November 21, 2016

Dear AIA Northern Virginia Members,

In light of recent election events and the post-election statements issued by EVP/CEO Robert Ivy, FAIA, we are writing to reassure you that your local chapter is here to support you and the long-standing values of the profession. The AIA continues to be a non-partisan organization, with a commitment to defend and promote equity, diversity, inclusion, sustainability and resiliency, and the advancement of the built environment.

AIA Northern Virginia vows to continue working to give all members an opportunity to amplify their voices, but to do so, we need our members to speak up. We urge each of you to engage in one of our committees as it is through working together that we can make the biggest impact. There are many ways to get involved in our chapter.

Advocacy

Our Legislative and Government Affairs Committee is preparing to meet with our local representatives on the Hill in March 2017 to advocate for what matters most to our profession and what is impacting our communities.

Chair: Sean Reilly, AIA

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

Our Women in Architecture (WIA) Committee, along with other Mid-Atlantic area chapters, are currently planning the Women’s Leadership Summit, to be held in Washington, DC in September 2017. This summit works to raise the profile of women in the profession.

Chair: April Drake, AIA

The Young Architects Forum (YAF) continues to provide opportunities for our emerging professionals to not only prepare for exams through our award winning ARE prep series, but to also develop leadership skills and foster fellowship within the industry.

Chair: Braden Field, AIA

Our Architecture Lab enriches classrooms from Kindergarten through high school with an architecturally-based curriculum, educating and inspiring students to appreciate architecture and consider design careers.

Chair: Elma Willcoxon, Associate AIA

Sustainability

Educating and advocating for sustainable design and construction, our Committee on the Environment and our Historic Resources Committee arrange lectures and tours to inform both the profession and the public.

Committee on the Environment Chair: Jin Park, AIA
Historic Resources Chair: John Burns, FAIA

A complete list of all our committees is available here.
In 2017, the AIA Northern Virginia Board will be creating a new five-year Strategic Plan. There will be opportunities for members to get involved, provide input and feedback, share their opinions and help shape the future of our chapter.

We are here to listen and to serve you. Connect with a committee and share your voice today.

Respectfully,

**AIA Northern Virginia 2016 Board of Directors**
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Click [here](#) to read the post-election statement issued by AIA EVP/CEO Robert Ivy, FAIA shortly after the election.

Click [here](#) to see the subsequent AIA video apology.