



## AIA Seattle Professional Practice Steering Committee Charter and Responsibilities

### Purpose

AIA Seattle offers a wide array of programming opportunities to our members and the broader community through educational offerings, design awards, and research activities. The Professional Practice Steering Committee seeks to integrate programming and facilitate connections to advance the practice of architecture. The Committee supports staff, task forces, and member committees as they align professional knowledge sharing with AIA Seattle's Mission + Vision + Values and the industry's evolving needs.

### AIA Seattle

Center for Architecture  
& Design  
1010 Western Ave  
Seattle, WA 98104

T (206) 448 4938

[aiaseattle.org](http://aiaseattle.org)

### Mission + Vision + Values

#### OUR MISSION:

We champion the central role of architects in creating and sustaining a better built environment.

#### OUR VISION:

We envision a culture of design that fosters equitable, resilient, and thriving communities.

#### OUR VALUES:

- Demonstrate and promote design excellence.
- Represent our collective design voice, while valuing individual contributions.
- Speak up on important issues, convene courageous conversations and embrace risk when it serves our mission.
- Advocate for opportunity, diversity, and inclusion in practice and process.
- Consider future generations and elevate sustainability to safeguard our Northwest landscape, community and climate.
- Foster cross-industry connections and partnerships to magnify our collective impact.

#### OUR IMPERATIVES:

AIA Seattle commits time and resources to align our work to achieve change in three primary categories:

**Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion:** AIA Seattle is committed to identifying, naming and dismantling systemic discrimination within the architecture community in order to nurture universal inclusion and fairness in the built environment, for the communities we impact.

**Housing:** AIA Seattle is committed to the development of plentiful, quality, diverse, and sustainable housing options for current and future residents of Seattle.

**Climate:** AIA Seattle commits itself to positive climate action and accelerating our shared goals of a decarbonized, equitable and resilient built environment that allows future generations and ecosystems to thrive.

## Collective Responsibilities

### Strategic Leadership

Anticipate opportunities and challenges facing the practice of architecture, and consider education, awards and research programming to lead or respond. Understand core education needs of AIA Seattle members. Recommend a comprehensive set of long and short, affordable education programs to be produced by member committees, staff, or outside providers. Identify and recommend opportunities for more integration among the full spectrum of AIA Seattle programs including advocacy initiatives and exhibits.

### Stewardship and Guidance

Supervise core education offerings for AIA Seattle members, ensuring relevance, adequate availability, breadth and quality of affordable education for all members. Inspire and involve member committees focused on professional practice, evaluate ongoing committee activity, and encourage them to create relevant programming for all members. Oversee new initiatives related to the AIA Seattle Honor Awards for Washington State program. Consider the effectiveness of education and awards programs and review key performance indicators. Seek to integrate research activities and reports into AIA Seattle's professional programming.

### Resource Allocation

Assist decisions regarding how to allocate limited staff and resource capacity to support education programs.

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## Individual Expectations

Professional Practice Steering Committee members serve as ambassadors for the organization. They freely share connections and expertise with AIA Seattle and outwardly promote the benefits and value of AIA Seattle membership as they and their networks experience them. They attend monthly meetings to assist in conceiving, planning, and executing practice-focused initiatives.

The Committee also evaluates the activities of its related Member Committees each year through the Annual Plan process. Individuals are responsible for communicating with their assigned committees quarterly, to provide support and recommendations in executing their respective visions, connecting them to other committees, and help them understand how they fit into the chapter holistically.

## Key Dates

Sept	Professional Practice Steering Committee year begins
Early Sept	Joint planning with Membership Steering Committee to set Orientation agenda + overall steering committee alignment
Late Sept/early Oct	Orientation meeting with chairs of related member committees to support alignment and collaboration

Nov	Review committee Annual Plan documents and provide feedback
Dec	Committees return revised Annual Plans to Professional Practice Steering (as needed)
March	Joint planning with Professional Practice Steering Committee to set Mini-Retreat agenda + overall steering committee check-in
April	Committee Chair Mini-Retreat for mid-year networking/review of activities
May/June	Education priorities for upcoming calendar year
July/Aug	Identify new Professional Planning Steering Committee members for Board year beginning Sept 1

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## Composition

### Number

The Professional Practice Steering Committee is comprised of 6–8 members that represent the diversity of professional practice. Three total members of the committee shall also be members of the Board of Directors, as identified by Director positions available.

### Term

Professional Practice Steering Committee members are appointed by the Board of Directors for a 3-year term beginning in September. Committee members may be appointed for an additional term at the discretion of the committee, Board President, and members.

### Expertise

Professional Practice Steering Committee members represent a range of industry sectors. This may include representation from the full ten-county service area, diversity in lived experience and knowledge expertise, various firm sizes and typologies, and adjacent fields such as landscape architecture, urban design, general contracting, engineering, and education.

### Recruitment

Recruitment for the committee is conducted by current P2 members as well as the Membership Advancement Committee. Membership within the chapter and prior involvement within a committee, particularly as Chair, is preferred. We seek individuals with specific expertise within the profession and wide country representation, and look to engage Allied members.

## Member Committee Portfolio

Architecture for Health  
Adaptation & Resilience  
Codes



Committee on Architecture for Education  
Committee on the Environment  
Honor Awards  
Mass Timber  
Urban Design Forum

### Professional Practice Steering Committee Members

*Terms end August 2024*  
John Rodezno Assoc. AIA  
Allison Pride AIA  
Karen Wood AIA

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*Terms end August 2025*  
Sarah Burk AIA (Co-Chair 2022-2024)  
Claire McConnell (Co-Chair 2023-2025)

*Terms end August 2026*  
Kara Weaver ASLA  
Laura Ovsak AIA  
Melissa Maddux Renner AIA

[Link to AIA Seattle organization chart](#)