



Local Issue Brief

The American Institute of Architects • Government Advocacy • Current Issue Position and Analysis

Center for Civic Leadership

Key Points:

Key initiatives of the Center for Civic leadership are:

- Become the major outreach resource regarding architectural leadership development, education and training programs
- Encourage “Citizen Architects” by supporting civic engagement by AIA members serving in volunteer community service and in elected, appointed, or hired leadership
- Highlighting the importance of leadership training and of creating local programs empowering architects to expand their influence on the communities in which they live, work, and play.
- The Citizen Architect webpage also serves as the primary access point to many other resources for civically engaged members:
www.aia.org/citizenarchitect.

AIA Position

The mission of the AIA Center for Civic Leadership is to advance leadership among architects to ensure livable, healthy, sustainable and quality-designed environments for future generations.

Action Sought

The Center for Civic Leadership seeks to accomplish this mission by becoming the major outreach resource regarding architectural leadership development, education, and training programs. It encourages “Citizen Architects” by supporting civic engagement by AIA members serving in volunteer community service and in elected, appointed, or hired leadership. Finally, the Center highlights the importance of leadership training and of creating local programs empowering architects to expand their influence on the communities in which they live, work, and play.

Explanation and Justification

Leadership is a key component of civic engagement. Architects give back to their communities in many ways beyond the vital role they perform in designing our nation’s buildings. Architects can serve as leaders by serving their communities and contributing meaningfully beyond self, to the community and human condition. The Center for Civic Leadership seeks to assist those architects focused on becoming or growing as community leaders. Focused programming at the annual Grassroots Leadership Conference in Washington, DC and the AIA National Convention provide civically engaged members an opportunity to network and share best practices with one other.

Through the efforts of the Center for Civic Leadership, members can communicate with one another and the AIA on the importance of leadership to the profession. The AIA National, State, and Local components work together to serve the leadership needs of the profession while serving as a repository of resources and cross-collaboration of thought on leadership and civic engagement. The Center for Civic Leadership provides and is currently creating the following resources:

- *Living your Life as a Leader – Creating your Personal Leadership Plan*
- Database of AIA Component Leadership Programs
- Leadership and Citizen Architect toolkits
- Citizen Architect on the Move podcasts and stories
- Leadership stories and podcasts
- Online Social Media networking opportunities and discussion groups

AIA members are invited to join the conversation on leadership and civic engagement at the AIA Center for Civic Leadership KnowledgeNet site:

<http://network.aia.org/AIA/CenterforCivicLeadership/Home>.