



Volume 5, 2023

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Publication Committee

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Published by the Bronx Chapter AIA Publications Committee to highlight activities and information of interest to the Practicing Architect.

NEWSLETTER

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June 15, 2023

AIA BRONX CHAPTER MEETING MINUTES

The meeting started at 6:12pm.

Attendees:

Boris Baranovich
William Davis
Sara Djazayeri
Robert Esnard
Antonio Freda
Nicholas Friedman
Linda P. Infante
Ken A. Koons, Jr.
Ken H. Koons, Sr.
Richard Montana
Julian Misiurki
Matthew Rezkallo
Bryan Zelnik

Guest

Jared Clauberg
Altro USA, Inc.
Regional Representative

Agenda / Discussion

1. Seminar:

Unfortunately, Jared Clauberg from Altro, USA, the June sponsor, was in Las Vegas, NV attending an event and could not access the Chapter zoom meeting to present his seminar. After several unsuccessful attempts, it was decided that the seminar will be re-scheduled to the fall November 2023 meeting, which is the next meeting without a sponsor. As a result of the rescheduling, the chapter business meeting started earlier than normal.

2. Adoption of April minutes:

Due to the change of the May meeting to an “in person”, Chapter Empowerment Scholarship and Competition Event, the April 20th, 2023, meeting was the last “formal” meeting with minutes. The members reviewed the April meeting, with Ken Koons Sr. making a motion to approve and Linda Infante seconding the minutes. The Chapter then unanimously approved the April 2023 minutes as proposed.

3. Next minutes dates:

As previously discussed, the last regular monthly meeting was in April due to the May Awards Event held at the midtown Bendheim Studio. After tonight’s June meeting, the normal schedule will resume, with the next scheduled meetings to be on.

September 21, 2023,	at 6pm	Virtual
October 19, 2023,	at 6pm	Virtual
November 16th, 2023,	at 6pm	Virtual
December 14th, 2023,	at 6pm	Virtual (changed date to not conflict with holidays)

4. Chapter Committees:

Empowerment Scholarship & Competition Award Ceremony

Sarah Djazayeri reported on the May 25th event, sponsored at one of Bendheim midtown studios. Bendheim provided the venue, supplied generous drinks, as well as horderves. The event was attended by over 60 people including the student awardees, their families, faculty representatives of both CCNY’s and Pratt Institute Architectural Schools, as well as, approximately 10-chapter members. In addition, it also was significant, that each school’s Dean of Architecture and the President of Pratt Institute where also present.

Empowerment Award

Sarah Djazayeri, Bob Esnard and Bryan Zelnick made short introductory statements outlining how, two years ago, the Bronx Chapter committed to reach out, and to engage young architects and Chapter members. The goal was to utilize our professional architectural training and experience to support the Bronx community and the borough’s-built environment. The Chapter’s basic thrust was to involve the Chapter in improving the borough’s quality of life by helping to empower the Bronx communities and its citizens. After much discussion, the Chapter committed to start an Empowerment Student Grant Program by financially assisting young architects securing a license, as well as, encouraging them to become part of the Chapter’s rebuilding efforts.

As The City College of New York (CCNY) is the closest Architectural School to the Bronx, last year the Chapter awarded two upper class architectural students, selected by the faculty, one thousand dollars grant each. Then this year, the Chapter’s efforts were expanded in two ways by;

- Adding two Bronx Pratt Institute students, also selected by the Architectural school faculty to receive grants.

- Developing and supporting a student competition as part of a CCNY studio design class and selecting a public project, which could use some public pressure to “implement”. The hope was to gain attention and backing for the project and move the project from an idea and/or a NYC budget item, to an actual public construction project that could enhance and/or empower Bronx residents.

Sarah Djazayeri and Ofe Clark Bronx as AIA Chapter representatives presented each of the four students from Pratt Institute and CCNY’s Architectural Schools, at the event;

- A one thousand Dollar grant,
- A ceremonial pin.

Student Studio Competition

Michael Goldblum originally proposed the idea of developing a Chapter supported student competition for a Bronx public project. Michael quickly became the head of the Bronx Chapter Competition effort. He took the lead in discussing with the city officials several possible and appropriate NYC public projects. In a discussion with The Bronx Borough Presidents office they suggested the Vacant Kingsbridge Armory, a project they have lobbied, many years for. This publicly owned building was then selected and is one of the largest indoor spaces in the Bronx. The repurposing of the Armory and a public discussion of an architectural effort may be what the city needs to create “new support”, to assist the project to become an “actual” construction project. A working committee was organized, which later in the process became the Competition Jury of; the Borough Presidents Office, CCNY teachers, several community representatives and the Bronx Chapter represented by Sara Djazayeri and Michael Goldblum, to select the First and Second Prize of the competition.

This Chapter effort built on its relationship with CCNY to select a senior studio design project, to undertake the redevelopment of the Kingsbridge Armory as an actual construction problem to solve. The studio class was divided into four three-person design teams, to repurpose the Armory into a Vertical Farm/Community Facility. The goal was to empower the Armory neighborhood and Bronx residents; by providing jobs, producing food, as well as building knowledge and skills to serve the community at large.

Sara Djazayeri and Ofe Clark at the event also made the CCNY Competition presentations of a;

- First Prize - one thousand two hundred dollars with the team’s three students receiving four hundred dollars each.
- Second Prize - Six hundred dollars with the team’s three students receiving two hundred dollars each.

The link below is a summary of the wonderful work and presentations by the four student teams of the Kingsbridge Armory repurposing solutions:

[Chapter Competition CCNY 2023](#)

Associates Licensed Exam

Linda Infante over the last few months has been coordinating Bronx Chapter Associate members and collaborating with the AIA Queens Chapter to develop a study group for the Architectural Record Exam (ARE). There was a joint session with the both Chapter's hosted by the Queens Emerging Professional (EP) Committee. The members who attended got a chance to review, learn and discuss how the Queens Chapter study group was organized with the idea of scheduling a series of study sessions, specifically for Bronx Chapter associates. The Chapter Committee's hope is over the next few months, to organize one-hour virtual study sessions. Each starting with a short presentation of 15-20 minutes by a Bronx Chapter licensed Architect, on an ARE subject which will then be followed by a discussion reviewing the topic subject matter, to improve their knowledge of the material.

In discussing the proposed sessions, several members indicated willingness to participate. Bill Davis specifically volunteered to be a presenter, as he teaches "Architectural Practice" one of the subjects of the (ARE) exam at the City Tech. Linda is hoping for more chapter presenters and indicated that she would prepare a list in the next few days of presentation subjects, for the Chapter members to choose from to participate. It was also noted that the State of New York in the last few weeks, announced that the ARE exam has modified it's "rolling approvals" requirements, so that once an applicant has passed a portion of the exam, applicants will not have a moving time limit and lose credit for any tests. This will relieve applicants' current pressure to "urgently" pass all the individual subjects for state license qualifying.

Appendix I – List of ARE subjects.

5. DOB

Bob Esnard attended a real estate industry meeting with the new Commissioner James S. Aoddo, who was appointed by Mayor Adams a few weeks ago. In the last year, DOB had two Commissioners, before Commissioner Aoddo who unfortunately does not have a background in construction or DOB operations. However, Commissioner Aoddo is a lawyer and has had significant Government experience as a Staten Island Borough President, a City Council member and is someone who worked in the mayor's office and understands basic city operations. At this introductory meeting, the commissioner indicated he was open to changes and will try to build on the Mayor and former Commissioner Eric Ulrich's efforts with the "90-day Commission Review of by DOB Operations". He committed to working on making project approvals and DOB regulations more efficient and easier for applicants to navigate. However, the key issue has always been for Bronx Chapter, is to have "real" interactions with DOB. The critical problem for applicants is to have the ability to relate to "people," not only digitally through the computer for DOB actions. At the meeting Commissioner Aoddo indicated his willingness to listen to the industry and DOB applicants. It will be his goal to make positive changes. We will see!

6. Grand Concourse Historic District Tour

The Chapter Annually offers four CEU credits by organizing two tours worth 2 CEU credits each, partnering with the Bronx County Historical Society. This year the first tour is planned as a South Bronx tour, highlighting the newly designated New York City Landmark “Art Deco District”, and the residential construction on the Lower Grand Concourse. The tour is scheduled to take place Saturday on July 22nd, 2023, from 10:00am to 12:00pm. It will be led by Roger McCormach, the Director of Education at the Historical Society and Julian Misiurki of the Bronx Chapter. The scope of the tour is to illustrate how successful public and private efforts, together, developed the major boulevard of the Bronx, the Grand Concourse. This area is one of the most successful middle income private sector financed residential Landmark neighborhoods of the city. It features the construction of typical bearing wall, brick faced, wood structure residential buildings, in a unique architectural style. The area is a vibrant mixed used area, with parks, excellent mass transit access, schools, and government buildings.

Appendix II – Grand Concourse Historic District

7. New Business

ArchSandFest 2023

Josett Matthew could not make the meeting and Bob Esnard reviewed with the chapter a proposal that she worked on with the AIA Emerging Professionals Committee (EP), of New York Chapter EP. They are proposing a summer event “ArchSandFest 2023” to take place this year: The EP committee invited all the Greater New York AIA Chapters to consider supporting and or sponsoring this (EP) summer event. The members reviewed the proposed goals of trying to; combine a social event with fundraising, to support associates with the ARE. The Chapter’s view is to support the event by circulating information about it and inviting members and their families to attend, in the hope that the event will be successful. However, due to the Bronx Chapter’s scarce resources and its’ current activities, members want to concentrate funds on the Chapter related Bronx EP activities and other planned Bronx Chapter events. Therefore, the chapter will not financially invest. However, members will be notified of the Arch Sand Fest activities and will be encouraged to participate individually.

Appendix III – ArchSandFest 2023

In Memorandum

Carlo Nuzzi

Sadly, Carlo Uzzi, a past AIA Bronx Chapter President, passed away last month in Italy. Carlo and his father both were members of the Bronx Chapter for many years, Carlo worked in his father’s Architectural Bronx office for over 40 years. He closed the office 10 years ago after New York City Mayor’s Office recruited him to be of help in increasing the housing availability affordability in New York City. Carlo was appointed one of the Architects in the Mayor Office of Housing Recovery; he evaluated buildings and properties to support the city and private sector housing efforts. However, in the last few years, due to health issues he retired and moved to his family’s home in Italy.

He is remembered as a resolute Bronx Chapter member who had been a President, been an officer and director of the Chapter for many years. Carlo was a wonderful human being, friend, Bronx, and architect who will be always remembered...



May he rest in peace.

As there were no additional items to be discussed the meeting adjourned at 7:16 pm.

III. Next meeting.

The next meeting will be a virtual meeting after the summer break on event on Thursday September 21st, at 6:00PM 2023.

Appendix

Appendix I

**The Kingsbridge Armory as a Vertical Farm Facility
An Architectural Competition**

Appendix II

The Grand Concourse Historic District

Appendix III

ArchSandFest – 2023

Appendix I

List of ARE Subjects

Topics Ideas for ARE Study Session Seminar:

The parts of the ARE are as follows:

- Practice Management
- Project Management
- Programming & Analysis
- Project Development & Documentation
- Construction & Evaluation

Discussion topics of interests as related to the parts above:

- Accessibility/Ramps
- Structural Systems
- Plumbing Systems
- Construction Estimating
- Site Design
- Passive Design
- Embodied Energy of Materials
- Mechanical Systems and their integration to different building types
- Sprinklers
- Fire Alarms
- Zoning
- Slope calculations – sewers, ramps 2
- Seismic design & Retrofitting
- Wind basics
- Psychometric Chart understanding and reading it.
- Fire rated wall types
- STC, NRC, IIC ratings and acoustic design
- IBC 2018 Discussions:
 - Means of Egress Chpt 10
 - Occupancy Chpt 3
 - Building Heights: chpt 5
 - Types of Construction Chpt 6
 - Fire Protection & life Safety Chpt 9
 - Fire Smoke Protection Chpt 7

Appendix II



**WALKING TOUR – THE GRAND CONCOURSE HISTORIC DISTRICT
BRONX, NY
JULY 22, 2023**

The Tour AIA BX 13TH - 2 CEU:

The Director of Education for The Bronx County Historical Society, and a Bronx AIA Architect will lead a walking tour of Grand Concourse Historic District, Bronx, NY, chronicling its' place in the Bronx and New York City. The Grand Concourse was conceived as part of the City Beautiful Movement in this country. Urban planning, public and private investment within the context of the growth of the southern portion of the Bronx will be reviewed.

The history of planning decisions in combination with private sector investments and construction of semi fireproof residential buildings between World Wars I and II. All resulted in changes in neighborhood demographics and land uses along the Grand Concourse, including the siting of public and private facilities continuing today i.e., a museum, community center and the newly built Yankee Stadium.

Date & Time:

**The tour on July 22, 2023, begins at 10:00 AM ET (UTC -5) Eastern Time
The tour ends at 12:00 PM ET (UTC -5) Eastern Time**

Starting Place:

**Meet at The Bronx General Post Office, 558 Grand Concourse,
Bronx, NY 10467**

Price (20 tickets are available):

Architect member \$20

Associate member \$20

Non-member \$30

For More Information & Tickets:

CONTACT: Bob Esnard - besnard@dzco.com , 212-977-4800

Appendix III

ArchSandFest 2023

ArchSandFest is a summertime celebration organized by the emerging professionals committee of the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) in tandem with sister bodies across the greater NYC region, including those from New Jersey, Long Island, and the five boroughs.

The event is designed to bring together young professionals and their families for a day of fun in the sun, where attendees can compete in beach-themed architectural competitions like sandcastle-building, as well as network and socialize in an environment that celebrates the city's vibrant design industry. The day-long fete also brings together local businesses for partnership opportunities that highlight the rich cuisines, art, and talents of the local community.

A fundamental aspect of ArchSandFest is its commitment to supporting young professionals through scholarships, mentoring, and community-building, whose diverse range of backgrounds range from those currently in university to those who have been in the field and professionally licensed for 10 years or less. Students, graduates, and professionals with families are all welcome! Welcome to the 1st Annual ArchSandFest.

Partnerships

The organizing committee intends to collaborate with local press, businesses, and community leaders to build a marquee event that not only elevates the profile of partnering organizations and sponsors, but communicates the mission of the AIA, and gives a platform to the young professionals living and working within its most populous, most active local chapters in the country.

Partners will be part of a greater publicity drive and advertisements to take place in newspapers, traditional media, and social media.

Sponsors

Sponsors are crucial to ensuring that the event fulfills its foundational mission of providing support to emerging professionals and the professional pipeline. The financial barriers to the pursuit of an architectural education and license are notoriously steep, and every ladder we can offer the next generation helps make this field we love all the richer.

Toward that end, ArchSandFest would like to work with a backing organization to award a single young professional a \$2000 prize to cover the cost of the six-part Architectural Registration Exam (ARE), whose divisions cost \$235 each, while also covering the \$100 cost of an initial NCARB record, the \$377 cost of initial licensure in New York State, and other miscellaneous processing fees.

The organizing committee would also like to award a runner-up a six-month subscription to an ARE prep course (\$1500), and a third candidate a \$500 prize check.

Dates

In order to ensure adequate planning time, allow for favorable weather, and permit the ability to capture the university segment of the audience, it is recommended that the event take place in late summer.

The current date being explored is **Saturday, August 26, 2023**.

The event will take place between the hours of **10am to 7pm**.

Program

The day will feature a variety of structured and unstructured events that will give attendees the ability to plan their participation in a way that best works with their needs. In no particular order, these are:

- Sandcastle building contest.
 - Three tiers of competition: Families/Kids, Universities, Individual groups.
 - Victors per Judges' Choice, People's Choice.
 - Winners awarded prizes;
 - See "Sponsors" section for top three primary prizes
 - Other, smaller prizes can optionally be arranged with different partnering organizations, such as gift certificates to a local restaurant, business, beverage provider, etc.
- Beach sports, leisure
 - Volleyball, paddleball, badminton, etc.
 - Beach chairs, cabanas.
- Dining
 - Food & Beverages to be provided by venue and/or participating restaurants who may wish to be part of a local showcase.
- Music, dancing
 - Entertainment to be provided by venue and/or event partner.
- Networking, socializing
 - Catered mixer for all attendees.
 - On-site childcare for those with families to be provided by venue and/or event partner.

Transportation

Partnerships will be explored to provide adequate transportation to attendees coming from a large geographic region. It is recommended that a dedicated shuttle service be arranged that originates at AIA New York's Manhattan headquarters on Washington Square Park, with one to two interim stops at centralized locations in Brooklyn and Queens, with a final stop at the event venue.

The End