



A Section of
The American Institute of Architects
North Carolina Chapter

June 5, 2009

**FROM JOHN KINCHELOE, AIA, LEED AP
2009 PRESIDENT OF AIA CHARLOTTE**

Dear AIA Charlotte Members, Associate Members and Friends:

I hope this note finds you all well. My tenure as President of AIA Charlotte will hit the halfway point on July 1st, and I wanted to share with you some of the exciting initiatives that AIA Charlotte has been working on over the past few months.

First let me say, on behalf of the Board of Directors that we continue to be aware of the continued challenges that our profession is facing during this economic cycle. It is often hard to stay positive when there seems to be so much negative change that is affecting our profession and our passion for architecture. We may even begin to wonder or forget "Why We Became an AIA Charlotte Architect", but we believe the challenge is how to look beyond our current place in time and focus on the future and focus on how we as architects will remain the design leaders of the built environment.

AIA Charlotte has increased its efforts to begin planning for the future and your Board of Directors has been active in planning a strategy that will continue to allow AIA Charlotte to serve as the voice of the architecture profession and the resource for our members in service to society.

Our planning efforts began with a series of visioning sessions that have occurred over the past couple of months to help us facilitate a strategy for finding an Executive Director and for establishing a direction that we believe our organization should take in embracing the future, whether through greater advocacy or community involvement. This conversation is ongoing, deliberate, and focused on ensuring that our next Executive Director will be able to increase and promote our awareness in the community while maintaining the programs and services that we offer our members.

Through this process, we have been supported by Kate Shelton who serves as the Membership Services Coordinator. We continue to applaud her enthusiasm and her initiative as she continues to expand her role and responsibility within our organization.

The Board of Directors has been working with Kate during this transition period to ensure that we have our “house is in order”. The ongoing process has been quite extensive and includes the following:

- Ensuring that all income and debit ledgers are reconciled with our annual budget.
- Replacing ‘Friday Facts’ with the Monday Morning Announcements that contain an easy to read electronic synopsis of the weekly and ongoing AIA Charlotte activities and events.
- Organizing our sponsorship contact list and reaching out to current sponsors to show our appreciation for their support.
- Reaching out to potential new sponsors of AIA Charlotte which includes the creation of a new sponsorship campaign and marketing materials.
- Creating a new electronic bi-monthly newsletter that will highlight in greater detail the work of our members, community happenings, and AIA Charlotte programs and initiatives.
- Creating an RFP for a new and expanded AIA Charlotte website that will serve as an electronic tool for members and the public alike.
- Becoming involved with the Charlotte Chamber, so that we can actively track Chamber meetings, activities and economic announcements.
- Initiating conversations about our long-term space needs.
- Reaching out to our local and regional press outlets to ensure that AIA architects are being recognized for their design work in the area and to ensure that the press has a membership base for obtaining a greater understanding of the issues that our communities face relative to design, planning and architecture issues.

All of these organizational items will ensure a stronger and more adept AIA Charlotte, and yet we are continuing to maintain our current schedule of programs and initiatives.

Our ALF (Architect’s Looking Forward) program continues to be strong and has expanded to include not only members that are seeking employment, but also members who are interested in coming together to support the architectural community. The experience has been positive and the ALF group continues to meet the 4th Thursday of every month. This month the ALF group will meet in the courtyard outside of the AIA Charlotte office for a summer social.

The Small Firm Roundtable group continues to have strong meeting participation and remains a popular opportunity for people to come together to learn about new products and to share aspects of their practice with their colleagues. Joe Elliot, AIA continues to lead this effort and is already planning for 2010.

The July membership program promises to be exciting as we take a tour the new North Carolina Music Factory which is currently finishing construction off of North Graham Street. This is an exciting project and one that will elevate the music scene of Charlotte within a planned community of music venues, offices, and nightclubs housed in rehabilitated mill warehouses and exterior spaces. The project was designed by Mistri-Hardaway Architects. Additional information is shortly forthcoming.

The AIA Charlotte Design Awards call for entries has been placed and we are hopeful that participation will be great as we highlight both built and un-built projects by AIA Charlotte Architects. We are in the middle of making plans for a Design Awards celebration that promises to be an exciting evening this Fall.

We continue to believe that our strength comes from the active participation and commitment from its members and we will continue to look for volunteers to work with AIA Charlotte to achieve the many goals of our organization.

I look forward to seeing you in July.

John Kincheloe, AIA, LEED AP



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