

History and Goal of AIA New York Political Action Fund

AIA New York Political Action Fund (AIANY PAF) is an important tool involving the association and its members in the political process.

AIANY PAF was established in 2019. Its purpose is to encourage architects to take a more active role in the political process, as well as advance the interests of architects and architecture. AIANY PAF may solicit, receive, and distribute political contributions to help in the election of New York State and New York City elected officials who have demonstrated their interest in, and commitment to, advancing the goals of the architectural profession. Membership in AIANY PAF is open to members of AIANY.

By combining the financial resources of all the architects in AIANY, AIANY PAF contributions have a greater impact for the profession than if the same amount of money were contributed by individual architects. AIANY PAF enables architects to be a viable political force in New York City and State.

Contributions to campaign and political fund-raisers help open legislative doors to AIANY's members. Open doors are important - they allow our message to be delivered to the legislators and their staffs personally. Open doors allow us to come face-to-face with the lawmakers, explaining our position, countering their objections, strengthening their support.

AIANY PAF is an independent organization, administered by a Steering Committee appointed in accordance to its bylaws. AIANY assumes all administrative costs of AIANY PAF; therefore, contributions are used solely for campaign and political fund-raisers.

New York Law permits personal and corporate contributions to New York State PACs; and, therefore, AIANY and AIANY PAF encourage individual and firm contributions to AIANY PAF. To provide a consistent source of funding, a portion of AIANY general operating funds will annually be assigned to AIANY PAF.

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS
of the
AIA New York Political Action Fund
[AIANY PAF]

Approved October 2, 2019 by the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects Board of Directors.

ARTICLE I. NAME & DEFINITION.

The name of this Political Action Committee, hereinafter referred to as “the Committee,” is the AIA New York Political Action Fund, hereinafter referred to as AIANY PAF. It is a voluntary, nonprofit, unincorporated Committee of individual architects and others, and is not affiliated with any political party. The Committee is an independent and autonomous organization, not a branch or subsidiary of any national or other political action committee.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSES.

The purposes of the Committee are:

- 1) To promote and strive for the improvement of government by encouraging and stimulating architects and others to take a more active and effective part in political advocacy.
- 2) To increase the visibility of the architectural profession by making contributions to candidates for state office in furtherance of the goal of the advancement of architecture and the architectural profession.
- 3) To do any and all things necessary or desirable for the attainment of the purposes stated above.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP & CONTRIBUTIONS

Section 1. Founding Members.

Active membership shall include the Steering Committee and any members approved by the Steering Committee.

Section 2. Candidates for Membership.

The Steering Committee may establish additional categories of membership. Candidates for membership shall be subject to approval by the Steering Committee. All members of the Committee shall be members or staff of AIANY.

Section 3. Contributions.

Contributions to AIANY PAF shall be subject to the approval of the Steering Committee.

ARTICLE IV. STEERING COMMITTEE

Section 1. Duties.

The Steering Committee shall have general supervision and control over the affairs and funds of the Committee and shall establish and carry out all policies and activities of the Committee. The members shall serve without compensation. The Steering Committee shall approve all disbursement of funds. The Chairperson shall make regular reports to the Steering Committee and to the AIANY Board of Directors about contributions to and disbursements from AIANY PAF. Furthermore, the contributions and disbursements of AIANY PAF shall be guided by the Policy Board and Advocacy Committee of AIANY.

Section 2. Composition.

The Steering Committee shall consist of the AIANY Managing Director or someone of equivalent title, the AIANY Director of Policy or someone of equivalent title, the AIANY Board Vice President of Professional Development or someone of equivalent title, the AIANY Board Secretary, and five current or former members of the AIANY Board of Directors currently not serving on the Center for Architecture Inc. Board of Directors.

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS

Section 1. Designations.

The officers of the Committee shall be the Chairperson and a Secretary-Treasurer. The Chairperson shall be the AIANY Board Vice President of Professional Development or someone of equivalent title, and the Secretary-Treasurer shall be the AIANY Managing Director or someone of equivalent title.

Section 2. Chairperson.

The Chairperson shall be the chief executive officer of the Committee and shall be an ex-officio member of all subcommittees. He/she shall preside at meetings of the Steering Committee. In the absence of the Chairperson, the Secretary-Treasurer shall preside. The Chairperson shall appoint all other chairpersons and members of subcommittees subject to the approval of the Steering Committee.

Section 3. Secretary-Treasurer.

The Secretary-Treasurer, with support of AIANY staff, shall be the custodian of the Committee's funds and responsible for their receipt and disbursement. He/she shall disburse all monies of the Committee in accordance with the directions of the Steering Committee and shall keep full and accurate records, present financial statements, and sign and file all reports to governmental authorities required by law or directed to be filed by the Steering Committee. He/she shall ensure that the Committee complies with requirements of all laws pertaining to the organization in reporting of political action committees.

Section 4. Minutes.

The Secretary-Treasurer shall ensure that an accurate record of all Steering Committee meetings are kept and copies maintained. Each officer of the Steering Committee shall be responsible for maintaining his/her own record of activities affiliated with AIANY PAF.

ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS

Section 1. Meetings.

Meetings of the Steering Committee shall be held at such time and location as may be determined by the Chairperson. At least one meeting per year must take place and be recorded in meeting minutes.

Section 2. Quorum.

All action shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of the Steering Committee, which shall also constitute a quorum.

Section 3. Conduct of Business.

The Steering Committee may, upon request of the Chairperson, transact business by mail, facsimile, electronic mail or conference telephone call. Votes of the Steering Committee must take place within two days, and proposals must be passed by a majority of the Steering Committee in order to be adopted. For the disbursements of funds, the Chairperson shall approve all disbursements of funds upon the recommendation of the Steering Committee.

ARTICLE VII. SUBCOMMITTEES

The AIANY PAF shall have such subcommittees as the Steering Committee determines are necessary and desirable for carrying out its purposes and objectives. The Chairperson and members of such subcommittees shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the Steering Committee subject to the approval of a majority of the Steering Committee. Each subcommittee will set its own agenda and meeting schedule.

ARTICLE VIII. OFFICE

The principal office of the AIANY PAF shall be located in New York, New York.

ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

This Constitution and Bylaws may be amended and a new Constitution and Bylaws may be adopted by two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Board of Directors of the AIANY, provided that at least fourteen days (14) written notice is given of the intention to amend or to adopt a new Constitution and Bylaws at such meeting.

ARTICLE X. BOOKS, RECORDS, & FINANCES

Section 1. Books & Records.

The Committee shall keep correct and complete records of accounts. Accounts shall be examined as part of the annual procedures required by the bylaws of AIANY.

Section 2. Deposits.

The funds of the Committee shall be deposited to the credit of the Committee's accounts in such banks or depositories as the Secretary-Treasurer may select.

Section 3. Signatories of Disbursements.

Disbursements of committee funds requires the signature of the Chairperson or Secretary-Treasurer.

ARTICLE XI. DISSOLUTION

Upon dissolution of the Committee, its assets shall be disposed in accordance with applicable law.