

# PYLON

*Incorporated in 1894 to unite, represent, promote and enhance the profession and practice of architecture in the borough of Brooklyn.*

[www.AIABrooklyn.org](http://www.AIABrooklyn.org)

JUNE 2015

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Jane McGroarty, AIA



I attended this year's AIA National Convention as a delegate, the same as I have had the fortune of doing several times in years past. Prior AIA National Conventions were in Miami, Las Vegas, New Orleans (more than once), Washington DC, Chicago, and this year in Atlanta. Believe it or not, I missed the one in New York. I think the conventions are a must for practicing architects. Besides the seminars that were running continuously on many subjects, there were tours of the city. The expo for those of you that have never attended is sort of like a car or boat show for manufacturers who displayed the latest and the greatest. From building materials and finishes, to lighting and all in between.

The business meetings I attended as a delegate on your behalf seemed similar. We voted on candidates running for national offices such as Secretary, Vice President, Presidents, and Directors, but we also voted on bylaws changes. Many of these changes affect how the institute is to be run, managed, and how services are delivered to our members (you).

The 70,248 members were represented and 4,740 delegate voted, AIA Brooklyn had 21, Queens 16, and The Bronx 3. For comparison, the entire state of Maine had 13 and Montana 19.

The convention is usually pretty organized except for the new surroundings which can take a day to become familiar with (I walked about 7+ miles/day). I can certainly say it was one of the more poorly run meetings I have been to. At the days end the results are as follows:

THE BYLAWS WERE AS FOLLOWS:

### Resolution 15-1

#### *Title: Equity in Architecture*

The intent of Equity in Architecture is a call to action for both women and men to realize the goal of equitable practice in order to retain talent, advance the architecture profession, and communicate the value of design to society. The institute has long identified diversity and inclusion as a strategic goal for the profession. However, the rate of impact has not been significant enough to advance the ratio of underrepresented populations within the profession, with the greatest disparity being evident in leadership and ownership positions. The Institute encourages our global society to "Look Up", elevating the value of architecture and the services that architects provide. Concurrently, there needs to be reflective look at valuing our human capital within the profession. Equity is everyone's issue and achieving equitable practice has a direct impact on the relevance, economic health and future of the institute and our profession.

**The resolution passed by 4,117 to 416 votes.**

### Resolution 15-2a

#### *Title: Graduated Architect Member Dues for Newly Licensed Architect Members*

Intent is to reduce the financial burdens of licensed Architect members; graduated dues structure of a fixed period of time be established to include national, regional, state & local dues.

**The resolution passed by 3,538 votes.**

### Resolution 15-2b

*continued on page 3*

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## BROOKLYN ARCHITECTS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION INC.

Formed to raise funds for awarding architectural scholarships to qualified persons and to advance the architectural profession. All members that are in good standing of the AIA/Brooklyn are automatically members of the Brooklyn Architects Scholarship Foundation Inc.

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*Deadline for submission to the Pylon is the second Wednesday of each month.*

*Articles or notices may be submitted to the Editor by e-mail, fax or on disc. Handwritten articles or verbal comments are cheerfully received.*

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# 2015 AIA NATIONAL CONVENTION cont.

## *Title: Graduated Membership Dues - Pilot Programs*

The intent is to ask the AIA Board of Directors to authorize a number of coordinated three-year Pilot Programs designed to evaluate the effectiveness of Graduated Dues on building overall membership and improving penetration of AIA membership in selected constituencies. The pilot programs would focus on new members in all membership categories, and include, but not necessarily limited to, architects in education: architects in government, and architects in corporations. Upon completion of the pilot programs, the AIA will evaluate the financial, retention and recruitment impact of the pilot programs on each level of the organization.

**The resolution passed by 3,131 votes.**

## **Resolution 15-3**

*Title: AIA San Fernando Valley and AIA California Council*

Intent is to amend pertinent provisions of the Institute Bylaws concerning specific eligibility criteria for AIA Emeritus membership: Specifically, current language in the Bylaws provides that AIA members who have maintained membership for a minimum of 15 years, fully retired, and 70 years of age, are eligible to transition to Emeritus status in order to maintain membership rights and privileges. This amendment to the Bylaws would lower the age to 65.

**By 2,977 votes, the resolution did not pass.**

## **Resolution 15-4**

*Title: Bring Transparency to AIA Voting*

The intent is in keeping with the spirit of repositioning a member-driven organization, post the results of elections for AIA National officers.

## **NEWLY ELECTED:**



2016 First VP  
**Thomas V. Vonier, FAIA**  
(AIA Continental Europe)



2016-17 Treasurer  
**Stuart L. Coppedge, AIA**  
(AIA Colorado)

## **AT LARGE DIRECTORS:**



**Jennifer Workman, AIA**  
(Texas)



**Jane Frederick, FAIA**  
(South Carolina)



**Anthony Schirripa, FAIA**  
(New York)

**By 3,203 votes, the resolution did not pass.**

## **Resolution 15-5**

*Title: Raise Minimum Standards for Membership Renewal*

The intent is to continue to maintain the high ethical standards of AIA members by adequately screening members for serious licensing violations during the membership renewal process.

**By 3,876 votes, the resolution did not pass**

## **Resolution 15-6**

*Title: 7 World Trade Center*

The intent is to cause the AIA to adopt a Position Statement in support of the new investigation into the complete collapse of 7 World Trade Center of September 11th, 2001

**By 3,892 votes, the resolution did not pass.**

## **Resolution 15-7 Through 15-15**

The Recognition of AIA National Staff. Appreciation to retiring strategic council representatives, board members, and members, fifty years. Recognition of newly licensed members, component executive, and national staff anniversaries. Appreciation to the host chapter, convention committees, exhibitors, and Elizabeth Chu Richter, FAIS, and David Richter, FAIA

**Result: Passed unanimously**

In closing, I have prepared this to show that there really was work to do at the convention.

This was only one session of about three that I attended. I thank AIA Brooklyn for allowing me the opportunity to represent our chapter and hope to see more of you next year in Philadelphia for the 2016 AIA Convention.

- Giuseppe Anzalone, AIA  
Former AIA Brooklyn President

## COMMITTEE URBAN DESIGN REPORT

May 13, 2015

The purpose of the meeting, discuss the Chapter's response to the Dept. of City Planning's latest Rezoning Proposal – "Zoning for Quality & Affordability" \*. DCP's primary goals for the zoning amendments:

- Remove barriers that constrain housing production and raise costs
- Encourage better quality buildings that contribute to the fabric of neighborhoods
- Promote senior housing
- Reduce unnecessary parking requirements for affordable housing

We had a very general discussion about some of the goals which we thought were generally laudable. We talked about some

of the zoning changes and wondered if they would really lead to more senior housing, for example; or if so-called 'best practices' need zoning changes. There was a sense, in looking at his proposal, that the Department of City Planning was tweaking a few ideas rather than looking at the overall problem of housing in New York City.

We concluded that we would like to prepare a Brooklyn AIA statement that takes a broader look at planning and zoning in the city in order to begin a conversation that goes beyond the seeming band-aid approach of this amendment.

Some thoughts:

What is the purpose of FAR if the goal can be satisfied by height and density regulations?

Is zoning the real impediment to affordable senior housing? And are the incentives proposed enough to spur this type of development?

Is the population growth of NYC predicted by Mayor Bloomberg really possible? If not what is a realistic growth number?

Does the city have the infrastructure to support more population?

- Jane McGroarty, AIA

\* See the May 2015 Pylon for background information (article) about the "Zoning for Quality and Affordability - Pros and Cons"

## COMMITTEE INDUSTRY MEETING REPORT

May 14, 2015

Representing DOB Brooklyn were Borough Commissioner Ira Gluckman, AIA; Chief Plan Examiner Neil Adler, P.E.; & Borough Manager Carlos Pineiro.

### INADEQUACY OF THE DOB'S BIS SYSTEM WEBSITE

A number of attendees immediately commented that the BIS system website seems to have noticeably improved lately. Mr. Gluckman stated that the improvement follows installation of "anti-BOT software," and that a new server was about to be installed. These steps will prevent the system from crashing whenever a large volume of data requests come in simultaneously.

### ELECTRICAL DIVISION DELAYS

Mr. Gluckman stated that a new Plan Examiner will be added specifically to process applications submitted to the Electrical Division. Also, large jobs involving over 1,000 kVAs will be sent directly to DOB's Electrical Advisory Board for review and processing. (Note: a kVA is a unit of "apparent" electrical power equal to 1,000 Volt-Amperes.) This is expected to speed up processing of jobs at the Electrical Division.

### SCHEDULE B PROBLEMS

At previous meetings: requirement by the Plumbing Division that if there is no work to be done to a building's existing gas meters

and/or gas risers, a note to that effect must be added to the front of the Schedule B for the job. The note must state that "Gas meters and gas risers are existing and are of no concern." This requirement has resulted in a needless flood of Post-Approval Amendments being filed for that statement only.

Mr. Gluckman reported that the Schedule B will be redesigned to eliminate everything but sprinkler, standpipe, and gas work. The lists of individual plumbing fixtures will be eliminated from the form. If there is gas or plumbing work involved in the job, riser diagrams will still be required on the plans. If this change does in fact take place it will eliminate frustration and wasted time not only for applicants but for DOB staff as well.

### LAAS

Mr. Gluckman explained that LAA's are backed up because processing is done by a single employee who is overwhelmed. This is why, as we discussed at previous meetings, plumbers are asking architects and engineers to file for LAA-type plumbing work as separate self-certified Type 2 Alterations at HUB. That, it turns out, is not an answer. However, Mr. Gluckman informed the meeting that DOB is adding another person to work on LAA processing and that will mean a faster turn-around for LAA's

### CIVIL PENALTIES FOR WORK WITHOUT

### A PERMIT

In most cases where Violations are issued for "Work Without a Permit" a civil penalty is assessed and must be paid before the required permit is issued. In almost all cases the amount of the required civil penalty is clearly shown on Violation documents issued by the ECB or the DOB. In a case that was discussed at the meeting a permit was erroneously issued without the civil penalty being determined or paid. The job was completed and signed off, but the Violation remained unresolved.

### ACCESS TO PLANS

At last month's meeting Ida Galea, asked Mr. Gluckman why the public can't look at plans scanned and on file at the DOB's Queens or Manhattan Borough offices from the public access computer in the Brooklyn DOB office. Mr. Gluckman explained that the computers aren't set up that way. Scanned plans are only accessible to the public in the borough in which they were filed.

### HUB JOBS INVOLVING "T-ITEMS"

It was asked whether HUB jobs involving "T-Items" (requiring technical personnel to add information) can be processed at the DOB Brooklyn office. HUB has stated that this cannot be done. In the past this was done occasionally, but no longer.

- Jerry Goldstein, AIA



# THE LICENSED PROFESSIONS IN NEW YORK STATE - PART 1 OF 3

In New York State, the State Education Department, under the Board of Regents' direction, administers professional regulation through its Office of the Professions, assisted by the State Boards for the Professions.

New York's unique system of professional regulation, began in 1891. Since then it has grown to encompass 800,000 practitioners and over 30,000 professional practice business entities in more than 50 professions. On April 28, 1915, New York State incorporated into the General Business Law Article 7-A, entitled "Registered Architects" providing for the appointment of a State Board of Examiners and restricting the use of the title architect.

Guided by the Regents, the professions are within New York State's unified system of education - The University of the State of New York. In 1971 the present definition of the practice of the profession was adopted. Today, the statutory requirements may be found in Education Law Article 147.

To ensure public protection in New York State, the New York State Education Department's Office of the Professions (OP) investigates and prosecutes professional misconduct in all professions except medicine. Professional misconduct is the failure of a licensed professional to meet expected standards of practice.

The Board of Regents, is responsible for the final disposition of all disciplinary matters. The Office of the Professions may be searched by name or by month of action for summaries of final disciplinary actions. From the OP web site:

*"Professional misconduct is defined in Education Law and in the Rules of the Board of Regents. Professional misconduct includes but is not limited to the following:*

- Engaging in acts of gross incompetence or gross negligence on a single occasion, or negligence or incompetence on more than one occasion*
- Permitting or aiding an unlicensed person to perform activities requiring a license*

- Refusing a client or patient service because of race, creed, color, or national origin*
- Practicing beyond the scope of the profession*
- Being convicted of a crime*
- Failing to return or provide copies of records on request*
- Performing unnecessary work or unauthorized services*
- Practicing under the influence of alcohol or other known drugs*

## **The Board of Regents, is responsible for the final disposition of all disciplinary matters**

*A range of penalties that includes censure and reprimand, fines (up to \$10,000 for each violation), suspensions and/or probationary terms may be imposed on licensees who have committed misconduct. The Board of Regents takes final action on the most serious cases of misconduct. In severe cases of misconduct, the Regents may revoke the professional's license. Information on uncontested determinations for committing an infraction of a minor and technical nature are available at [op4info@nysed.gov](mailto:op4info@nysed.gov), OP's Professional Assistance Program allows licensees who abuse alcohol or other drugs to surrender their licenses voluntarily and confidentially while progressing through an acceptable course of treatment.*

*OP also investigates allegations of illegal (unlicensed) practice in all 50 licensed professions, including medicine. Practicing a profession without a license and current registration is a felony in New York State."*

The number of Architectural Licenses issued by NYS has increased in each of the last 5 years from 683 in 2010, to 853 in 2014 (the latest year statistics are posted on their web site). In all there are 17,229 Licensed Architects in NYS the vast majority (10,070) reside or maintain an office in the state.

The majority of the NY registrants are in the five Boroughs (2,971 Manhattan, 1567

Brooklyn, 676 Queens, 133 Staten Island, and 108 Bronx), reflected by the licensee's primary mailing address on record with the State Education Department.

Regents Rules Section 29.3(a)(3) states that it is unprofessional conduct for a design professional to certify "by affixing the licensee's signature and seal to documents for which the professional services have not been performed by, or thoroughly reviewed by, the licensee; or failing to prepare and retain a written evaluation of the professional services represented by such documents in accordance with the requirements specified in Part 29.3(a)(3) - Unprofessional Conduct."

Section 7302 of the New York State Education Law provides that, "Only a person licensed or otherwise authorized to practice under this article shall practice architecture or use the title "architect"". A "person licensed" is an individual who has qualified by education, experience and examination and has been issued a license to practice architecture in New York State by the State Education Department."

State laws related to the regulation of the professions in New York are designed to protect the public. Any architectural services performed for a project or site located within the State, whether for a New York or out-of-state client, are subject to the laws of this State and must be performed by a person licensed or otherwise authorized to practice in New York.

The laws of the State are clear in regard to unauthorized practice. It is a Class E felony for anyone not authorized to practice, to offer to practice, or to hold themselves out as being able to practice in any profession in which a license is a prerequisite to practice. Professional misconduct includes permitting, aiding or abetting an unlicensed person to perform activities requiring a license; and it is a Class E felony for anyone, including a public official, to knowingly aid or abet three or more unlicensed persons practice a profession which requires a license.

- John Gallagher, AIA



# THE SIMS MUNICIPAL RECYCLING FACILITY



Wednesday, April 23, 2015 members of the Brooklyn Chapter gathered at the SIMS Recycling Facility on the Brooklyn waterfront in Sunset Park for a guided tour. Ms Eadaoin Quinn, director of the Recycling Education Center, explained the role recycling plays in reducing the bulk and cost to the city of discarded materials that typically go to far away, out of state, landfills. The presentation brings visitors close-up to the facts and figures of waste management and the sequence of operations by both men and machines, to separate, sort and ship the reclaimed materials to other factories to be re-purposed.

Referred to as the “Sunset Park Material Recovery Facility” ( MRF) it was opened in December 2013. The facility processes the 20,000 tons of glass, plastic and metal recyclables collected from curbside every month. The majority of the inbound material is barged in from other Sims Recycling facilities in Queens and Bronx. Brooklyn’s recyclables arrive directly in NYC Department of Sanitation trucks. Most of the reclaimed material is shipped out by barge and rail. The architecture is notable, designed by Selldorf Architects and reminiscent of Finnish architect Alvar Aalto’s industrial architecture. The facility is not only a design success it also is a good neighbor and an asset to the community. MRF has

created permanent jobs for at least 75 persons. The facility includes administrative offices, a cafeteria, classrooms and educational exhibits.

A large outdoor terrace on the second floor can be made available to the community for gatherings. From the terrace there is a breathtaking 270 degree view of New York Harbor, the towers of lower Manhattan, Lady Liberty and beyond that the open ocean. Visitors to the facility, often groups of school children and occasionally, groups of architects, after attending the presentation and browsing the exhibits, are conducted via a connecting bridge, to the galleries. From galleries high above the floor of the main processing plant one sees a maze of catwalks, conveyors, stairways and suspended balconies, it’s reminiscent of a Piranesi etching depicting a monumental interior, except here everything is in rapid motion, particularly the people and machines working on the factory floor.

From this observation gallery one can follow the sorting and compaction operations, the end result of which is a 1,000 pound bale of crushed plastic bottles. Some bales of mixed colored plastic, others of clear. Clear plastic being the most valuable as it can be made into many more products than colored plastic. “Here’s a hint: do your little bit and if you



The facility processes the 20,000 tons of glass, plastic and metal recyclables collected from curbside every month



must buy drinks in plastic containers choose clear, and always recycle". The greater value of the recovered clear plastic benefits the City as well. Through a profit sharing arrangement between SIMS and the City of New York the plant makes money for the City. The higher the quality of the reclaimed product the better the price. Another innovation at the facility is the 120 foot tall wind turbine tower (160 feet to the tip of the propeller blade) which is providing approximately 4% of the electricity required to run the whole facility or by itself powering 100% of the Administration Building and Education Center. Wind generated power combined with photovoltaic panels on the roofs means that 20% of the entire electric power required is from renewable sources.

Because of projects like the MRF, the Hamilton Avenue Marine Transfer Station, the rejuvenation of the Industry City (Busch Terminal) buildings, and other, as yet unbuilt, suitable to the area, water de-

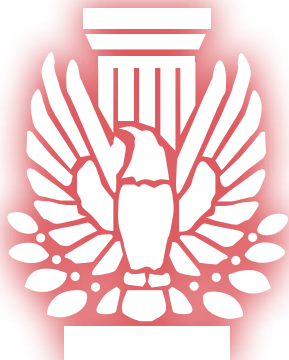
pendent industrial uses, it renews the hope that one day there will be a Cross Harbor Rail Freight Tunnel that will link Brooklyn to Jersey City and the rest of the nation!

- Anthony Marchese, AIA  
vp@aiabrooklyn.org



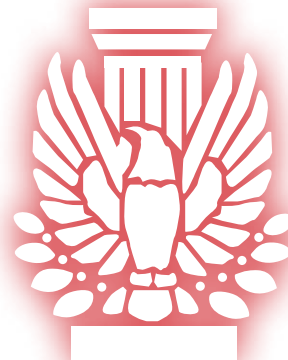


## A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS



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 Anne Barrett, AIA  
 Sirobe Carastafhnur, Assoc AIA  
 Alexander Davis, Assoc AIA  
 Clayton Dodd, Assoc AIA  
 Marjorie Felice, Assoc AIA  
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 Mokhtar Salim, Assoc AIA  
 Alina Shapiro, Assoc AIA  
 Leonardo Toro, Assoc AIA  
 Tyler Tourville, Assoc AIA  
 Tom Walker, Assoc AIA  
 Susan Wu, Assoc AIA  
 Boris Yundelson, Assoc AIA



## WHAT IS CRAN AND WHAT DOES CRAN DO?

### What is CRAN?

CRAN (Custom Residential Architects Network) is an AIA Knowledge Community. CRAN addresses the unique issues related to Custom Residential practice. If you practice residential architecture for individual homeowners – whether you work on bathroom or kitchen remodeling projects, additions to existing residences, or ground-up new homes – you are doing “custom” work and are part of CRAN. Inclusive is key to CRAN and its future growth. We are a style neutral group that recognizes members who are engaged in all types of residential architecture design idioms and practice models. For more information visit the CRAN website at <http://network.aia.org/cran/home>

### What does CRAN do?

Support: CRAN supports all architects whose practices focus on custom residential work. We address the

unique issues related to custom residential practice. We provide a forum for an exchange of ideas and resources that affect the residential practitioner.

**Advocate:** CRAN is finding new avenues to advocate for the residential practitioner through increased media exposure, publication of position papers, and by working closely with AIA, CEDIA, NARI and NAHB. We have established relationships with media outlets such as Hanley Wood and web-based platforms such as Houzz. We also have solid relationships with industry leaders who sponsor our events.

**Educate:** CRAN hosts many programs and events on both the local and national levels. We support vital ongoing discussions and provide resources at [AIA.org/CRAN](http://AIA.org/CRAN). CRAN provides continuing educational opportunities for its members, the general public and our allied team members for all aspects of residential architecture. **AIA**

Thanks to the KAMCO Supply Corporation for providing as part of their 2015 Customer

Appreciation and Building Material Trade Show the opportunity to bring together the Brooklyn and Queens Chapters of the AIA for a joint general meeting. The event took place at the Douglaston Manor in Little Neck, NY. overlooking the beautiful Douglaston Golf Course.

Seen in the photo is Queens Chapter President Willy Zambrano, AIA and Brooklyn Chapter President Ida Galea, AIA as they are addressing the audience of approximately 50 Brooklyn & Queens members. **AIA**

To all AIA members,

I would like to thank everyone for the Radio Flyer Wagon. My new son (Nicholas) will have many years of enjoyment. Along with tired parents, pulling this along.



- Nick Raschella, Assoc. AIA





# LOOKING AHEAD

## REGULARLY SCHEDULED CHAPTER MEETINGS

Unless otherwise noted,  
all meetings are scheduled at:

Committee Meetings: 5:30 PM  
Cocktails: 5:30 PM  
Dinner: 6:00 PM  
Program: 7:00 PM

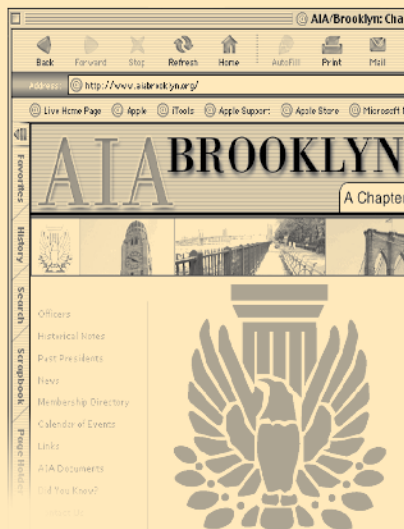
General Meeting  
**Thursday,  
Wednesday,  
June 17, 2015**

NYU Polytechnic Institute Campus  
6 Metrotech Center  
Room JAB475  
Brooklyn 11201

Executive Meeting  
**Wednesday,  
June 7, 2015**

AIA learning unit credit and certificates towards  
NYS mandatory continuing education  
will be given for each program.

## AIA Brooklyn Chapter website



[www.aiabrooklyn.org](http://www.aiabrooklyn.org)

## LAST PRESENTER MONTH

*Many thanks to  
last months presenters ...*

Glass Wool Insulation on high performance buildings  
by **KNAUF INSULATION**

Perimeters + Floating Elements  
by **ARMSTRONG WORLD INDUSTRIES**

Evolution of Lightweight Building Materials  
by **USG CORP**

Introduction to Thru Penetration & Construction  
Joint Firestopping  
by **3M CORP**

**PHILADELPHIA!**

AIA Convention 2016  
May 19-21, Philadelphia



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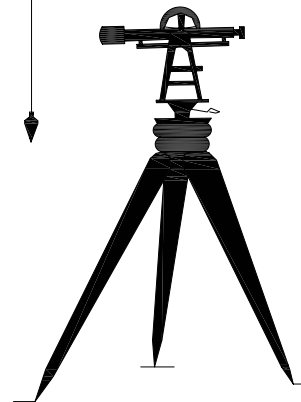
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P Y L O N  
N E W S L E T T E R

UPCOMING  
CHAPTER  
MEETINGS

June 17, 2015  
Sept. 16, 2015

## EVENTS CALENDAR ACTIVITIES

### BROOKLYN REMEMBERED: THE WATERCOLORS OF JAMES RYDER VAN BRUNT

*August 27, 2014 - June 28, 2015  
Brooklyn Historical Society*

The exhibit presents thirteen watercolors by 19th century Brooklyn native James Ryder Van Brunt. He devoted decades to recording neat and colorful views of Dutch homesteads and historic landmarks during a period of rapid change as Brooklyn grew from a collection of villages into a city.

### CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

*Nominations Due: July 13, 2015*

Call for nominations for 2016 AIA New York State Officers, Associate Director, New York Regional Representative to the National Associates Committee, Student Director and Information Regarding the AIANY Board of Directors. Officers must be nominated by their Chapter.

### FOLLY 2015 OPENING

*May 17 - August 30, 2015  
Socrates Sculpture Park  
32-01 Vernon Boulevard  
Long Island City, New York*

Socrates Sculpture Park (photo) and The Architectural League launched the annual Folly Program in 2012 to explore the intersections and divergences between architecture and sculpture. An annual competition, the program creates an opportunity for an emerging architect or designer to build a project in public.

### AIANY HOUSING AWARDS WINNER SYMPOSIUM

*Tuesday, June 23, 2015  
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm*

The AIA New York Chapter 2015 Housing Design Awards, organized by the AIANY Housing Committee, recognize design

excellence and innovation in multifamily housing design.

Join the AIANY Housing Committee to honor the five winners of this years AIANY Housing Awards program.  
Free for AIA members;  
\$10 for non-members

For more info visit:  
<http://cfa.aiany.org/index.php?section=calendar&evtid=8298> m.

### AIA BROOKLYN GOLF OUTING

*August 6, 2015  
Dyker Beach Golf Club  
email: [tga@tgarch.com](mailto:tga@tgarch.com)*

