AIA
Virginia

Welcome Guide

Supporting
architects
from every
angle.

aiava.org

Welcome to AIA Virginia, a state component of the American Institute of Architects.

We are pleased to provide you with this Member Welcome Guide to help you take full advantage of your membership.

What is AIA Virginia?

The American Institute of Architects is a professional society with component organizations at the national, state and local levels. AIA Virginia is a state component of the AIA, focused on delivering value to architects with statewide impact. Since 1914, AIA Virginia has represented the professional interests of architects and allied professionals in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

AIA Virginia works in collaboration with five local chapters — Blue Ridge, Central Virginia, Hampton Roads, Northern Virginia and Richmond. These six components join with West Virginia in forming The Region of the Virginias to elect a representative to the AIA Strategic Council. Together with the national component and components across the country, we form one AIA.

Our Mission

AIA Virginia is the voice of the architecture profession in the Commonwealth, dedicated to serving its members, advancing their value, and improving the quality of the built environment.

Our Vision

Through a culture of innovation, AIA Virginia empowers its members and inspires the creation of a better built environment.

What We Do

While you focus on the business of architecture, we support and protect you by monitoring and influencing legislation and regulation at the state level.

Staying current in your profession is critical to your success. We provide a wide range of professional development opportunities throughout the state.

Good architecture and design affect the quality of life for all the citizens of Virginia. We communicate the value of your work and the role you play in the community.

Professional relationships enrich your career. We help connect you with colleagues who share common challenges, opportunities and interests.

How We Do It

Advocacy

- We fight for fair state laws and regulations regarding the built environment.
- We work to educate Virginia legislators about the complicated issues surrounding the practice of architecture: building codes, qualifications-based selection, statutes of repose, historic tax credits, growth management, historic preservation, and more.
- We propose state regulations that benefit the practice of architecture.
- We position architects as leaders in the community through recommendations for gubernatorial appointments.
- We provide comments and recommendations on statewide codes and regulations.
- We track and provide you with updates on legislation of interest to architects.
- We sponsor a Political Action Committee that supports legislators (on a non-partisan basis) who have been identified as friends of the profession.
- We encourage Citizen Architects by supporting volunteer, elected, and appointed leadership service within government, civic and charitable organizations.

Interested in finding out how to get involved in advocacy efforts?
Contact: cclayborne@aiava.org

Professional Development

- We host an annual convention — Architecture Exchange East — to keep you on the cutting edge of the profession (and earn up to 18 learning units).
- We develop and deliver the Design Forum and Art of Practice conferences around the state in alternating years.
- We recognize excellence in design and preservation through various awards programs.
- We assist emerging professionals on the path to licensure and continue to nurture professional growth through leadership development programs.
- We track continuing education units.
- We distribute AIA Contract Documents and Code Books.

This is just the tip of the iceberg! Interested in finding out more about AIA Virginia Professional Development opportunities? Contact: rgeorge@aiava.org

Public Outreach

- We work to educate members of the media about the contributions of architects and allied professionals to the community.
- We promote Virginia Architecture Week, an annual celebration of the built environment.
- We maintain a robust website and social media channels offering information about the value of architects and up-to-date news and industry trends.
- We support educational programming — for preschoolers to senior citizens — to create a community of design advocates and nurture future architects through The Branch Museum of Architecture and Design and other relevant organizations.
- We keep annual membership data which is made available to the people in search of an architect (and your peers in search of your professional contact information).

Are you interested in getting involved in public outreach efforts? Contact: rgeorge@aiava.org

Professional Connections

- We sponsor state Knowledge Communities to keep you connected with others who share your professional interests and passions.
- We mindfully create networking opportunities during all of our events.
- We promote collaboration among practitioners, students and professors in Virginia through programming, scholarships and awards.
- We help you find a job (or the perfect employee) by offering job postings on our website.

Interested in finding out more about AIA Virginia networking opportunities or ways to stay connected? Visit www.aiava.org

AIA Virginia Staff

The staff of AIA Virginia is committed to providing member value and service.

Executive Vice President
R. Corey Clayborne, AIA, MBA
cclayborne@aiava.org

Managing Director
Rhea George, Hon. AIA Virginia
rgeorge@aiava.org

Director of Finance
Keesha Ezell
kezell@aiava.org

Member Services Director
Cathy Guske, Hon. AIA Virginia
cguske@aiava.org

Sales Director
Judy S. Cheadle
jcheadle@aiava.org

**AIA Virginia
2201 W. Broad St.
Ste. 207
Richmond, VA 23220
(804) 644-3041**

Frequently Asked Questions About Membership

What is the AIA Virginia dues cycle?
Membership dues are calculated on a calendar year, January to December. Look for your renewal letter in October or November. Dues for new members are prorated quarterly.

How am I assigned to a chapter?
Chapter affiliation is assigned by ZIP code based on the home or work address that you selected as your preferred address on your membership application.

How do I update my contact information?
Contact your Member Services Director, Cathy Guske, at cguske@aiava.org or (804) 237-1763, and we'll be happy to update your information at the state, national and local level.

When is the annual meeting?
The annual meeting takes place in Richmond inNovember, at our annual convention, Architecture Exchange East. A notice announcing membership meetings will be sent to all members.

Can I join AIA Virginia without joining the national and local level?
Membership in the AIA for Architect and Associate members is a three-tiered organization, requiring membership at each level. Allied membership works a little differently. Allied members can choose the state and local components they want to reach.

How is AIA Virginia governed?
AIA Virginia bylaws and rules of the board define how the organization is governed. Changes to the bylaws can be recommended by the board, but can only be implemented by a vote of the membership. The board is made of directors and officers. Directors are nominated to the board by Virginia's five chapters. There is also one director representing each of Virginia's accredited architecture programs and one representing associate members. Officers are elected each year at the annual meeting.

Have more questions? Contact your Member Services Director, Cathy Guske at cguske@aiava.org or (804) 237-1763.