

## 2023 COTE Network Quarterly Call Notes – Q3

### Schedule:

- 2023 Q4: Nov 07, 2pm-3pm EST, Office Hours: 3:00-3:30pm EST

### Links:

- [Update your contact information](#)
- [Complete our Survey!](#)
- [Follow up on LinkedIn](#)
- [AIA COTE Chapter Guide](#)
- [2024 AIA COTE Top Ten Award](#)
- [2023 AIA COTE Top Ten for Students](#)
- [Yann Weymouth Graduate Scholarship](#)
- [2023 Steedman Competition](#)
- [Safety Assessment Program](#)
- [Framework for Design Excellence](#)
- [2024 Conference on Architecture](#)
- [2023 AIA Women's Leadership Summit](#)
- [Intersections Research Conference: Material Economies](#)
- [AIA Upjohn Research Initiative Grant](#)
- [Architects in Action Network](#)
- [UN Climate Change Conference \(COP28\)](#)
- [Overview of Changes to Federal R&D Tax Credits/ Deductions and Impact on Architecture Firms](#)
- [Tell Congress to Fix the R&D Tax](#)
- [Energy Efficient Commercial Buildings Tax Deduction \(179D\)](#)
- [Inflation Reduction Act \(IRA\)](#)

### Attendees:

- Lisa Ferretto, AIA Staff
- Kira Gould, COTE Advisory Group member
  
- Bunny Tucker, COTE Network Leader / AIA Colorado COTE
- Beth Brant, COTE Network Leader / AIA Dallas COTE
- Matthew VanSweden, COTE Network Leader / AIA Grand Rapids COTE

- Sheri Hansen
- Ken Levenson
- Simona Fischer
- Frances Hamilton
- Z Smith
- Meghan Lewis
- Michael Winn
- Susan Rainier
- Derek Washam
- Jaelon T. Moaney
- Adina
- Mason Malsegna
- Sean Costello
- Samantha Johnson
- Nathaniel Heckman
- Blake Nanney
- Sara Goenner Curlee
- Suyama Bodhinayake
- Mark Maddalina
- Angie McKinley
- Jenny Heim
- Ganesh Nayak
- josh
- Vanessa Hostick
- Kira Gould
- Daniel Overbey
- Patrick Keeney
- Brian Smiley
- trichey@nbbj.com
- Elisa Rocha
- Christos Hardt
- Mike Johnson
- Brady Dietert
- Lori Ferriss
- Shruti Kasarekar
- Wei Wang
- Christos Hardt
- Sherman Aronson
- David Arkin
- Dan Stine
- Jill DeCoursey
- Emily Coleman-Wolf
- cbolin
- Eana Bacchiocchi
- John Harrison
- Michelle Amt
- Alice Sung
- Zach Stevens
- Henry Siegel
- Courtney Singley
- Caroline Garfield
- Taylor Eisenhower
- Thea Rozenbergs
- Cody Lodi
- Erickson
- Jill Edelman
- Danielle Fleischmann
- Wm. Abrahamson
- Cameron Bolin
- Jim Nicolow
- Chris Hellstern
- Marisol Foreman
- Roxanne Button
- Carlos Augusto Garcia
- Emma Tucker
- Keith Hempel
- Kelley Hicks
- Jennifer Carter
- Kathleen Lane
- Frank Bostrom
- Kjell Anderson
- Tom Chase
- Zoe Guckenheimer
- Katie Alberte
- Rachael Meyer
- Arathi Gowda
- Tiffany Beffel
- Megumi Hironaka
- Tommy Zandi
- Ben Roush
- Adrienne Montare
- jyount
- Katherine Ruiz
- M.Todd
- Amy Kaspar
- Dylan Smith
- Benjamin Rosas
- Daniel J. Jaconetti
- Grace Hooper
- Roshni Krishnan
- Lyndley Kent
- David Hinchey
- Teresa Jan
- Meghan Lewis
- Jill Edelman
- Frances Hamilton
- Ken Levenson
- Mason Malsegna
- Marisol Foreman
- Jenny Heim
- Elisa Rocha
- Ganesh Nayak
- David Arkin
- Rachael Meyer
- Wm. Abrahamson
- Mike Johnson
- Amy Kaspar
- Brian Nicodemus
- Caroline Sorge

### 1. Welcome (5-min)

### 2. Housekeeping:

- I. Update contact information
- II. Complete Q3 call survey
- III. Join AIA COTE social media channels

### 3. National Updates (10-min)

- I. Growing team for 2024!
- II. There will be a COTE gathering at Greenbuild ... that will be a happy hour on THU Sept 28, location TBD ... we'll announce details on social and in the next issue of COTE news
- III. AIA COTE Chapter Guide
- IV. Common App for Design Excellence
- V. Next Call Nov 11 (or 7th), 2023

- VI. 2024 COTE Top Ten opens soon
  - VII. COTE Top Ten Student winners announced in the next couple week
  - VIII. Fellowship / scholarship opportunities available
  - IX. Framework for Design Excellence updates are live!
  - X. A'24 call for presentations open in a couple weeks
  - XI. Upjohn Research Grant
  - XII. Michal Winn – Sr. Director of Advocacy
    - a. Architects in Action Network—great resource ([michaelwinn@aia.org](mailto:michaelwinn@aia.org))
    - b. Annual summer conference
  - XIII. Darek Washam (COP-28)
    - a. COP28—November 30-December 12 (UAE)
  - XIV. Blake Nanney – Senior Manager of Federal Relations
    - a. R&D Tax Credits – any business firms using the R&D over 5-10 years
    - b. S.866 hopes to correct this R&D tax issue
    - c. 179(D) ([blakenanney@aia.org](mailto:blakenanney@aia.org))
  - XV. Jaelon Moaney—Specs on the Union
  - XVI. Feedback from COTE network
    - a. 50% of COTE chapters are working on advocacy
    - b. #1 barrier is time
    - c. Consider how AIA National COTE can support you all
4. Policy Case Studies (20-min)
- I. The Louisiana Leap – Z Smith, EskewDumezRipple
    - a. Red State
    - b. Petrochemical state
    - c. Tremendous issues with economic and racial justice issues (lots of low-income and BIPOC families were adjacent to the Exxon Fire)
    - d. LA now has \$9B in pledges in transition technologies
    - e. Accelerated decarbonization of the grid
    - f. “didn’t want to be the next west Virginia” regarding being left behind in the energy transition
    - g. First southern state with a climate commitment
    - h. Resilience is a key driver for change
    - i. Resilience hubs and cooling centers during power outages
    - j. “Take a sinner to dinner” – getting folks signed up to the AIA 2030 Commitment –set up a network of mutual aid
  - II. Massachusetts and Passive House for Multifamily -- Ken Levenson, Executive Director, Passive House Network + Tom Chase, Senior Program Manager, High Performane Building Team, MassCEC
    - a. accelerating the transition to a clean energy economy
    - b. 2 million existing buildings in MA that will exist in 2030
    - c. 500,000 new buildings

- d. Benefits of Passive House
- e. Ability to shelter in place
- f. PH 62% less energy than both code and LEED buildings
- g. PH attempts to keep incremental costs below 3% (achieved an average of 2.4% incremental costs before incentives)
- h. Heating and cooling costs decrease
- i. In most cases, NO cost increase for insulation
- III. Minnesota + Commercial Building Code Review Period -- Simona Fischer, Director of Sustainable Practices, MSR Design + Sheri Hansen, Director of Communications,
  - a. Advocacy, and Public Outreach, AIA Minnesota
  - b. Stretch Code in MN – 2018 conversation started
  - c. If the codes are adopted fast enough, is there a way for certain cities can voluntarily move faster?
  - d. Lots of consensus building
  - e. Will this stretch code be equitable?
  - f. A Codes Advisory Working Group was created.
  - g. Having architects as advocates in the code advisory groups was really impactful.
  - h. One uniform stretch code option
  - i. Continuous advocacy between 2020 and 2023
  - j. Three-Year commercial energy code review period adopted (was a six-year review period) – it was better to change the process than it was to update the code (update every three years rather than push to update the codes every six years only). Go faster.
- IV. Embodied Carbon -- Meghan Lewis, Senior Researcher, Carbon Leadership Forum
  - a. Based out of the University of Washington
  - b. Large scale trends
    - i. Procurement (buy clean)
    - ii. Climate Action Plans
    - iii. Incentive Programs
    - iv. Building Codes
    - v. Reuse + Deconstruction
  - c. Building approach (whole-building LCA) – focus on design
  - d. Material Approach (using EPDs) – focuses on contractors and manufacturers to develop and procure lower-carbon materials
  - e. IRA -- \$2B available to specify and install low-carbon materials (best (lowest) 20%)
  - f. CALGreen proposes mandatory nonresidential measures.
    - i. Reuse
    - ii. WBLCA – 10% reduction
    - iii. EPDs
  - g. Policy Toolkit
- 5. Break out groups (25-min)

## I. The Louisiana Leap // IECC 2021

- a. IECC 2021 – homeowners associations have been addressing huge mold issues with new construction, “all buildings have to have a mechanism to address humidity without the use of AC” – this got Home Builders Association on board (that were historically adversarial to updated codes due to increase home costs) – and some messaging around competitive advantages for contractors that work across state lines (and industries with higher, more recent codes).
- b. Governor realized that EU would only buy low-carbon fuels, and if we only export high-carbon fuels, we would be left behind.
- c. LA had a couple of very applicable skills (offshore construction) that are very transferable to the new energy economy.
- d. It took folks willing to do the boring work to be on the building code committee for years and years and years.
- e. Is exon transitioning?
- f. You have expertise, just use it for this other thing, and you will have some subsidies; if you don’t, you’ll just leave lots of money on the table.

## II. Passive House

## III. Minnesota + Commercial Building Code Review Period

- a. Code advancements are Tough to move forward.
  - i. Market advancement
    - Important to include an evaluation of cost and market impact.
    - Cost is evaluated at every step.
  - ii. All stockholders are at the table.
    - Legislatures have no idea how the building code works and how it's updated.
    - Residential (homebuilders) having a seat at the table is important to cooperation.
    - Informing everyone about the code and process.
  - iii. Department of Labor
    - Worked with DOL to produce 5 slide presentation of how codes are adopted.
    - The legislator thought the code was updated daily
    - Informing Legislators:
      - Much more rigorize
      - Way more technical
      - Technical process
  - iv. Joe Yount: Indiana, slum lords paradise
    - Mike Pence leaving without an updated energy code – a similar circumstance
  - v. Clear Line Between Residential and Commercial Code:
    - The residential code rep. had a seat in the room
    - Joint Venture sued State - Administrative Law Judge
    - Residential REP has a voice in the technical process
  - vi. Building vs. zoning code
    - Zoning - lumped all together and froze the code
    - Make a distinction between Codes and zoning

- Schoolhouse Rock (how code gets done)
- vii. Quality of life issues
  - Equity issues
    - Affordable housing
      - Is it cheap or affordable?
      - What is the value added
      - Are we cornering people into paying more in utility bills

#### IV. Embodied Carbon

- a. Katie Alberte / NY State / what is after concrete? MLewis: asphalt and steel insulation ... and glass
- b. Caroline Garfield/multistudio / NOLA / differences between architect's role and engineer's role (SE) in LCA? MEP is starting to come in on this, too
- c. AIA 2030 Commitment / Mike Johnson (AIA COTE NOLA), he has heard that there's a movement in the Commitment toward a "holistic" # that would include embodied and operational
- d. ML: WLCA standards will be "rules for this" / this will be critical
- e. David Arkin: there is an alignment effort across MEPs, SEs, architects, infrastructure, landscape, etc ... / not clear when we will see total carbon in the DDx
- f. AIA A+D Materials Pledge:
- g. Athena is working on a Whole Building LCA Credential / nonprofit in Canada
- h. CLF is about to release a report on this topic
- i. Frances Hamilton / Atlanta
- j. Alice Sung / Oakland

#### 6. AFTER HOURS:

- I. How are folks dealing with fundraising?
  - a. Explore other stakeholders besides architecture firms (insurance companies, manufacturers, etc).
  - b. Just ask folks. Coordinate with local chapter/components fundraising activities and see if we can get a piece of local component general budget.
- II. What does climate justice mean? What is AIA national doing in this space?
  - a. The network is really bottom-up – what do local chapters need.
  - b. This year, over 70% of the chapters wanted some programming around embodied carbon.
  - c. Don't really set an agenda – react to what local folks need.
  - d. How does the network integrate with the COTE leadership group? Is there coordination of issues (like climate justice)?

- e. Climate justice is a great intersectional topic with regard to COTE and advocacy.
- f. Q4 call will hear from folks that are prioritizing climate justice so that we can form a coalition of similar chapters working on similar things