

Young Architects Forum

AIA Member group

The Young Architects Forum is the voice of recently licensed architects and a catalyst for progress within the Institute.

2024 marks the second year under the 5-year Strategic Initiative of 'Architects in Action; Catalyzing for Change'

2024 Priority Areas

Growth and Career Advancement

Young architects experience a pivotal career phase with unique challenges and opportunities. YAF prioritizes supporting professional and career growth and advancement in all types of career settings.

- Q2 theme is "Growth and Career Advancement"
- Share and create resources to support business acumen, including presentations at conferences
- Create special interest groups within YAF for knowledge sharing
- Partner with COF on the Align Mentorship Program for career growth and mentorship

Steering the Future of the Profession

Through its dynamic network of members and representatives, YAF is uniquely positioned to identify and advocate for the current and future needs of young architects.

- Q3 theme is "Steering the Future of the Profession"
- Continue YAF Summits every five years to reevaluate needs of young architects
- Partner with LFRT on the Future Forward Grant, a \$10,000 award
- Perpetuate Mission 2130 as a toolkit for continued exploration of the future of practice and the agency of young architects for change in the profession

Diversifying and Accelerating Leadership

YAF aims to build engaging and impactful leadership opportunities for volunteers and members while diversifying the leadership pipeline.

- Q4 theme is "Diversifying and Accelerating Leadership"
- Feature the perspectives of diverse young architects through various social media channels
- Bring intentionality to selection of leadership roles, juries, presentations and opportunities for committee members
- Share resources for young architects to advocate for more equitable office environments, profession, and communities

OUTREACH & COLLABORATION:

- Foster strategic partnerships internal and external to AIA to strengthen collective goals.
- Distribute Now YA Know one-page monthly newsletters
- Broaden engagement through 'Open Mic Nights' to share knowledge and crowd-source opportunities for young architects.
- Host a series of webinars to increase the accessibility of information for young architects
- Partner with LFRT, COTE and other groups to strengthen existing synergies and identify untapped opportunities
- Introduce and perpetuate the YAF Strategic Initiative for 2023-2027

MENTORSHIP & COLLEGIALLY:

- Empower young architects to advance their careers by making notable contributions to the profession and their communities
- Highlight important volunteer achievements of all committee members and organize volunteer days of service
- Organize in-person gatherings at major conferences
- Build community within and among young architects by focusing on the YAF value of collegiality
- Strengthen existing collaborations with AIAS, NOMAS, and NOMA.
- Recognize and celebrate recently elevated Fellows and Young Architect Award recipients

CONNECT WITH US:

- **Issuu:** issuu.com/youngarchitectsforum
- **KnowledgeNet:** tinyurl.com/yafknowledgegenet
- **Instagram/Twitter:** @AIAYAF
- **Facebook:** AIAYAFNational
- **Digital Publications:** Look out for YAF content on the AIA digital media hub
- **Toolkits:** Resources for young architects and AIA components, past toolkit topics include: 'How to Facilitate the Emerging Professional Friendly Firm Program,' 'How to Start or Grow an Emerging Professional Committee,' and 'How to Facilitate a Practice Innovation Lab.' Available on Issuu.