

2026 Committee Guide

Hello!

AND WELCOME!

AIA Austin actively engages the expertise of its members to influence and shape the built and natural environment in the greater Austin area. With 25 active committees, AIA Austin directs ongoing efforts within the community to promote the value of design and the work of AIA architects. This guide presents an overview of AIA Austin's committees—we hope you will find a place to get connected!

Ingrid Spencer, Executive Director

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See our work in [AIA Austin's 2025 Impact Report](#).

AIA Austin

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Our Committees

BOARD-LEVEL COMMITTEES

- 1 Center Site Search
- 1 J.E.D.I Task Force (Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion)

PUBLIC ROLE & ADVOCACY

- 2 Housing & Affordability
- 2 Mobility
- 2 Resiliency and Climate Response

MEMBERSHIP & COMMUNITY BUILDING

- 3 Allied Member Roundtable (AMR)
- 3 Emerging Professionals (EPs)
- 3 Fellowship
- 4 Latinos in Architecture (LiA)
- 4 Leadership Collective
- 4 LGBTQIA+ Alliance
- 5 Women in Architecture (WiA)

OUTREACH

- 6 Architecture: K-12
- 6 Design Awards
- 6 DesignVoice
- 7 Homes Tour
- 7 Honor Awards

PRACTICE

- 8 BEC: Austin (Building Enclosures Council)
- 8 Commercial Architecture
- 9 Committee on the Environment (COTE)
- 9 Custom Residential Architects Network (CRAN)
- 9 Small Firms Roundtable (SFR)
- 9 Urban Design

DESIGN AUSTIN JOINT COMMITTEES

- 10 Exhibitions & Experiences
- 10 Guide to Austin Architecture

Board-Level Committees

CENTER SITE SEARCH

AIA Austin and Design Austin have long imagined a center for design in Austin (“the Center”). In 2022, both boards adopted an integrated strategic plan to establish this space. The Center will be a virtual and built place with programs offered onsite and around the region. Its foundational principle is to expand the understanding and appreciation of design excellence and its myriad applications. For the next several years, both AIA Austin and Design Austin will be transformed by the focus on the Center.



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JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION (J.E.D.I.)

The principles of Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging are important priorities for AIA Austin, AIA National, and the profession of architecture. Our committee seeks to improve our organizations and our profession by imbuing these considerations into everything we do.

aiaaustin.org/committees/j-e-d-i-committee/



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Image: Patrick Wong

Public Role & Advocacy

PUBLIC ROLE & ADVOCACY COMMISSION

The AIA Austin Advocacy Commission assists AIA leadership, committees, and membership in coordinating consistent, systematic efforts to promote our expertise and identify audiences, venues, and mediums to advance the values of our organization.

aiaaustin.org/committees/advocacy



2026 Public Role & Advocacy Commissioner
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HOUSING ADVOCACY & AFFORDABILITY

The Housing Advocacy & Affordability Committee promotes affordable housing for all Austinites. We track code, policies, and discriminatory housing practices. The intention of this group is to be proactive, not reactive, on housing policy; we look for organizations to partner with on issues as we leverage our own expertise as design professionals and leaders of the community.

aiaaustin.org/committees/housing-advocacy



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MOBILITY

The Mobility Advocacy Committee promotes regional transportation solutions that address equity, sustainability, and quality of life issues while providing a range of transportation options. We believe that successful attempts to promote design and quality of life initiatives in the built environment must include transportation and the public realm as integral parts of the whole.

aiaaustin.org/committees/mobility/



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RESILIENCY & CLIMATE RESPONSE

The Resiliency & Climate Response Committee's mission is to help mitigate, adapt, and prepare for the ongoing and future impacts of climate change. We strive to identify practical solutions, build awareness, educate, and advocate for urgency in climate resilience activities.

aiaaustin.org/committees/resiliency-climate-response/



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Membership & Community Building



2026 Membership & Community Building Commissioner
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ALLIED MEMBER ROUNDTABLE

The AIA Austin Allied Member Roundtable exists to recognize, educate and develop, and further the relationships with its members as they seek to support the vision of AIA Austin, and to identify ways to increase the value of Allied Membership for Allied Member businesses, and ways that Allied Members can best support the Chapter.

aiaaustin.org/committees/aia-austin-allied-member-roundtable/
Instagram | [@aia.austin.amr](https://www.instagram.com/aia.austin.amr)



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EMERGING PROFESSIONALS (EPs)

Our mission is to provide an opportunity for discussion and growth for young architectural professionals as they work towards licensure, along with relevant resources for continued development after registration. We also foster a strong network of multidisciplinary members and non-members and promote the value of architecture through its impact in the community.

aiaaustin.org/committees/emerging-professionals
Instagram | [@aiaaustin.ep](https://www.instagram.com/aiaaustin.ep)



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FELLOWSHIP

The AIA Fellows are recognized with the AIA's highest membership honor for their exceptional work and contributions to architecture and society. Only three percent of architects are fellows worldwide. Fifty-three AIA Austin members have this distinction. Fellows seek to advance the profession of architecture, mentor young architects, and be of ever-increasing service to society.



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Membership & Community Building

LATINOS IN ARCHITECTURE (LiA)

Latinos in Architecture (LiA) is dedicated to fostering a more diverse and inclusive architecture community. Our mission is to provide resources, support, and opportunities for Latinx architects, designers, and allies. To promote cultural awareness and sensitivity within the broader architectural profession. Through networking events, mentorship programs, and professional development initiatives, LiA strives to create a vibrant and supportive community that reflects the rich diversity of our profession.

aiaaustin.org/committees/latinos-in-architecture
Instagram | [@latinos.in.architecture_atx](https://www.instagram.com/latinos.in.architecture_atx)



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LEADERSHIP COLLECTIVE

The mission of the Leadership Collective is to support visionary, diverse leadership for a more sustainable, equitable future in our profession. We aim to catalyze change by cultivating emerging professionals with the necessary support and guidance as the next generation of leaders to achieve successes in their professional careers, pioneer new endeavors, and grow community partnerships.

aiaaustin.org/committees/leadership-collective



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LGBTQIA+ ALLIANCE

Our mission is to preserve and celebrate queer space while supporting LGBTQIA+ designers in Austin and beyond. We aim to create a safe environment for conversation, build community, and foster diversity and inclusion within our profession and organization.

aiaaustin.org/committees/lgbtqia-alliance
Instagram | [@lgbtqiaalliance](https://www.instagram.com/lgbtqiaalliance)



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WOMEN IN ARCHITECTURE (WiA)

Our mission is to promote, validate, and illuminate the role of women within the architectural field through fostering community, fellowship, education, and outreach.

aiaaustin.org/committees/women-in-architecture
Instagram | [@wia_austin](https://www.instagram.com/wia_austin)
LinkedIn | [AIA Austin Women in Architecture](https://www.linkedin.com/company/aia-austin-women-in-architecture)



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Outreach



2026 Outreach Commissioner
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ARCHITECTURE: K-12

Architecture: K-12 invites the community to explore, create and learn about the value of architecture through youth and family program opportunities. We host Architecture in Schools as part of AISD's Prime Time afterschool program offered in Title I schools. We also offer Box City at Earth Day and Family Workshops at the Center for Architecture, both great activities for children 12 and under.

aiaaustin.org/committees/architecture-k-12/
Instagram | [@architecture_k12](https://www.instagram.com/architecture_k12)



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DESIGN AWARDS

This committee provides a platform to showcase excellence in design that is produced by AIA Austin architects and selected by a panel of distinguished jurors. The committee organizes and implements the annual AIA Austin Design Awards Competition and Awards Celebration.

aiaaustin.org/committees/design-awards/



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DESIGNVOICE

DesignVoice facilitates opportunities for design professionals to serve their community through collaborative, design-focused events and informational programs. DesignVoice is a forum in which new projects or efforts are welcome—bring them forward!

aiaaustin.org/committees/designvoice
Instagram | [@aiadesignvoice](https://www.instagram.com/aiadesignvoice)



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HOMES TOUR

The AIA Austin Homes Tour showcases the architecturally significant residential work of licensed architects and AIA Austin members, and educates and delights the public by featuring successful collaborations with architects, homeowners, artisans, design and construction professionals, and all kinds of professional craftspeople.

aiaaustin.org/committees/homes-tour/



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HONOR AWARDS

The AIA Austin Honor Awards recognize our Members and those outside the profession who have made a positive impact on our city, the profession, or the organization. The recipients receive their awards at the Honor Awards Brunch in April, and are also recognized at the Design Awards Celebration in May.

aiaaustin.org/committees/honor-awards



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Practice



2026 Practice Commissioner
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BUILDING ENCLOSURE COUNCIL (BEC)

The Building Enclosure Council (BEC) is an interdisciplinary committee made up of architects, engineers, contractors, building owners, consultants, facility managers, code officials, educators, manufacturers, and those with a stake in building enclosure performance.

BEC promotes the exchange of information on building enclosures and related science specific to the climate of Central Texas through discussion, training, education, outreach, and awareness of energy efficiency, moisture control, indoor air quality, longevity, and durability.

aiaaustin.org/committees/bec-austin



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COMMERCIAL ARCHITECTURE

The AIA Austin Commercial Architecture Committee is committed to celebrating and expanding awareness of commercial architecture and its role in shaping Austin's identity, economy, and urban landscape. By fostering greater awareness and appreciation for thoughtfully designed commercial spaces, we aim to highlight their impact on creating vibrant, sustainable, and connected communities. Our mission also focuses on fostering collaboration and idea-sharing. We'll provide a platform for architects to exchange innovative concepts, learn from one another, and collectively elevate the standards of commercial design in Austin.

aiaaustin.org/committees/commercial-architecture/



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COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT (COTE)

The Committee on the Environment (COTE) is an American Institute of Architects Knowledge Community working with architects, allied professionals, and the public to achieve climate action and climate justice through design. We believe that design excellence is the foundation of a healthy, sustainable, and equitable future. Our work promotes design strategies that allow people, communities, and our planet to thrive.

aiaaustin.org/committees/committee-environment
Instagram | [@coteaiaaustin](https://www.instagram.com/coteaiaaustin)



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CUSTOM RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTS NETWORK (CRAN)

CRAN is a resource for those that practice residential architecture. Special programs and continuing education are provided at each meeting. Our events are open to everyone, and we invite you to become more involved.

aiaaustin.org/committees/custom-residential-architects-network
Instagram | [@aiaaustincran](https://www.instagram.com/aiaaustincran)



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SMALL FIRMS ROUNDTABLE

Members of AIA Austin's Small Firms Roundtable (SFR), generally characterized as having 10 or fewer employees, meet monthly to learn and discuss architectural practice and continually reach out to a diverse community of emerging small firms owners.

aiaaustin.org/committees/small-firms-roundtable



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2026 Chair-Elect:
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URBAN DESIGN

The AIA Austin Urban Design Committee aims to improve the quality of the urban environment by promoting excellence in design, planning, and public policy in the built environment. The Urban Design Committee, in concert with allied community and professional groups, promotes programs that teach and inform professionals and the public about the design and development of quality urban spaces and environments.

aiaaustin.org/committees/urban-design/



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Design Austin Joint Committees

EXHIBITIONS & EXPERIENCES

The Exhibitions & Experiences Committee—a joint committee between AIA Austin and Design Austin—recognizes the unique and exciting potential to reach a broad public audience through environments conducive to learning and discovery. These experiences are intended to promote the critical examination and understanding of architecture, art, culture, and community, and influence, delight, and inspire curiosity.

aiaaustin.org/committees/exhibitions



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GUIDE TO AUSTIN ARCHITECTURE

The Guide to Austin Architecture is a joint venture between AIA Austin and Design Austin. The online, mobile-friendly guide documents significant Austin places and make them accessible to the public. Through walking tours, searchable categories, and curated text and images, the Guide reveals Austin's important places and spaces.

guidetoaustinarchitecture.com



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Front image: Gustavo Bernal
Back image: Patrick Wong