1 - MARYLAND BASED DESIGN SERVICES

Building on the successful passage of SB2010 last year, AIA Maryland will be working to assist with implementation of this reciprocal preference bill to enable an even playing field for state-funded procurement practices. Maryland’s procurement policies continue to be cumbersome and many large design contracts are awarded to out-of-state firms that do not benefit our Maryland-based businesses. We are confident that policies can be improved to recognize and support long-term economic benefits of supporting Maryland businesses.

Certain state agencies operate outside the state procurement guidelines and they procure a significant volume of architectural services. When practices bypass state procurement guidelines, they diminish opportunities for Maryland architects. We would like to see Maryland based architects competing on equal footing for projects that are state funded within all state agencies.

2 - MARYLAND HERITAGE STRUCTURE REHABILITATION TAX CREDIT

Since 2001, the Maryland Heritage Structure Rehabilitation Tax Credit has made possible over $1.5 billion in rehabilitation projects, touching nearly every county in Maryland. This tax credit encourages investment in communities, brings local jobs to projects and retains critical elements of historic development throughout the state. We support increasing funding of the large commercial tax credit that is part of this program to $154 million per year, this will enable the tax credit to be used to conduct historic structure assessments and provide funding for projects that will bring historic structures back to life and enriching the communities in which they are located.

3 - EDUCATION PRIORITIES

With adoption of House Bill 1288 in the 2020 session, the 21st Century School Facilities Act outlines tasks and policies that establish a baseline for publicly funded school facilities in Maryland. As policies are considered, AIA will objectively provide input, examples and share research to help make decisions regarding how learning space contributes to educational outcomes.

One important task outlined in the act is a statewide assessment of school facilities, while this is a daunting task, it is important to have the knowledge and capacity to do regular updates to enable us to have a pulse on the current condition of our school facilities. Another task of the bill is addressing sufficiency standards to develop recommended guidelines for space needs of program elements of Pre-K—12 school spaces. Some of our members have been asked to participate in the workgroup considering aspects of the standards. AIA members connect across the world looking at education practices and spaces and contributing to research on improving educational outcomes. We share information that provides insight and contributes to dialogue about best practices for Maryland.

MARYLAND ARCHITECTS SUPPORT POLICIES THAT PROMOTE PROSPEROUS, HEALTHY AND LIVABLE COMMUNITIES - PLACES WHERE HOUSING, RETAIL, SCHOOLS AND EMPLOYMENT ARE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL.