**COMPONENT COVID UPDATE #12**

May 29, 2020

**COMPONENTS FACING COVID-19 WEBINAR SERIES CONTINUES**

Join us next Thursday, June 4th, at 2pm ET for our next webinar in the series: **Components Facing COVID-19: Governance Goes Virtual**. How are you meeting the governance challenges of your chapter while social distancing? Learn how to run board and membership meetings, elections, and other governance activities in the virtual space. On the webinar we’ll also be sharing details about our own annual meeting this September including important dates for everyone to know and the process for electing candidates. Link here to [Register](https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6427253901499373836).

**COVID RELIEF ADVOCACY EFFORTS**

Congress is continuing to debate measures that would reform the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), which is good news for members and firms. However, we are continuing to work with Congress to expand PPP eligibility to 501(c)6 organizations.

Yesterday, May 28th, the House of Representatives passed the bipartisan Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act of 2020 with a vote of 417-1. It would extend the covered period (during which eligible expenses may be forgiven) from 8 weeks to 24 weeks. It would also change the percentage of the loan that must go to payroll expenses to qualify for loan forgiveness from 75% to 60%. AIA supports these changes. However, the bill does not address 501(c)6 eligibility. As a reminder, a different bill that passed the House earlier this month, the HEROES Act, did expand eligibility to 501(c)6 organizations, but the Senate is not expected to vote on it in its current form.

The Senate will return from recess next week. While the Senate is not expected to vote on the HEROES Act, they likely will begin consideration of other PPP reforms. It is very important that your Senators hear from you [attachment]. If you have not already sent this letter to your Senators, urging them to make 501(c)6 organizations eligible for the PPP, please do so this week. Copy the DC-based federal team so that they can follow up ([karakempski@aia.org](mailto:karakempski@aia.org)).

**#ARCHGRAD20 CAMPAIGN**

Thank you for the overwhelming response to AIA's social media campaign supporting recent architecture graduates. AIA members across the nation took the time to share video messages offering inspiring words of advice congratulating recent architecture school graduates. Videos are posted on social media platforms including Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn and Facebook. We’ve had more than 45,000 “clicks” so far. If you or one of your members chooses to post a video, be sure to include the **#ArchGrad20** hashtag. Let’s welcome these new grads to the profession! Check out many of them [HERE](https://twitter.com/hashtag/ArchGrad20).

**2020 VIRTUAL EVENTS CALENDAR**

As more events and activities are moving online, we want to be cognizant of events components are planning. We’ve created a [Google Form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSepMSP6szqGnU7Pm8n7qw9rwkMrwneR6hl6x1vwd2xHqbDq1w/viewform?usp=send_form) to capture information about your events. We will publish a spreadsheet of AIA National events and Component events for you to be able to track what else is going on across the Institute as we collect these. Please take the time to add your events so we all know what is happening across the Institute.

**VIRTUAL PLATFORMS**

We've created a place on Component Connect where all the virtual platform options and discounts are housed. Link [HERE](https://network.aia.org/components/ourdiscussiongroup/viewthread?MessageKey=c1cdd268-3b0a-4056-ac25-d7286a50cdec&CommunityKey=a836065e-6674-469b-adcc-b5f55bdc5aa6&tab=digestviewer#bmc1cdd268-3b0a-4056-ac25-d7286a50cdec) to find the information in one place.

**PUT SOME HISTORY BEHIND YOU**

We wanted to share with you a fun project that allows you to download backgrounds from The Octagon for your virtual meetings. There are instructions for Zoom in particular included, but some of you may know how to add backgrounds to other platforms. Enjoy! <https://www.forum.mortarr.com/put-some-history-behind-you>