



AIA Seattle Public Policy Board – Charter & Responsibilities

Mission

Through advocacy, AIA Seattle promotes a well-designed, sustainable city and creates opportunities for architects to prosper. Our advocacy agenda spans all scales of design. AIA Seattle's Public Policy Board (PPB) leads our advocacy efforts. The Public Policy Board, appointed by the AIA Seattle Board of Directors, establishes advocacy priorities and effects change on public policy and design issues related to the built environment and the business of architecture in the jurisdictions served by our component. PPB makes recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding policy positions and takes direct action on approved positions on behalf of the Board of Directors. In addition, the Public Policy Board reviews and makes recommendations to the AIA Seattle Board of Directors on positions under consideration by AIA Washington Council.

The Public Policy Board holds primary responsibility for AIA Seattle's vision related to advocacy, which states:

AIA Seattle is the leading credible voice for quality design and the built environment. We successfully promote public policies that support a well-designed and sustainable built environment and we are the go-to resource for policy makers working on issues of importance to our members.

Key Questions

- What types of issues should AIA Seattle get involved in?
 - Which laws, codes and city policy plans should we influence to promote good design and improve our practice opportunities?
 - Which big issues impacting the built environment would benefit most from the voice of the architecture profession?
- What are the most impactful ways that AIA Seattle can make a difference on those issues?
 - When should AIA Seattle be a leader, a partner, a commenter, or a bystander on issues involving the built environment and the practice of architecture?
 - How can architects improve the quality of design in our community?
 - How can AIA Seattle maximize its impact to promote good design, good business, and stronger communities through advocacy?

Responsibilities

Responsibilities could include a broad range of policy issues related to the built environment or the practice of architecture. These could include providing comment or expertise with regard to broad land use and policy decisions or budget items brought forward by individual jurisdictions, proposed code amendments by individual jurisdictions, local implementation approaches for

state or regional policy that impacts the built environment, or commenting on local impacts of state or regional policies or legislation. They could also include gathering feedback, providing education, or otherwise discussing any of the above with members or the general public. Specific examples include the following.

Strategic leadership

Review local legislative, regulatory and policy issues to identify a limited number of key advocacy issues that are of most relevance to AIA Seattle members. Collect member input regarding advocacy priorities. Prioritize issues and submit position statements for approval by the Board of Directors.

Legislative action

Take direct action to promote and advance AIA Seattle's interests in the key advocacy issues through letters and op-eds, endorsement of legislation, development of position papers and principles, direct advocacy with elected officials and action alerts to our members.

Oversight and evaluation

Inspire and involve AIA Seattle's member committees focused on advocacy, code and policy related to the built environment; evaluate ongoing committee activity; and make recommendations to the Board of Directors for changes to committee activities and structure. Appoint policy task forces as needed.

Government relations

Develop and maintain relationships with the local elected officials and government leaders involved with key advocacy issues.

Expectations

Public Policy Board meets once a month. The Public Policy Board establishes priorities in alignment with AIA Seattle's strategic plan as part of the annual plan for consideration by the Board of Directors. Public Policy Board members are asked to help develop AIA Seattle programming which corresponds to their issue area of expertise.

Public Policy Board members are appointed by the Board of Directors for a 3-year term beginning in September with additional years possible with a maximum of up to six years. PPB members can reach out to the chair of the PPB and supporting staff to discuss adjustments to term.

Expertise

Public Policy Board members will have an interest in advocacy and expertise in an area of legislation or urban design related to one of the Public Policy Board's priority issues. Public Policy Board members serve as ambassadors for the organization. They freely share connections and expertise with AIA Seattle.

Additional Details

- The Public Policy Board selects a limited number of issues to maximize its effectiveness.

- The Public Policy Board addresses issues relevant to the profession that are of citywide and regional importance.
- The Public Policy Board does not give critiques on the design solutions of individual projects, but it does address issues that have implications beyond a specific project.
- The Public Policy Board recommends positions on issues for consideration by the AIA Seattle Board. The AIA Seattle Board issues new position statements on behalf of the organization.
- The Public Policy Board and AIA Seattle do not endorse political candidates or comment on individual architectural projects or members' work.