

AIA Article with Takeaways from the LS:

[Five key takeaways from 2024 AIA Leadership Summit](#)
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Capitol Hill

Keynote Speaker: Preeti Sriratana - Partner/Managing Director at Modellus Novus Leadership by Design

In the face of economic uncertainty, the field of architecture is undergoing a significant transformation. Architects are grappling with the challenges posed by the world's changing climate and communities, leading to innovative design approaches. As academia aims to equip architecture students for the responsibility of safeguarding public health, safety, and welfare, graduates are presented with diverse career paths. Preeti Sriratana exemplifies a successful navigation of architecture, tech entrepreneurship, and community organization transformation. His journey, emphasizing leadership, will be explored in a session connecting to the summit's theme of "Leadership Through Challenging Times." Following this, Preeti shared insights and advice for AIA leaders in supporting members and the broader design community during a conversation with the president, Kimberly Dowdell, AIA.

Keynote Speaker Dr. Simone Bhan Ahuja - Strategist, Author at Blood Orange Revolution is an Inside Job

Dr. Simone Ahuja revealed what we need to light an intrapreneurial fire in ourselves and others. She talked about how the world's most successful intrapreneurs bring new ideas to life - and learn a simple process that can empower us and our teams to bring innovative ideas to life. She talked about how to build a culture where everyone feels empowered to innovate and how we can do MORE with LESS.

Keynotes

CACE President and Council member **Mary Margaret Zindren** joined Lakisha Woods EVP/CEO and AIA President Kimberly Dowdell on a panel to discuss AIA future outlook and strategy.

President-Elect and Council member Evelyn Lee addressed the Leadership Summit and shared upcoming initiatives.

Sessions

The Chief Architect session explained the details of this initiative to advocate mayors to include architects in cabinet-level positions as advisors. AIA President Kimberly Dowdell has championed this initiative and wrote about it in her recent [President statement](#). The Chief Architect initiative is an important communication point for the Council because it encompasses many of our study group topics as areas where architects can advise mayors on issues like

climate, public health, equity, value and quality of life. Also, the session shared the timeline of this initiative, which began in 2016 as a Council study group topic. **Please consider mentioning the Chief Architect initiative in your Council updates to your states, components and networks and share any updates happening within your network.**

Leadership Retreats

In a new initiative for 2024, the last session block of Friday morning was dedicated to three separate Leadership Retreats:

- AIA Component Leadership Retreat - Building Strong Foundations for Success was a deep dive on association best practices designed for collaboration, skill-building, and strategic visioning.
- AIA Volunteer Leaders Retreat ensured synergies between AIA Board of Directors, Board-level Committee Chairs, and volunteer leaders from the Strategic Council, NAC and YAF.
- Knowledge Community Leaders Retreat fostered dynamic dialogue between AIA Knowledge Community leaders and members of the Board Knowledge Committee.

State's Dinners

Each night, most of the States hosted their own dinners, allowing everyone to get together, recap the day at Capitol Hill, and share some updates. On Thursday night, large States gathered together at dinner time, where everyone got a chance to talk to each other and share upcoming events from different chapters.

Transition from AIA National to The AIA

In an effort to more equitably reflect our global community, AIA is internally rebranding to eliminate the use of 'AIA National.' More information on this is forthcoming from The AIA / AIA Headquarters staff.