

THE 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL AIA|LA

# DESIGN FOR DIGNITY CONFERENCE

“FROM CRISIS TO CONSTRUCTION: BUILDING A CITY OF YES”



## EVENT DETAILS

**THE 11TH ANNUAL AIA|LA DESIGN FOR DIGNITY CONFERENCE** ARRIVES AT A MOMENT OF HARD-WON CLARITY. LOS ANGELES HAS SPENT YEARS NAMING THE CRISIS. THIS YEAR, **WE ARE FOCUSED ON THE MECHANICS OF THE SOLUTION** — THE SPECIFIC REFORMS, PROVEN MODELS, AND COURAGEOUS INVESTMENTS REQUIRED TO MOVE THIS CITY, DECISIVELY AND IRREVERSIBLY, FROM MANAGING HOMELESSNESS TO PRODUCING DIGNITY.

THEMED “**FROM CRISIS TO CONSTRUCTION: BUILDING A CITY OF YES,**” THE 2026 CONFERENCE IS STRUCTURED AROUND A SINGLE, URGENT ARGUMENT: THAT POLICY, CAPITAL, AND DESIGN HAVE OPERATED IN ISOLATION FOR TOO LONG, AND THAT **THE ONLY PATH FORWARD IS WHAT WE ARE CALLING “THE GREAT REALIGNMENT”** — THE DELIBERATE, DISCIPLINED WEAVING OF THOSE THREE THREADS INTO A SINGLE OPERATIONAL FABRIC. EACH OF THE EIGHT PANELS ACROSS BOTH DAYS EMBODIES A SPECIFIC STRAND OF THAT FABRIC.

### WHEN:

FRIDAY, MAY 29<sup>TH</sup> & FRIDAY, JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup>

8:00 AM - 12:30 PM PDT

### WHERE:

AIA|LA CENTER FOR COMMUNITIES

4450 WEST ADAMS BLVD.

LOS ANGELES, CA 90016

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- ARTICULATE THE SPECIFIC REGULATORY, FINANCIAL, AND POLITICAL BARRIERS THAT PREVENT LOS ANGELES FROM BEING COMPETITIVE IN HOUSING PRODUCTION — AND EVALUATE THE REFORM STRATEGIES, FROM CONCIERGE PERMITTING TO CITY CHARTER AMENDMENTS, MOST LIKELY TO DISMANTLE THEM.
- APPLY THE DESIGN, FINANCING, AND COMMUNITY-ENGAGEMENT LESSONS OF THE ST. VINCENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CAMPUS TO THEIR OWN PROJECTS, IDENTIFYING THE PARTNERSHIPS, INCLUSIVE-DESIGN PROTOCOLS, AND PHASED DELIVERY STRATEGIES THAT MADE THAT “VILLAGE” MODEL REPLICABLE.
- DISTINGUISH BETWEEN HOUSING FIRST AS A PHILOSOPHICAL COMMITMENT AND HOUSING FIRST AS AN OPERATIONAL PIPELINE — AND SPECIFY WHAT STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN FUNDING, PERMITTING, AND INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION ARE REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT IT AT SCALE.
- EVALUATE LAHD’S PROPOSED STREAMLINING RECOMMENDATIONS — INCLUDING COVENANT APPROVAL REFORM, CONCURRENT AGENCY REVIEW, AND CASE MANAGEMENT ENHANCEMENTS — AND IDENTIFY WHICH INTERVENTIONS WOULD HAVE THE GREATEST NEAR-TERM IMPACT ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING TIMELINES.
- ANALYZE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PLACE IDENTITY, COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP, AND HOUSING DESIGN AT WILLIAM MEAD HOMES, AND EXTRACT PRINCIPLES APPLICABLE TO THE REDEVELOPMENT OF OTHER LEGACY PUBLIC HOUSING SITES ACROSS THE REGION.
- ASSESS THE TYPOLOGICAL AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF SINGLE-STAIR REFORM (AB 2252), INCLUDING ITS POTENTIAL TO UNLOCK NEW MID-RISE BUILDING FORMS ON INFILL LOTS CURRENTLY RENDERED UNFEASIBLE BY DUAL-EGRESS REQUIREMENTS.
- CRITICALLY EXAMINE MEASURE ULA’S DUAL ROLE AS A RENT-RELIEF FUNDING MECHANISM AND A PRODUCTION DISINCENTIVE — INCLUDING CURRENT RESEARCH ON ITS IMPACT ON MULTIFAMILY CONSTRUCTION — AND PROPOSE PRECISION REFORMS THAT PRESERVE THE FUND’S MISSION WITHOUT PENALIZING NEW SUPPLY.
- APPLY CENTURY HOUSING’S OPERATE-AND-MAINTAIN FRAMEWORK TO THE EARLIEST STAGES OF PROJECT DESIGN, UNDERSTANDING HOW LONG-TERM STEWARDSHIP CONSIDERATIONS SHOULD SHAPE UNIT MIX, MATERIAL SELECTION, CAPITAL RESERVE PLANNING, AND SERVICE-DELIVERY INTEGRATION FROM CONCEPT THROUGH CONSTRUCTION.



AIA Los Angeles  
4450 West Adams Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90016



THE 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL AIA|LA

# DESIGN FOR DIGNITY CONFERENCE

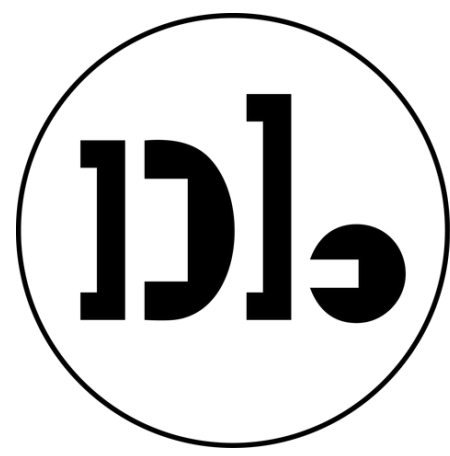
“FROM CRISIS TO CONSTRUCTION: BUILDING A CITY OF YES”

AIA Los Angeles

## Thank You to Our Event Sponsors!

### Champion Sponsors

**MITHŪN**



**David Baker  
Architects**

### Student Scholarship Sponsors

**AUX**  
ARCHITECTURE

### Friends of Design for Dignity Sponsors

**NAC**



**FSY**  
ARCHITECTS

**TRACY  
A. STONE  
ARCHITECT** AIA  
since 1991

**W·E·O'NEIL**

**SALT**



**steinberg  
hart**

**OTTINGER**  
ARCHITECTS

**studioneleven**

### Participating Sponsors

Labib Funk + Associates  
RDH Building Science Inc  
Craig Lawson & Co., LLC  
Koning Eizenberg Architecture  
Cooperative LA

DSH // Architects  
Walton Construction  
Matthew Haas, KeyBank CDLI  
West Modular Manufacturing  
Kimberlina Whettam & Associates

TIGHE Architecture  
Johnson Fain  
Lahmon Architects  
Kadre Architects  
Three6ixty



AIA Los Angeles  
4450 West Adams Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90016

**AIA** Los Angeles

THE 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL AIA|LA

# DESIGN FOR DIGNITY CONFERENCE

“FROM CRISIS TO CONSTRUCTION: BUILDING A CITY OF YES”

AIA Los Angeles

## Thank You to Our Annual Sponsors!

### Decarbonization Sponsor



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
**EDISON**<sup>®</sup>

Energy for What's Ahead<sup>®</sup>

### Gold Sponsors

# Gensler

# GRUENASSOCIATES

ARCHITECTURE PLANNING INTERIORS LANDSCAPE

### Silver Sponsors

lewis|schoeplein

HKS



FBA  
Engineering

HED

Practice



ARCHITECTS

AC MARTIN

ZGF

KADRE ARCHITECTS

### Bronze Sponsors



MARVIN 



JF( )AK

CANNONDESIGN

DSH//  
architecture

ARCHITYPE



performance  
lighting systems



### Emerging Practice Sponsor

Sharpe Interior Systems, Inc.



AIA Los Angeles  
4450 West Adams Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90016



Los Angeles

THE 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL AIA|LA

# DESIGN FOR DIGNITY CONFERENCE

“FROM CRISIS TO CONSTRUCTION: BUILDING A CITY OF YES”

 AIA Los Angeles

## Day 1 Program (May 29th)

### The Architecture of Yes – Competitiveness, Care, and the Case for Systemic Change

8:00 am - Coffee, Breakfast, & Networking

8:25 am - Opening Remarks

- **Toni Lewis, AIA** – President, AIA Los Angeles & Principal, Lewis|Schoeplein Architects

8:30 am - Building the City of Yes: What Will It Take for L.A. to Compete Again? From Executive Directives to Design Thinking – Systemic Reforms for a Livable, Investable City

- **Abbey Ehman** - President, Los Angeles Headquarters & PowerMove LA
- **Nelson Algaze, AIA, CID, LEED AP, NCARB** - Founding Principal & CEO, SAA interiors + architecture
- **Brian Wickersham, FAIA** – Founding Partner & Design Director, AUX Architecture

9:15 am - The St. Vincent Behavioral Health Campus: It Takes A Village // A Case Study in Convergent Design – Healthcare, Housing, and Inclusive Community Infrastructure

- **Shay Yadin** - Principal, St. Vincent Behavioral Health Campus
- **Mark Lahmon, AIA, LEED AP** – Principal, Lahmon Architects
- **Annette Wu, AIA** - Principal, NAC Architecture
- **Melissa Vollbrecht, LCSW** - Deputy Chief Programs Officer, Project-based Housing, The People Concern
- **Avi Klein, MHA** - Chief Strategy Officer, Horizon Recuperative Care

10:00 am - Coffee Break

10:30 am – Housing as Foundation: Building Dignity, Health, and Belonging Around the Home

- **Sam Tsemberis, PhD** – Founder of Housing First | International Homelessness Solutions | Advocate for Housing as a Human Right
- **Claudia Lima** – Chief Strategic Investments Officer, Los Angeles County Affordable Housing Solutions Agency
- **Michael B. Lehrer, FAIA** – Founder & President, LEHRER ARCHITECTS LA
- **Amy Anderson** – Executive Director, Our Lady Queen of Angels Housing Alliance
- **Gio Aliano, AIA** - Principal | Affordable Housing Practice Leader, NAC Architecture

11:30 am - Breaking the Bottlenecks: Learning from Project Homekey - How adaptive reuse and streamlined delivery can inform traditional housing design and construction.

- **Nerin Kadribegovic, FAIA** - Founder & Principal, Kadre Architects
- **Elizabeth Ben-Ishai** - Senior Director of Housing Strategy & Solutions, Los Angeles County Department of Homeless Services and Housing
- **Elizabeth Selby** - Selby Consultancy
- **Brian Lane, FAIA, LEED A.P.** - Partner, KoningEizenberg

12:15 pm - Closing Remarks

- **Anne Riggs, AIA, CASp** - Inclusive Design Lead, David Baker Architects

12:30 pm - Adjourn



AIA Los Angeles  
4450 West Adams Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90016

 AIA Los Angeles

THE 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL AIA|LA

# DESIGN FOR DIGNITY CONFERENCE

“FROM CRISIS TO CONSTRUCTION: BUILDING A CITY OF YES”

AIA Los Angeles

## Day 2 Program (June 5th)

### Building to Last – Reform, Stewardship, and the Housing Pipeline

8:00 am - Coffee, Breakfast, & Networking

8:25 am - Opening Remarks

- **Scott Hunter, FAIA, LEED AP** - VP/ President-elect, AIA Los Angeles & Partner, HKS

8:30 am - Measure ULA: Reforms That Make Sense: Precision Fixes for a Well-Intentioned Policy – Protecting Renters Without Penalizing Production

- **Tiffany Spring, MURP, MBA** - Chief Operating Officer, Southern California Association of NonProfit Housing (SCANPH)
- **Michelle Espinosa Coulter** - Associate Director & Financial Consulting, California Housing Partnership
- **Joseph Donlin** - Director, United to House LA
- **Jesse Zwick** - Southern California Director, Housing Action Coalition
- **Azeen Khanmalek** - Executive Director, Abundant Housing LA

9:10 am - William Mead Homes: The Power of Place // History, Community, and the Design Ethics of Legacy Public Housing Redevelopment

- **Adrian Scott Fine** - President & CEO, Los Angeles Conservancy
- **Ben Cohen** - Tenant Organizer, People Organized for Westside Renewal (POWER)
- **Ramona Ayala** - Resident of William Mead Homes
- **Chelsea Kirk** - Director of Policy and Research, Strategic Actions for a Just Economy (SAJE)

9:45 am - Coffee Break

10:00 am - Designed to Operate & Maintain: Building Long-Term Dignity Into Every Material Choice and Spatial Decision through Collaboration

- **Oscar Alvarado** - Senior Vice President, Century Affordable Development, Inc.
- **Heather A. Sharp** - Senior Vice President, Property Operations, Century Housing
- **Richard Prantis, AIA, LEED AP** - Founding Principal, the architects collective
- **Tina Smith-Booth** - Director of Asset Management, Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA)
- **Brittany Arceneaux** - Project Manager, Primestor

10:45 am - The County's Commitment: Aligning Homeless Services with Housing Solutions: A Director's Perspective on Closing the Service-to-Housing Gap in Los Angeles County

- **Sarah Mahin** - Director, Los Angeles County Department of Homeless Services and Housing

11:10 am - The Developer's Lens: Why Los Angeles Must Become Buildable Again: A Private Investor's Perspective on Risk, Opportunity, and the Reforms Required to Unlock New Supply

- **Leo Pustilnikov** - Founder, SLH Investments

11:30 am - Single-Stair Reform: The Next Step // Legislative, Fire-Code, and Typological Change – Unlocking a New Generation of Mid-Rise Housing

- **Frances Anderton, Hon. AIA|LA** - Author, “Common Ground” & Trailblazer, FORT LA
- **Bryan “Bubba” Fish** - Culver City Mayor Pro Tem
- **Carley Leckie** - Associate, David Baker Architects
- **Ed Mendoza** - Policy Manager, California YIMBY
- **Tom M. Jaleski** - Principal, SIMPSON GUMPERTZ & HEGER (SGH)

12:15 am - Closing Remarks

- **Will Wright, Hon. AIA|LA** - AIA Los Angeles



AIA Los Angeles  
4450 West Adams Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90016

AIA Los Angeles

THE 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL AIA|LA

# DESIGN FOR DIGNITY CONFERENCE

“FROM CRISIS TO CONSTRUCTION: BUILDING A CITY OF YES”

 AIA Los Angeles

## ORGANIZERS

A special thanks to the following for helping to organize this event!

### AIA LOS ANGELES STAFF

**Carlo Caccavale, Hon. AIA|LA** - Executive Director

**Will Wright, Hon. AIA|LA** - Director, Government & Public Affairs

**Steve Tanner, Hon. AIA|LA** - Membership Director

**Marc Romeo** - Director, Programs + Events

**Erika Pendergraft** - Manager, Events + Awards

**Jack Turner** - Office Manager



AIA Los Angeles  
4450 West Adams Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90016

 AIA Los Angeles