

NAME OF COMPONENT: AIA Orange County

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COMPONENT SIZE: 500-1,000 members

PROGRAM TITLE: Student Design Competition

CORE SERVICE: Public Outreach

PROVIDE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM:

Orange County does not have an accredited School of Architecture. However, we do have community colleges that offer architectural programs.

For three decades, AIA Orange County has been providing colleges with an annual Student Design Competition. We use this to mentor our future and help them to advance to accredited schools. The colleges use the SDC as part of their curriculum.

The sites are real. The program is administered by a local firm as the 'sponsor', assisting with scholarships and firm team members. All AIAOC members are asked to help critique and mentor students.

HOW DOES YOUR PROGRAM ADDRESS THE CORE MEMBER SERVICE?

It is a direct outreach and engagement of our local public. Through this competition, the AIA is known as a promoter of the importance of good design. The programs are complex enough to make students 'think' about how to problem solve, and create unique and intriguing responses.

Winners are celebrated at the annual Design Awards Gala, on our website, and PR announcements are sent out to the press to broaden the impact we make as AIA Architects.

WHO IS THE INTENDED AUDIENCE (include size and demographic)

We currently have 4 schools we engage to participate in this program. All students are first- and second-year students at colleges.

WHAT IS THE BUDGET? (include all costs including sponsors, grants, and other outside funding)

The host firm serves as an AIAOC sponsor and contributes \$2,500 for award sponsorship for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners. AIAOC then contributes \$100 for each Merit award winner. These vary from 2-4 total.

There are no other costs.

HOW (list the steps or process to implement this program, be as specific as possible)

The Student design competition committee meets in early Fall to decide the program. The committee consists of the host firm, AIAOC executive director, and representatives from the colleges.

Real sites and issues are discussed, and a selection is made.

The competition is sent to the schools in December to be used as part of the Winter curriculum. Students are asked to attend crits and mentorship opportunities February-April. The jury meets in May, and a, SDC reception is held late May as the AIAOC monthly General Meeting. Winners are announced, but not what level of award (this is done at the Gala since it relates to cash prizes). Letting them know early allows them to plan to attend the Gala in September since some move to other schools.

Winners are celebrated at the September Design Awards Gala as part of the program. Cash prizes are handed out then and a PR announcement goes out to the press the next day.