge on a mass scale.
- · Fostering greater interdisciplinary connections.



#### **Mission Crew Timeline: Form Follows Function**

## A R C H I N A R I E S

#### Vision of 2130

We journeyed across the nebulous flow to augment the existing nodes. It was chirpy, fresh and green beneath the canopy. A festive congregation was forming. Conservation is fundamental, the biosphere is cohabited by terrestrial, aquatic simple and complex life forms. Rhythms of technology & nature blend inside living spaces and expand across the horizon and work in harmony to nourish and regenerate the land.

The Archinaries have developed the 75-mile Amoeba to save all life forms from global extinction by adapting human society into a global network of nodes with local resources, local governance, and interconnected technology.

#### **Challenge Goals:**

- Create closed-loop system for resource creation, collection, manufacture, and reintegration within each 75-mile Amoeba
- Cultivate a society of local communities centered around celebrating distinct cultural identities
- Connect high-performance technological advancements, automation, and augmentation across nodes
- · Champion policy crafted around communal interest

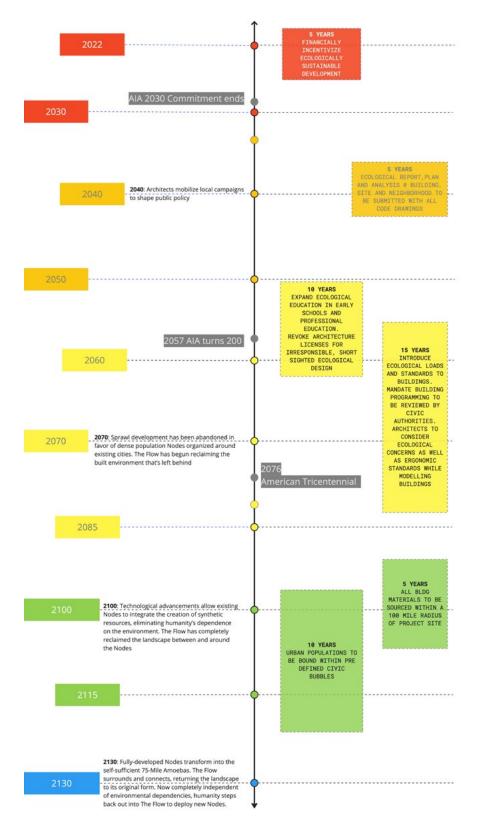
#### Measurable Successes:

- 2040: architects mobilize local campaigns to shape public policy
- <u>2070</u>: sprawl development has been abandoned in favor of dense population Nodes organized around existing cities. The Flow has begun reclaiming the built environment that's left behind
- <u>2100</u>: technological advancements allow existing Nodes to integrate the creation of synthetic resources, eliminating humanity's dependence on the environment. The Flow has completely reclaimed the landscape between and around the Nodes
- <u>2130</u>: fully-developed Nodes transform into the self-sufficient 75-Mile Amoebas. The Flow surrounds and connects, returning the landscape to its original form. Now completely independent of environmental dependencies, humanity steps back out into The Flow to deploy new Nodes.

#### Three actions to start tomorrow:

- · Participate as Citizen Architects, activating communities toward responsible development models
- · Collaborate with tech sector to proactively research and harness technological advancements
- · Educate communities

#### Mission Crew Timeline: Archinaries





There is a consistency in the emerging generation's desire to enact change from the ground up. Grassroots community efforts paired with targeted policy changes seem to be the language of Mission 2130 attendees. These types of events serve as an opportunity to give voices to the unheard as well as a moment to reflect on the actions of the past, while dreaming of the future. Mission 2130 is a milestone for the Young Architects Forum (YAF), celebrating 30 years of contributions for recently licensed architects to the Institute. Over the past several months, the YAF analyzed information gained at the in-person summit and the virtual charettes and used that data to inform their 2023-2027 Strategic Initiative. For the next five years, 'Architects in Action, Catalyzing for Change' will serve as a guidepost for the YAF.

As in the Practice Innovation Lab, the 25th Anniversary summit, the YAF will develop a Mission 2130 Toolkit so this type of exercise can be emulated by AIA components and professional groups across the country. In this way, the momentum from the summit can carry on to a larger audience and more data can be gathered. It is important that emerging architects are having these conversations and even more important that they find opportunities to contribute to the profession. Mission 2130 and YAF summits are one way of getting involved with the AIA and making your voice heard. The YAF is one path, but there are many paths at the AIA. What is important is that you stay involved in conversations about our future.





#### **Mission Crew The Planeteers**

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Mission 2130: Code Red Charrettes

The Summit 30 Steering Committee designed the Code Red Charrette initiative, a series of virtual conversations and a take-home toolkit, to obtain a diverse range of input for what the world could be like in 100 years. Participants were divided into small pods to engage in a SWOT (strength, weakness, opportunity, threat) analysis focus on the overarching topics of: Architecture, Society, and Planet.

The successful interactive effort to crowd-source future risks and opportunities related to the built environment's connection to planetary and human health concluded in May of 2022. The data gathered was run through several programs to synthesize the hundreds of inputs into common threads to inform the Mission 2130 Event. Below are the key highlights of that research.

For more information on the Code Red Charrette process, download the <u>Code Red Charrette</u> <u>Toolkit:</u>

Most commonly used phrases throughout all three overarching topics:



Architecture: top future strengths



Architecture: top potential future weaknesses



Architecture: top potential future opportunities



Broadening Construction of Continued Design Continued Design Continued Design Continued Design Continued Design Continued Continued Continued Design Continued Continu

Society: top potential future strengths



Society: top potential future weaknesses

Architecture: top potential future threats



Society: top potential future opportunities





Planet: top potential future strengths

Society: top potential future threats

Planet: top potential future weaknesses





Planet: top potential future opportunities





Planet: top potential future threats



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