**COMPONENT COVID 5 UPDATE**

April 1, 2020

Below please find important updates, action alerts, links to resources, helpful hints and general information for components as we all navigate through the pandemic.  **ASAE CALL TO ACTION**

***We need your immediate help!*** Associations were not included in the Small Business Administration (SBA) loan expansion in the CARES Act recently passed by Congress. It's our understanding associations were initially included in the Act until the definition was changed to 501(c)3 organizations only. And, although statutory language for the SBA Emergency Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) programs is unclear in exactly how it treats associations, the SBA is currently accepting 501(c)6 applications for EIDL loans. Read [www.thepowerofa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/...](https://www.thepowerofa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/CARES-Act-Outline_3.26.2020-1.pdf) for more information.

ASAE (the American Society of Association Executives) has co-authored sign-on letters to Congress and the Trump Administration to:

* Provide $25 billion in immediate capital assistance to trade and professional associations;
* Include 501(c)(6) organizations in the Paycheck Protection Program or similar Small Business Administration loan expansions; and
* Create a pandemic risk insurance program with a federal backstop for prospective insurance claims related to a pandemic or epidemic.

To that end, ASAE is asking organizations to add their name by **Thursday, April 2, at 12:00 p.m. Eastern.**Please link here to sign: ([asaecenter.formstack.com/forms/asae\_letter\_to\_congress](https://asaecenter.formstack.com/forms/asae_letter_to_congress)).

AIA's advocacy team is working with ASAE and others to procure these association "fixes" in the next Congressional relief package. We are a co-signatory to the **attached letter** and have reached out to the head of ASAE's lobbying staff to coordinate our Hill outreach with them to ensure consistency in the association community. As details become available, we'll be sure to keep you informed. **Be sure to add your name by tomorrow!!**

**COVID-19 IMPACT ON AEC INDUSTRY**

A summary of a survey among roughly 125 AEC firms that may be of interest to your members is **attached**.

**JANE FREDERICK CALLS TO COMPONENT LEADERS**

Some of you may already have heard, but AIA 2020 President, Jane Frederick, FAIA, has been calling component presidents over the past couple weeks for a short check-in. She is thoroughly enjoying speaking directly with component leaders and reports many components are having Town Halls around COVID-19. She asked we share with you that she would be happy to say a few words and/or answer questions if you would like to include her in an upcoming Town Hall. Please email your request with details (date, time) to componentrelations@aia.org.

**DIGITAL SUPPORT**

For those of you with AIA-hosted component websites, a reminder that our Digital Support team is holding Office Hours on Tuesdays for the next five weeks (March 31 – April 28) to answer questions you may have related to managing your AIA-hosted website. Email specific questions to aiadigitalsupport@aia.org before Tuesday so your questions get answered. If you'd like to join us, please register [here](https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/8706928532596387329) or use  [attendee.gototraining.com/r/8706928532596387329](https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/8706928532596387329) (if the link doesn't work).

**STANDARD OF CARE**

We've received many inquiries about Standard of Care for architects and other design professionals as they conduct site visits in the era of COVID-19. An article has been prepared and is available on the AIA Risk Management web page. [www.aia.org/articles/...](https://www.aia.org/articles/6282722-architect-standard-of-care-relative-to-sit)

**AIA HISTORY**

We are continuing to work with our conference partners and vendors to determine next steps for A'20, however, we thought we'd share a tidbit of trivia with you. According to Nancy Hadley, Director Archives & Records, the AIA Annual Conference has only ever been canceled once before, in 1944, because of wartime travel restrictions. In 1917 and 1933, AIA's conference wasn't planned at all. On April 2, 1917, the U.S. declared war on Germany and 1933 was one of the worst years during the great depression. Just a little AIA history for you.

**OCTAGON UPDATE**

Obviously, the Octagon is closed to visitors, however be sure to check them out on social media (@octagonmuseum on Instagram and Twitter, and facebook.com/TheOctagonMuseum). They are posting a mix of historical information posts with some activities, including how to make a paper Shako (marine's hat), and how to bake your own 1800s Election Cake. They'll also be linking to the NPS "Teach With Historic Places" site which includes lesson plans and discussion points for learning about history through historic buildings and maps. You can also find to some sneak peaks of the new exhibit along the way, so be sure to support our friends at the Octagon (and maybe find some great activities and points for discussion for your kids who might be at home, too!)

**VIRTUAL ENGAGEMENT**

We're hearing about creative ways components are virtually engaging members, from Hawaiian-themed Happy Hours (participants have to wear their loudest Aloha shirt) to Instagram Monday where members are posting a photo based on a theme such as what your home office looks like!

As we move more and more to our virtual world, but still want to connect with friends and family, writer Caroline Kitchener offers these [8 Tips for Hosting the Perfect Virtual Hangout](https://www.thelily.com/8-tips-for-hosting-the-perfect-virtual-hangout/).

Or perhaps you're feeling like there's no time to hang out since you're simply trying to survive with little ones in the house. Kate Rope offers her perspective on [How to keep your cool with your kids when everyone is cooped up together.](https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/2020/03/24/how-keep-your-cool-with-your-kids-when-everyone-is-cooped-up-together/)

**DISCUSSION BOARD**

We love seeing all the dialog happening on the Discussion Board. Keep it coming!! The sharing of ideas and information helps all components. Be sure to check your preferences, however, so you are getting information in real time as opposed to the Weekly Digest. We don't want you to miss important news. As a reminder:

1) Go to AIA Component Connect [network.aia.org/components/home](https://network.aia.org/components/home)
2) Click my account (upper right corner).
3) Click the my account in the middle of the page, then select email preferences.
4) Under EMAIL PREFERENCES, select the community notifications link.
5) Scroll down to Notification Settings and under Discussion Forum Email in the drop down box, select real time.

**UPDATES**

AIA is publishing a new weekly series dedicated to AIA's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We're curating the content our members are asking for – working remotely, business continuity, economic updates, relief for our industry, and more – to help with practice, minimize disruptions, keep projects moving, and protect their businesses. All this info will live on our  [COVID-19 response page](https://www.aia.org/pages/6280670-covid-19-member-resources/?utm_source=real-magnet&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=aiamem20-covid-19-1-weekly-001members), which is being updated regularly, so bookmark and visit frequently. Share ideas and feedback at feedback@aia.org. Stay connected!

**NATIONAL ARCHITECTURE WEEK**

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, AIA has made the decision to postpone National Architecture Week 2020, originally planned for April 20 – 26. Please stay tuned for additional information about a rescheduled celebration later in the year.

**UPCOMING WEBINARS**

Don't forget tomorrow (Thursday, April 2) at 3:00 pm ET is the AIAU course "Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Link here to register: [aiau.aia.org/courses/...](https://aiau.aia.org/courses/live-course-what-architects-and-firms-need-know-about-federal-coronavirus-stimulus-plan)

"Surviving the New Reality: Adapting to a Virtual World" will be held on Thursday, April 9th, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET will discuss how to ensure business continuity during a volatile market, pivot your overall 2020 strategy given the current climate, hold effective mission critical session to create actionable plans and next steps, and more. Link here to register: [register.gotowebinar.com/register/2894965043708659724](https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2894965043708659724)