

Advocacy Action Matrix

AIA Chicago is committed to identifying and vetting policy issues of concern to our membership and community and effecting change on priority public policy issues related to the built environment.

To fulfill its advocacy mission effectively, AIAC must carefully select the issues it chooses to address through advocacy and determine the level of effort it should make on the issues it chooses. This document provides the Chapter with **guidelines** to assess and rank issues.

AIA Chicago adopts positions and oversees action on issues consistent with these guidelines:

- The Chapter focuses on issues where the expertise of our membership is especially relevant.
- The Chapter will address a limited number of issues to maximize its effectiveness.
- The Chapter prioritizes issues of citywide and regional importance.
- The Chapter, while focusing on architects, seeks input from others and may support allied organizations with greater expertise on a given issue.
- The Chapter will strive to consider all sides of every issue before acting.
- The Chapter does not give design critiques of individual projects or member's work.

Assessment Step #1: Relevance to our members

- Does the issue benefit from the unique input of design professionals, and does the issue impact the practice of architecture in Chicago?
 - If yes, continue to assessment step #2
 - If no, the Issue is Tier 4 (see Levels of Action below), not relevant to AIA Chicago
 - If the issue is of state or federal importance, refer the issue to AIA Illinois or AIA National.
 - If the issue impacts our local membership but is not located in Chicago, refer the issue to the local AIA chapter.

Assessment Step #2: Agreement around the issue

- Do we have a sense of our members' views on this issue and are there other members that support a similar position on this issue? (note this does not require consensus)
 - If yes, continue to assessment step #3
 - If no, the issue is Tier 3 (see Levels of Action below)
 - If not clear, continue to assess

Assessment Step #3: Consider the positions taken by other organizations on the issue

- Has another allied organization already taking action that we can support?
- If no, continue to assessment step #4
- If yes, the issue is Tier 2 (see Levels of Action below)

Assessment Step #4: Relevance to AIA Chicago's Strategic Plan

- Does the issue address one of AIA Chicago's priorities outlined in the Strategic Plan?
If yes, continue to assessment step #5
If no, the issue is Tier 2

Assessment Step #5 Capacity

- Are there specific members who are passionate about the issue and dedicated to full and acting on the issue, working in concert with the advocacy team and the chapter?
If yes, the issue is Tier 1
If no, continue to assessment step #6

Assessment Step #6 Time Sensitivity

- Is the issue time sensitive and does it require urgent attention or action?
If yes, the issue is Tier 1
If no, the issue is Tier 2

Levels of Action

Based on the answers to the questions above, AIA Chicago may rank issues into 4 levels:

Tier 1: Top Priority – The AIA Chicago Board of Directors will review the issue and appoint or support a working group to research and develop recommendations for positioning or action steps. The chapter will communicate through every means available, including issuing a position, comments, letters to legislators, mainstream media, and/or legislative visits.

Tier 2: Medium Priority– AIA Chicago may partner with other organizations advocating on this issue, sign on as an endorser of a piece of legislation or organization, or consider limited, targeted communication to specific legislators or stakeholders.

Tier 3: Informational – Refer information to AIA Chicago Staff, who will endeavor to provide our members with a variety of opinions on the issue through publications and programs.

Tier 4: Not of Interest – AIA Chicago will not support action on this issue at this time.

After assessment, the Advocacy Committee will present recommendations to the Executive Committee and the Executive Committee will discuss with the Board of Directors, who will vote. Action will be taken based on a majority of votes. If there is not a unanimous decision, then the dissenting opinion(s) will be made known to membership, along with the recommended action.