

### **Improvements to certain Position Statements in 2018:**

The following Position Statements have been identified as “low hanging fruit” for immediate improvement for brevity, clarity, and policy writing best practices. These particular Position Statements will be submitted to relevant stakeholder groups for their input in September and October, 2018, prior to discussion and vote by the Board.

Also included below are several draft commentaries (see Rules of the Board, Section 9.213, “Commentaries”) drafted by General Counsel staff and edited by AIA Communications. Commentaries are a useful tool for AIA to elaborate on the greater meaning behind Public Policies and Position Statements to AIA members and the public. Ideally, each and every Public Policy and Position Statement will have companion commentaries developed and maintained alongside the Directory.

#### **I.A.1 Civic Engagement**

##### **Existing:**

The AIA believes that society and the profession of architecture benefit from civically engaged architects. The AIA seeks to advance leadership among architects to promote livable, healthy, sustainable, and quality-designed environments for future generations through community participation and advocacy. It therefore encourages its members both to become civically engaged and to participate in AIA activities, except as limited by law.

##### **Proposed:**

The AIA believes that society and the profession of architecture benefit from civically engaged architects. In order to advance leadership among architects to promote livable, healthy, sustainable, and quality-designed environments for future generations through community participation and advocacy, the AIA supports its members who wish to become civically engaged and does not prevent those members from participating in AIA activities, except where it may be required by law.

##### **Rationale:**

*AIA components are already required to abide by AIA policy. This change is intended to reflect the mission stated in the AIA Center for Civic Leadership, "to advance leadership among architects to promote livable, healthy, sustainable, and quality-designed environments for future generations through community participation and advocacy" while removing the language that specifically points to components (as it is redundant).*

##### **Draft (example) Commentary:**

“Citizen Architect” has been used to describe architects who have given back in a civic capacity. The term is most commonly associated with Founding Father and architect Thomas Jefferson, and Rural Studio co-founder Samuel Mockbee, FAIA. Both narratives tell compelling career stories that illustrate

the spirit of creative leadership applied through design and activism, and have inspired generations of architects that followed.

In essence, Citizen Architects give back to their communities through civic work in public roles to help educate on the value of architecture. The profession of architecture is inherently suited toward civic engagement because architects design both the public and private spaces that citizens live, work, and play in. With specialized knowledge, skills and experiences of how the built environment affects the wider community, architects have the potential to be an influential voice in government.

- From the AIA Citizen Architect Handbook

## **I.A.2 Art and Architecture**

### **Existing:**

The AIA supports public and private building programs that include an appropriate budget for the introduction of art integrated into the project so that it complements the architecture, when appropriate, into all project types. The integration of art should be an early and essential part of the design process, so that art can be fully coordinated with architecture. In support of this premise, the AIA recommends continued government federal funding for the arts through programs administered by the National Endowment for the Arts and other offerings funding opportunities available at the state and local levels.

### **Proposed:**

The AIA believes that art enhances the human experience in the built environment. The AIA supports programs that promote the integration of art into the design and construction process. The AIA also supports government funding for the inclusion of art in public projects, and funding of federal, state and local programs with missions that promote the use of art in public buildings and spaces.

### **Rationale:**

*These changes keep the meaning behind the position and broaden it for ANY federal, state or local program, instead of naming specific departments or programs, to add clarity and make it easier for components and members to interpret its simple message of support for art integrated into design. This also provides a better link to "civically minded" architects who may support such programs, as in 1.A.1*

### **Draft (example) Commentary:**

In the built environment, works of art act as a cultural conduit and emotional connection for people who experience them. The enhancement that art brings to buildings can be observed throughout the history of architecture, and from private collections to public buildings, art enhances the human experience in ways that transcend "brick and mortar." Further, programs that support the integration of art into architecture serve the public by promoting the cultural significance of art, and by extension, beauty, in

the places enjoyed by the public. Programs such as the General Services Administration's Art in Architecture program work to protect the cultural legacy of art and architecture of the United States.

### **I.B.3 Research and Development**

#### **Existing:**

The AIA supports the promotion of research and development of materials, technologies, and practices that advance client and user needs, maintain the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare, and improve the quality of the built environment.

#### **Proposed:**

The AIA supports the promotion of research and development of materials, technologies, and practices that advance the needs of clients and the public, improve the quality of the built and natural environments, and protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

#### **Rationale:**

*These changes update the Position Statement to include aspects of sustainability. They also remove the term "users" and replace it with "the public." This reflects the AIA's use of the terminology to mean anyone in the public (including non-users, who may be nonetheless affected by research indirectly).*

#### **Draft (example) Commentary:**

Novel research and development in the construction sciences and industry drive innovation in design, materials and methods, and in construction. The AIA supports the funding of research and development programs because architects benefit directly from the added efficiency, safety, utility, and aesthetic advancements that it provides. Innovation also spurs the continued evolution and growth of the industry, and improves the quality of spaces and places architects design for the benefit of their users. For the reasons stated above, AIA members stand to benefit from the AIA's support of research, and the discovery and advancement it provides.

### **I.D.1 Architecture Awareness in Education**

#### **Existing:**

The AIA supports integrating the art and science of architecture into K-12 core curricula and post-secondary education. Course offerings should enhance the understanding of the built environment, and inspire creative and critical thinking about the importance of healthy buildings, sustainable design, and livable communities that positively impact quality of life.

#### **Proposed:**

The AIA believes that education in the art and science of architecture in K-12 core curricula and post-secondary education will benefit society by creating early exposure to and public awareness of the impact and importance of design and the built environment. The AIA supports the integration of architectural subject matter that promotes creative and critical thinking about the importance of architecture, and its impacts on human and environmental health, safety, and welfare.

#### **Rationale:**

*These changes are intended to align the Position Statement with other positions that the AIA has taken on sustainable design, livable communities, and health, safety and welfare. The language has also been changed to better reflect the new policy writing guidelines.*

#### **Draft (example) Commentary:**

In building interest in architecture for America's youth, we seek to ensure that future generations – as members of an educated populace and as potential clients -- will appreciate its achievements and profession. Architecture is as much about creativity and utility as it is about critical thinking. The limitless potential of design to improve our world is precisely where art and science intersect to define architecture's contribution to education at all levels. The AIA believes that such a contribution is critical to a sustainable future.

### **III.B.5 Design Excellence in Publicly Funded Projects**

The AIA advocates for the creation and preservation of publicly funded buildings, places, and projects of lasting significance and usefulness that represent the highest ideals of citizens and their government. Public buildings should demonstrate advanced sustainability strategies for integrated teams and systems, resource efficiency, community responsiveness, and human health and well-being. Society is best served by public building designs that meet and exceed the specific requirements inherent in each individual project and site.

#### **Proposed:**

The AIA believes that society is best served by public buildings, places and projects that represent the highest ideals of American citizens and their elected government. The AIA supports the funding for and creation of public buildings that demonstrate advanced sustainability strategies for integrated teams and systems, resource efficiency, community responsiveness, and human health and well-being that meet and exceed the specific requirements inherent in each individual project and site.

#### **Rationale:**

*This text has been reworded to reflect new writing guidelines.*

#### **Draft (example) Commentary:**

TBD