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Highlighting activities and information of interest to the Practicing Architect

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I **Current Activites**



October 17th, 2024
AIA BRONX CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

The virtual meeting started at 6:04PM.

Attendees:

Antonio Freda
Jerin Lisha
Julian Misiurski
Ken A. Koons, Jr.
Ken H. Koons, Sr.
Matthew Rezkallo
Nico Zapata
Robert Esnard
Robert Markisz
Sara Djazayeri
Tochi Mgbenwelu

Guest:

Brandon Guse
Director of Sales
brandonguse@slipnot.com

Agenda / Discussion

1. Seminar Presentation

The presenter, Brandon Guse Director of Sales, for SlipNot safety flooring products discussed the importance of workplace safety, particularly in relation to slips, trips, and falls. He highlighted that these incidents are leading causes of disabling workplace injuries and significant costs, both in terms of medical expenses and lost workdays. He emphasized the importance of surface and texture design in preventing such incidents and shared examples from a resort and a metal can manufacture plant to illustrate safety concerns. Brandon also stressed the significant return on investment in safety and health programs, citing a survey by OSHA and Liberty Mutual.

Brandon emphasized that incidents can be prevented by understanding and addressing the environment and how one interacts with it. He explained the concepts of friction and how it can be measured, and introduced the evolution of tribometers, devices used to measure the coefficient of friction. He highlighted the importance of coefficient of friction in various organizations, including OSHA, UL, and ADA, and emphasized the need to consider various factors when designing a space. He noted the wide range of materials available and the need to choose materials based on the specific requirements of the space.

He highlighted the use of grit paper, adhesives, diamond plate, and epoxy in different settings, cautioning against their potential limitations and risks. He also discussed the use of fiberglass, extruded or cast aluminum stairs, metal grating, and perforated metal in various applications, noting their cost-effectiveness and aesthetic appeal. However, he pointed out potential issues with these materials, such as slipperiness, wear, and safety hazards. He suggested considering the coefficient of friction, slip resistance, and ADA compliance when selecting materials for different environments.

Finally, Brandon reviewed the durability and cost-effectiveness of metal products, emphasizing the importance of specifying product requirements for safety and desired outcomes. He introduced Slipknot's his company's' all-metal product solution, which is used in various industries, and is applied with high pressure force, creating a strong bond with the metal substrate. Slipknot is safe for walking, can be used in various environments, and is certified by the National Floor Safety Institute (NFSI) and Underwriters Laboratory (UL). It can be customized with different grades and finishes, branded for authenticity, and used in projects like the Golden Gate Bridge.

In addition, Brandon also shared images of various applications, including stairs, bridges, and road plates. He presented various applications of Slipknot Stairs and surfaces, including a redesign of a parking garage, a pedestrian bridge at Lincoln Center, and a standing room area at a baseball stadium. He explained that these surfaces are made from metal, which can be cut to size and welded or bolted onto existing structures. Sara and Bob asked about the attachment methods and noise levels, to which Brandon responded that they use anchors, bolts, or epoxy to attach the surfaces to concrete or metal, and that the surfaces are generally quiet and non-slip.

Brandon ended the discussion with a question-and-answer period with members inquiring about availability, timing of deliveries and costs. The meeting concluded with an invitation from Brandon to provide additional resources and information, with his offering to connect individually with anyone interested in seeing practical examples of the materials or learning more about the Slipnot products. His contact information is;



Brandon Guse
Director of Sales
email; brandonguse@slipnot.com

2. Adoption of Minutes

Bob Esnard, the chapter secretary, reported that at last month's meeting membership approved a simplified process of conducting the business portion of our meetings. In keeping with that directive, he briefly outlines the September 2024 minutes and then asks if there are any objections to adopting the minutes. No objections were offered, and minutes received unanimous approval.

3. Schedule of Next Meetings

As the business portion of the meeting started, Bob Esnard welcomes everyone and introduces two associate members attending a chapter meeting for the first time. They are Hirinha Pena, a new member, and Tochi Mgbenwelu, who has been an associate member for approximately a year. Tochi indicated a conflict with our meetings, as she teaches on Thursdays. We were fortunate that she was able to arrange her schedule to join this October meeting. As a follow-up, it was explained that the first hour of the meeting is only important for architects because the CEU credit is earned. However, an invitation was extended to any member who cannot attend at 6:00PM to join later and participate in our chapter discussions.

In addition, Jerin Lisha was warmly congratulated on recently passing the ARE as she is now a Licensed Architect. The chapter recognizes this significant achievement and wishes Jerin success!

The agenda was reviewed, everyone is reminded of the next meeting dates and that there will be a luncheon instead of an evening chapter December meeting. Otherwise, all other meetings are scheduled as virtual. Next Meeting Dates:

Nov. 21, 2024, 6:00PM - (Virtual)
Dec. 19, 2024, Luncheon date to be finalized
Jan. 16, 2025, 6:00PM - (Virtual)
Feb. 20, 2024, 6:00PM - (Virtual)

4. 2025 Chapter Officers & Directors:

Every year in the fall the chapters nominating committee, chaired by Kenneth Koons Sr. and is made up of former chapter officers/directors not seeking election, reviews and proposes the upcoming year's chapter officers.

Officers and Directors volunteer their time and keep the chapter activities functioning. Regarding the current chapter directors, Nicholas Friedmann is not able to continue his role as a director. Fortunate for us, Nico Zapata volunteered to replace Nicholas as a director for 2025 has been a member for some time, and last year represented the chapter at the AIA Nation convention. Otherwise, the current officers have been polled regarding their willingness to serve next year. During this meeting the committee proposed a slate of;

Officers -

President -	Sara Djazayeri
Vice President -	Julian Misiurski
Treasurer -	Kenneth Koons Jr.
Secretary -	Robert Esnard

Directors –

Ofe' Clarke
Kenneth Koons Sr.
Julian Misiurski
Bryan Zelnik

Nico Zapata (Nicholas Friedmann - Cannot do next year)

The bye laws require us to discuss and vote for the 2025 officers at the next month's November meeting after publicizing a slate for a month. Also, if a member would like nominate

another person(s) for any of the positions; the member should put their request in writing. The request must include two (2) other members to sign the nomination letter. Once the letter is completed, it should be emailed to the Chapter Secretary and the nominated person(s) will be added to the slate to be voted on during the November 2025 meeting.

Appendix I - Proposed Slate - 2025

5. Riverdale Historic District - Tour:

The Bronx Chapter will have its second tour of the year on Saturday October 26, 2024, at 10:00am – 12:00pm for 2-CEU. As we had done in the past, it is organized with the Bronx County Historical Society. The Tour will be led by Roger McCormack, the Bronx County Director of Education and supported by Julian Misiurski, AIA the chapter's Vice President. Julian described the tours as popular with attendees but had some feedback about the length and he promised that this tour will be shorter. Helpful parking information was explained as well as the admission costs of \$20 for members which are essentially a donation to the Historical Society, who helped put this tour together for the chapter. Everyone is welcome to come as it is a painless way to receive CEU credits.

6. Chapter Committees

The Chapter Award Event for 2024

Sara Djazayeri before discussing the committee activities, personally and as President of the chapter, enthusiastically congratulated Jerin Lisha on her licensure. She also thanked everyone for attending and extends a welcome to new members.

Sara outlined for those who are new to our chapter, this committee's successes, which have included members, and students, all whom are very much involved. Sara has been on the cutting edge of each of this committee for the past few years.

The chapter held annual award ceremonies in May, at which students at CCNY and Pratt Institute are awarded grants. It was pointed out that most of our chapter new members are from CCNY. In fact, a ratio of about 4:1 of our new members has gone to CCNY versus all the other architectural colleges put together.

At the September 2024 meeting, Sara spearheaded a discussion regarding the expansion of the grant program to other schools while maintaining the total annual grant amount. The concept was to absolutely have **no** impact on the chapter's budget line item for student grants. This expansion would help to get our chapter's name out to the architectural community, as well as informing colleges and students that the AIA Bronx chapter is very active. Therefore, Sara continues the discussion of expanding our grant program to other schools and its visibility to Bronx students.

In addition, it's been our policy to award two students grants of \$1000 each; to CCNY students, our geographically closest architectural school, as well as, to two students at Pratt. After multiple communications with the Cooper Union and Columbia, Sara realized that expanding our program to other architectural schools in order to reach more eligible Bronx students. Sara reiterates that in the past few we have given grants to 4th and 5th year architectural schools' program, which excludes those students in master's programs. After

much thought, Sara would like to propose our chapter include architectural master's programs as well as expanding the 4th and 5th to include Bronx students in other schools. Last year, we **needed to modify the grant program** to include a 3rd year student due to the lack of Bronx students at the two current schools. Therefore, one student in 3rd year of a 5-year program was awarded one of our \$1000 grants. Unfortunately, occasionally we don't have enough eligible Bronx students attending CCNY and Pratt which creates a dilemma when our intention is to issue grants to four (4) students.

Sara proposes the following changes to our current student award grant program:

- **Expand the Schools to include Cooper Union and Columbia.**
- **Expand to master degree students.**
- **No budget changes and the number of students grants remain at four (4).**

In the future, if a school or schools do not have students who fit the criteria, then the award can be awarded to a student at another school. For example, if one of the four (4) schools do not have any student(s) that meet our criteria, and another school has two (2) students, then that school will give the \$1000 award to their two (2) students and the 3rd and 4th award may go to the other schools.

The issue was reviewed and a consensus was reached that the grant program would be expanded to four schools with one student grant each and that each school choose a second back up awardee if a school does not have an eligible single candidate.

There was a long discussion and after reviewing variations and alternatives a vote was taken that unanimously approved the Student Grant changes outlined above.

It was pointed out that the schools and Bryan Zelnik, who is not present today, should be notified as soon as possible, to avoid confusion to our current schools.

Bronx Public Project/CCNY Studio Competition

Regarding the student competition, Sara reported on the status as Michael Goldblum who originally suggested the competition could not attend this meeting. She outlined how the CCNY upper year architectural student spring studio project will be chosen by a committee, led by the Bronx borough president's office, in conjunction with community members, the City construction agency, CCNY and the chapter. The students then are broken up into teams and work together on the project that the city is actually planning to begin and complete. At the end of the studio process the committee reviews the project designs and the 1st and 2nd place teams get a cash award.

The winning student teams and as well as the student grantees are publicly announced, brought to the podium and presented awards at a chapter event in May, the Empowerment Scholarship and Competition Award Ceremony. Sara concluded that in the next month or so a specific project should be selected.

8. **DOB – Update**

No DOB update for the October 2024 meeting.

9. **New Business**

Bob Esnard indicated that at the next meeting the Chapter is also required by it's by laws to discuss next year's budget and adopt it before or the start of the next calendar year, January 1, 2025.

Subsequently, the chapter Treasurer, Kenneth Koons Jr. and the Financial Committee prepared a Budget Comparison for the Chapter's consideration and is attached to the minutes as an addendum for member's information.

Appendix II - Chapter Budget Comparison 2024-2025

10. **Adjournment**

As no additional new business was presented a motion to adjourn was agreed to, one final congratulations for Jerin Lisha's accomplishment on her architectural licensure! As no other items are discussed,

The meeting ended at 7:36PM.

III. **Next meeting:**

Thursday, November 21, 2024 @ 6:00PM Virtual

ZOOM meeting link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9948476766>

IV Appendix

Appendix I
Proposed Slate – 2025

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Appendix II
Chapter Budget Comparison 2024-2025

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Appendix I

Proposed Slate - 2025

AIA Bronx Chapter

2025 Officers & Directors

Change in RED for 2025

Officers -

President -	Sara Djazayeri
Vice President -	Julian Misiurski
Treasurer -	Kenneth Koons Jr.
Secretary -	Robert Esnard

Directors –

1. Ofe' Clarke
2. Kenneth Koons Sr.
3. Julian Misiurski
4. Bryan Zelnik
5. Nico Zapata

Appendix II
Chapter Budget Comparison 2024-2025

AIA Bronx Chapter Budget
Comparison 2024 -2025

Financial Committee Working Draft

EXPENSES	COMPARISON			
	YEAR			
	CURRENT 2024		PROPOSED 2025	
MEETING VENUE	\$ 2,000		\$ 1,500	
INSURANCE	\$ 2,200		\$ 2,200	
WEB SITE	\$ 700		\$ 700	
MEETINGS EXPENSES FOR OFFICERS/DIRECTOR	\$ 900		\$ 1,000	
AIA COMPLIANCE AND CONSULTANTS	\$ 3,000		\$ 2,500	
ARCHITECTS COUNCIL	\$ 550		\$ 550	
MEMBERSHIP/ASSOCIATES SUPPORT	\$ 500		\$ 400	
ZOOM/FACEBOOK/WEB	\$ 750		\$ 750	
AWARDS PROGRAM	\$ 6,000		\$ 6,000	
LEGAL	\$ 1,000		\$ 1,000	
ACCOUNTING	\$ 400		\$ 400	
TOTAL PROJECT EXPENSES	\$ 18,000		\$ 17,000	
PROJECTED INCOME BASED ON PREVIOUS YEARS		\$ 19,000		\$ 18,000

11/8/2024

The End