



The 2024 AIA|LA Advocacy Platform: Shaping a Better Los Angeles

Introduction: GO! Mission Statement

As a leading organization of architects and designers, The Los Angeles Chapter of The American Institute of Architects (AIA|LA) is committed to advocating for a more sustainable, equitable, and vibrant Los Angeles.

We believe thoughtful architecture and urban planning are essential to addressing the city's most pressing challenges. We seek to reflect the values of our members and to create value for our members in the marketplace of business and ideas. On behalf of our 4500+ members of architects, designers, emerging professionals, and students, AIA|LA and its Government Outreach (GO!) Committee seeks to achieve these goals through advocacy, collaboration, and partnership with our local public policymakers.

Key Issues and Goals:

- **CLIMATE ACTION**
- **HOUSING & DENSITY**
- **EQUITY & ACCESS**
- **BETTER BUSINESS**

CLIMATE ACTION

Lead LA towards a carbon-neutral future through building design & urban planning.

- Embodied Carbon Reduction
- Net-Zero Buildings
- Resilient Design
- Climate Equity

Climate Action (CA) Goals

- **Embodied Carbon Reduction:** Implement stronger building codes and incentives to reduce the carbon footprint of construction materials.
- **Net-Zero Buildings:** Support policies that encourage and reward the design of net-zero energy and water buildings.
- **Resilient Design:** Promote design solutions that address climate change impacts like extreme heat, drought, and wildfires.
- **Climate Equity:** Ensure that climate resilience benefits all communities, especially historically underserved areas.

Strategies:

1. **Update Building Codes:** Revise building codes to incorporate the latest advancements in sustainable design and climate resilience.
2. **Incentivize Net-Zero Development:** Offer tax breaks, grants, and other incentives for the development of net-zero buildings.
3. **Prioritize Climate Equity:** Develop policies that address the disproportionate impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities.

HOUSING & DENSITY

Expedite the creation of housing to address the housing crisis while upholding design quality & sustainability.

- Adaptive Reuse
- Streamlined Approvals
- Density Done Right
- Influence Public Opinion

Housing & Density (HD) Goals

- **Adaptive Reuse:** Support policies and incentives that encourage the reuse of existing buildings for housing, especially for smaller-scale projects.
- **Streamlined Approvals:** Advocate for efficient and transparent approval processes for housing projects, including ADUs and other innovative housing types.
- **Density Done Right:** Encourage responsible increases in density to accommodate population growth while preserving neighborhood character.

Strategies:

1. **Reform Zoning Codes:** Update zoning regulations to allow for more diverse housing types and densities.
2. **Simplify Permitting:** Streamline the permitting process for housing projects to reduce delays and costs.
3. **Invest in Infrastructure:** Support public infrastructure upgrades to facilitate development in underserved areas.

EQUITY & ACCESS

Ensure that design decisions prioritize social equity & create a more inclusive built environment for all Angelenos.

- Affordable Housing
- Community Engagement
- Universal Design

Equity & Access (EA) Goals

- **Affordable Housing:** Champion policies that incentivize the creation of diverse, affordable housing options across Los Angeles.
- **Community Engagement:** Advocate for meaningful community engagement in design and planning processes, especially in historically underserved communities.
- **Universal Design:** Promote the design of spaces and buildings that are accessible to people of all abilities.

Strategies:

1. **Increase Funding for Affordable Housing:** Allocate more resources for affordable housing development and preservation.
2. **Mandate Community Input:** Require community engagement in major development projects.
3. **Enforce Universal Design Standards:** Ensure that all new construction projects comply with universal design guidelines.

BETTER BUSINESS

Create a supportive environment for architects & allied professionals to thrive in Los Angeles.

- Fair Procurement
- Regulatory Reform
- Business Support
- Create Value

Better Business (BB) Goals

- **Fair Procurement:** Advocate for fair and transparent procurement processes that prioritize local firms and design excellence in public projects.
- **Regulatory Reform:** Work with policymakers to streamline regulations and reduce barriers to entry for emerging professionals and small firms.
- **Business Support:** Offer resources and training programs to help architects build successful and sustainable businesses.

Strategies:

1. **Reform Procurement Practices:** Implement policies that promote fairness and transparency in public procurement.
2. **Reduce Regulatory Burdens:** Streamline permitting and licensing processes for architects and design firms.
3. **Expand Business Resources:** Offer more training programs, networking opportunities, and mentorship programs for architects.

Tasks and Asks for 2025:

We're asking civic leaders to partner with us on each of the following and request a 'champion' from each Council Office.

1. Street Tree Spacing Reform - LA City (CA EA): Champions: Brian, Mark
2. Stormwater Mitigation Alternatives - LA County and City (CA EA):
3. Adaptive Reuse 2.0 Ordinance - LA City (CA HD): Champions: Rocky, Tarrah, Roberto
4. Accessibility Plan Check/ACHP and Inspection Reform (EA HD BB):
5. LADWP Development Standards Reform (CA EA HD BB):
6. Public Project Procurement Reform (EA HD BB): Champion: Chava
7. Single Stair Code Reform (EA HD BB): Champion: John
8. Modifications Data Base (EA HD BB): Champion: Brian
9. Departmental Personnel Access Reform (BB):
10. Self-Certification for Tenant Improvements (BB):

Conclusion

By implementing these recommendations, Los Angeles can become a more sustainable, equitable, and vibrant city. AIA|LA is committed to working with civic leaders to achieve these goals and create a better future for all Angelenos.

RESOURCES FROM THE AIA|LA GO! MIRO BOARD ==6

<https://miro.com/app/board/uXjVKzZz7Sg=/>

Legislative Day at City Hall = Friday, December 6, 2024

<https://www.aialosangeles.org/event/aiala-legislative-day-at-city-hall-2024/>

FOR MORE INFORMATION, *please contact:*

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