WHAT THE AMERICAN JOBS ACT MEANS TO NEVADA

RIC LICATA, FAIA, Senior Director for the Western Mountain Region continues to work on behalf of architects in Nevada and the Western Mountain Region to re-energize the economy and generate jobs. Just prior to President Obama’s Congressional presentation of the American Jobs Act, Ric was working with White House advisors to provide evidence and information regarding the plight of architects in Nevada and the Region and the necessity to get the design and construction industry back to work. His letter of August 31st, 2011 to President Obama is available on the www.aianevada.org website. Ric has provided here an analysis of what the American Jobs Bill means to architects and the economy particularly in Nevada.

This morning Obama Administration Advisors, the White House Office of Public Engagement and leadership in the State of Nevada held a phone conference to discuss the President’s proposed jobs act and its impact for Nevada. One issue was reinforced repeatedly—the purpose of the American Jobs Act is to put more people back to work and to do so without adding a dime to the deficit. I have been asked to share this information with you. The following is a synopsis of the President’s proposal in regard to work and range of possible fund amounts for Nevada:

The American Jobs Act has five components:

1. Tax Cuts to Help America’s Small Businesses Hire and Grow
The President’s plan will cut the payroll tax in half to 3.1% for employers on the first $5 million in wages, providing broad tax relief to all businesses but targeting it to the 98 percent of firms with wages below this level. In Nevada, 50,000 firms will receive a payroll tax cut under the American Jobs Act.

2. Putting Workers Back on the Job While Rebuilding and Modernizing America
The President’s plan includes $50 billion in immediate investments for highways, transit, rail and aviation, helping to modernize an infrastructure that now receives a grade of “D” from the American Society of Civil Engineers and putting hundreds of thousands of construction workers back on the job. Of the investments for highway and transit modernization projects, the President’s plan will make immediate investments of at least $250,800,000 in Nevada that could support a minimum of approximately 3,300 local jobs.

The President is proposing to invest $35 billion to prevent layoffs of up to 280,000 teachers, while supporting the hiring of tens of thousands more and keeping cops and firefighters on the job. These funds would help states and localities avoid and reverse layoffs now, and will provide $258,300,000 in funds to Nevada to support up to 3,600 educator and first responder jobs.

The President is proposing a $25 billion investment in school infrastructure that will modernize at least 35,000 public schools—investments that will create jobs, while improving classrooms and upgrading our schools to meet 21st century needs. Nevada will receive $168,400,000 in funding to support as many as 2,200 jobs.

The President is proposing to invest $1.5 billion in a national effort to put construction workers on the job rehabilitating and refurbishing hundreds of thousands of vacant and foreclosed homes and businesses. Nevada could receive about $585,600,000 to revitalize and refurbish local communities, in addition to funds that would be available through a competitive application.

The President’s plan proposes $5 billion of investments for facilities modernization needs at community colleges. Investment in modernizing community colleges fills a key resource gap, and ensures these local, bedrock education institutions have the facilities and equipment to address current workforce demands.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3
AIA NEVADA AND WMR DESIGN & HONOR AWARDS GALA

Celebrate Excellence in Design and Distinguished Service by attending the Awards Gala in the beautiful Starvine Ballroom at the ARIA Resort Hotel at CityCenter.

AIA design award programs (state, regional and national) are held in order to bring architects together in recognition and celebration of quality design. It is an occasion when design professionals applaud those who have achieved excellence in design and service to the profession. The purpose is to elevate the quality of architectural practice, establish a standard by which all architects can measure performance, and inform the public of the breadth and value of architecture practice.

Jurors for each of the four awards programs will attend the festivities and provide their jurors’ comments on their selections and recognitions. Jurors for the AIA Nevada Service Awards are (Chair) SOREN SIMONSEN, AIA (UT); JAMES TRAHAN, AIA (AZ); C. ROBERT CAMPBELL, FAIA (NM). Jurors for the AIA Nevada Design Awards are (Chair) TERRANCE BROWN, FAIA (NM), MARK RODDY, AIA (AZ), and HENRY TOM, AIA (AZ). Jurors for the WMR Honor Awards are JOHN KANE, FAIA (AZ); VICTOR JOHNSON, AIA (NM) and STEVEN SCHONBERGER, AIA (CO). Jurors for the WMR Design Awards are RANDALL STOUT, FAIA (CA & NV); SUSAN JONES, FAIA (WA) and GORDON CARRIER, FAIA (CA).

The celebration begins with a reception at 5:00PM on Saturday, October 8th, followed by the Awards Dinner and Presentation Ceremonies. Join your friends and associates from across the region as we announce recipients of the AIA Nevada Distinguished Service Award, the AIA Nevada Excellence in Design Awards and the WMR Design and Honor Award recipients.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.aiasvegas.org. Individual tickets are $150 and tables of eight are $1,250.

THANK YOU TO OUR WMR CONFERENCE SPONSORS!

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- "LOOSE CONNECTIONS" HOST CHAPTER PARTY

Friday, October 7 6:00PM
Historic Fifth Street School Courtyard

Unwind, unplug, calm down, lighten up and let loose... You'll make the best connections when you share fun, food and drinks with your friends and associates from across the region. You'll enjoy the beautifully decorated outdoor courtyard in the midst of our urban oasis, gourmet delights that are especially trucked-in for your enjoyment, revel with your favorite drinks, music, games, performances and make the connection to a truly fun event.

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SPECIAL EVENTS
It's not too late to buy tickets to these special WMR events! Everyone is invited to attend these events, even if they are not registered for the conference.

AIA 2011 Western Mountain Region Conference

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AIA WMR CONFERENCE
AIA NEVADA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
SEAN COULTER, AIA

Fall is finally here, and the summer heat seems to be waning just a bit. This gave me a chance to hike Sloan Canyon just south of Anthem with a friend of mine. We hiked about 5 miles into the canyon and spent about 4 hours in “the wild”. Sloan Canyon, for those that don’t know, is a National Conservation Area to help preserve some incredible petroglyphs. Archeologists believe the more than 300 rock art panels with 1700 individual design elements were created by native cultures from the archaic to historic eras. When I look at these beautiful etchings contemplate how old they are and wonder what the person that drew them must have been thinking, it humbles me as a creature of modern conveniences. For I know that in just a few hours, I will be in my air-conditioned house taking a hot shower before I lay on my couch to watch TV and fall asleep. This of course made me think of modern shelter vs. archaic shelter.

The friend I hiked with is an interactive software developer. His job is to develop software and websites that perform technically complicated actions while making the interface with the user understandable to the lay person, such as myself. As we began to discuss our seemingly different professions, I began to realize the similarities of the two. Architecture is the bringing together of very complicated systems, yet as architects, we make the “interface” with the “user” as simple as possible. This was an interesting revelation for me as it made me contemplate architecture from a perspective I had not viewed architecture from in the past.

Buildings, before the industrial revolution, where very simple constructions that served the very basic need of shelter. Yet there was something else in many of the ancient buildings that did more than that, architecture was built to inspire and last. This architecture didn’t have all of the “systems” we have in buildings now, ie, electrical, mechanical, data, sprinklers, lighting, audio, video, etc. As society progressed through the ages so have our buildings, at least from a technical standpoint. What is interesting to me about this is that we put a great deal of effort into the systems of a building to make them perform in an as efficient manner as possible. Do we put this much effort into how we interact with the building? When I say “interact” I am not only referring to how the building functions from a programmatic standpoint, I am also referring to the more ethereal qualities of the building. How do we perceive the space? How are our senses stimulated? How we we inspired? And as an undercurrent to all of these questions, how authentic and permanent is the building? I feel that when we consider these qualities of a building they become much more successful as people want to occupy them and are inspired.

As we continued our hike up the canyon and the conversation slowed, our pace quickened. We were determined to reach the pinnacle. Once we arrived at the peak with little conversation left (we are typical guys after all) we realized that sometimes it’s not about the conversation, it’s about the doing, about the exploring and about the simplicity of being outside to help reset priorities. I was inspired by nature and primitive art; I feel the modern built environment can do the same. Now I just need to do.

FALL MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN
RECRUIT A NEW MEMBER – GET $50 CREDIT

AIA Nevada’s Fall Membership Campaign is underway. You can help....and get a $50 credit for doing so. Do you have friends, associates, co-workers, and acquaintances who should be members of AIA? There are many people in the design and architecture communities who could profit greatly by becoming members and receiving the benefits of membership. Maybe you know of some. You can help them and yourself by encouraging them to join AIA. Simply have them complete the membership form (found online at www.aialasvegas.org) Write your name on the top and send it to the AIA office or via email to klavigne@aianevada.org. You’ll get a $50 credit for every new member you recruit which you can use to pay for special AIA events like design award entry fees, or design award gala tickets, golf tournament, seminars or special programs. It’s a great way to grow the Chapter and grow your bank account too. In addition,... All members who join in October get “15 for 12”. That means their membership starts in October 2011 and continues through December 2012. 15 months of membership for the price of 12! Also, AIA National now provides an installment plan for dues payments. Learn more at www.aia.org or contact Kelly Lavigne at klavigne@aianevada.org.
THE DESIGN ALLIANCE
DESIGN MATTERS CONFERENCE 2011

Two years ago, AIA Northern Nevada, along with the Black Rock Design Institute, helped form the Design Alliance, a loosely fitted consortium made up of most of the design professions in the Truckee Meadows. The group is made up of architects, planners, graphic designers, interior designers, landscape architects, photographers, artists — just to name a few.

Its main goal is to promote and advocate for design in all its forms on a regional platform and to become a larger voice in supporting community-wide design projects that enhance our quality of life in Northern Nevada.

To bring everyone closer to our mission, the Design Alliance has announced its first “Design Matters 2011” conference, to be held on October 20th, 2011, at the Nevada Museum of Art. The conference will include a keynote speaker, focusing on interdisciplinary design, a slide slam, and opening and closing receptions that will focus on bringing our design community closer to the common goal of design really does matter.

The backbone of the conference will be a juried design competition to create and produce a chair that meets a certain design criteria that will include functionality, sustainability, and creativity. Cash awards will be given to the first and second place winners, along with a Peoples’ Choice award for the most popular piece. All the chairs will then be offered for sale in a silent auction to conclude the evening.

Save the date Notices will be sent soon with more details and information. The event will be free to the public.

CONTINUED FROM COVER ARTICLE


Drawing on the best ideas of both parties and the most innovative states, the President is proposing the most sweeping reforms to the unemployment insurance (UI) system in 40 years help those without jobs transition to the workplace. This could help put the 88,000 long-term unemployed workers in Nevada back to work.

Alongside these reforms, the President is reiterating his call to extend unemployment insurance, preventing 35,200 people looking for work in Nevada from losing their benefits in just the first 6 weeks. And, across the country, the number saved from losing benefits would triple by the end of the year.

The President is proposing a new Pathways Back to Work Fund to provide hundreds of thousands of low-income youth and adults with opportunities to work and to achieve needed training in growth industries. Pathways Back to Work could place 1,400 adults and 3,300 youths in jobs in Nevada.

4. Tax Relief for Every American Worker and Family

The President’s plan will expand the payroll tax cut passed last December by cutting workers payroll taxes in half next year. A typical household in Nevada, with a median income of around $51,000, will receive a tax cut of around $1,580.

5. Fully Paid for as Part of the President’s Long-Term Deficit Reduction Plan.

To ensure that the American Jobs Act is fully paid for, the President will call on the Joint Committee to come up with additional deficit reduction necessary to pay for the Act and still meet its deficit target. The President will, in the coming days, release a detailed plan that will show how we can do that while achieving the additional deficit reduction necessary to meet the President’s broader goal of stabilizing our debt as a share of the economy.

In my letter to the President last week I told him that when architects work everyone works, so if you what to create jobs tomorrow you need to get funding for projects that could start today-projects that architects are working on or can create. As a follow up today I asked to be informed in greater detail as to how my members and their clients can access these funding opportunities. I shared my belief that architects have the capability to create jobs immediately and truly make a difference on Main Street by virtue of the type of work we do. I will keep you posted as more becomes available.
AIA LAS VEGAS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ROB FILARY, AIA

As I am writing this message, we have about three weeks until the Western Mountain Region Conference occurs in Las Vegas. For me, it’s sort of like Christmas as I’m struck with anticipation waiting for all the beautifully wrapped gifts to be opened as the children’s (also known as the architects, me included) faces are overcome with joy. It’s been more than a year of rigorous planning by our WMR Conference Committee and the AIA Staff. First off, I personally want to thank everyone who will be attending the Conference. Secondly, special thanks to all of you who helped with the Conference planning and offered suggestions along the way to create what I know will be a wonderful event. I especially want to thank the AIA staff who has been burning the midnight oil to make this event extra special for us. There’s been a lot of hard work that happens behind the scenes that often goes unnoticed, so thank you.

Although Las Vegas is far from perfect, it’s an exciting place to live and it’s an even more exciting place to be an architect. I am proud to be a Vegas architect, and I want others to know about the incredible talent that exists within our Valley. Unfortunately, talent can only take us so far. Despite the reduction in our workforce, we need the local public entities to be aware that our design and construction industry remains strong and skilled. We need to remind others to stop hiring out-of-state architects to perform work that can—and should—be done by local firms. By hiring talented locals, we are keeping the money in our very own city and state. This is such a simple concept and sustainable approach to creating economic recovery for our area. As such, the AIA Las Vegas Board of Directors has developed a “Think Local First” campaign in an attempt to bring this awareness/reminder to our public entities.

I’ve mentioned this in previous articles, but I truly believe part of the AIA’s mission is to advance our Art in order to raise public awareness of the value of architecture and the importance of good design. Notice that I said “good design.” I don’t want to put down the efforts of those involved in the creation of the Smith Center for Performing Arts, but I have to say that I am so disappointed with the design and implementation of this building. In the end, I’m sure it’s going to be a wonderful interior space with incredible acoustics. However, it will be the performers that make the venue a success—not the architectural design. I can’t help but be offended, almost embarrassed, by the faux exterior design. It’s very apparent that an out-of-state architect created such a monstrosity that has no relation to our desert context and bastardizes our downtown urban landscape. The building serves as another scared monument to an already disjointed downtown. I was under the assumption that the Symphony Park area was going to be a serious development of thoughtfully conceived and unique architecture. Instead, it’s unfortunate that we’ve allowed for the creation of another inappropriate thematic building away from the Strip. Rather than creating an architecture that brings hope to the future of Vegas and provides inspiration for our community, the Smith Center is a massive aesthetic disaster rooted in the past that has been replicated all across Middle America. Unfortunately, it’s one more building that makes Las Vegas somewhat of a laughing stock in the architectural communities around the country.

I don’t mean to dilute anyone’s involvement in the development of the Smith Center. It’s a much needed cultural building, and I’m sure the venue will be successful simply by virtue of its entertainment programs. However, this building serves as a clear example of why we need to educate our public entities about the breadth of talent that already exists in our Valley. Local designers have an intimate understanding of our community and have a vested interest in its prosperity; therefore, the “Think Local First” campaign is truly necessary since we can’t continue to make the same (Smith Center) design mistakes if Las Vegas wants to recover and move forward as a legitimate city.
AN IDP UPDATE

DANIEL CHENIN, ASSOC. AIA
NEVADA IDP COORDINATOR

The IDP Training Requirement
As an Intern in the NCARB IDP (Intern Development Program), you must earn 5,600 hours of experience. Typically, you earn training hours when you are employed in work settings recognized by your state registration board, however, through Supplementary Education you are able to earn training hours outside of those traditional work settings. Below are some common questions (and answers) that many interns ask about receiving IDP credit through Supplementary Education:

Q. Can I earn IDP “core hours” even though I am not employed?
A. Yes, you do not need to be employed to earn core hours through supplementary education. You may earn a maximum of 40 core hours in each of the IDP training areas 1-16 by completing any combination of qualifying supplementary education opportunities. Supplementary Education allows you to earn training hours outside of a traditional work setting, whether or not employed.

You may earn core hours through the following NCARB-recognized supplementary education opportunities:
- Emerging Professional’s Companion (EPC): Activities
- NCARB’s Professional Conduct Monograph
- CSI Certification: CCS & CCCA
- Community-Based Design Center/Collaborative
- Design Competitions
- Site Visit With Mentor

Q. Can I earn IDP hours (core or supplementary) through an unpaid internship?
A. No. unpaid internships are not eligible to earn experience hours with the exception of the approved community based design center/collaborative as defined in Supplementary Education. For more information, please refer to pages 44-45 of the 2011 IDP Guidelines.

Q. My class went on a site visit with the professor as part of an assignment, the professor is also my IDP mentor, can I get IDP credit for this under Supplementary Education?
A. No. While interns may earn up to 40 core hours in “Training Area 13 – Construction Phase—Observation” for visiting construction sites with their mentor, the site visit must be outside of a recognized work setting and may not be for academic credit. For more information, please see pages 48-49 of the 2011 IDP Guidelines.

Q. I worked on a design competition for a class; can I submit the completed competition work for Supplementary Education credit?
A. No, while interns may earn up to 40 core hours in each IDP training area 1-15 for completion and submission of a design competition, the entry must be outside of a recognized work setting or academic requirement. Note: competitions completed for a firm while employed count for IDP credit under the related work setting not under supplementary education.

For more information, please see pages 46-47 of the 2011 IDP Guidelines.

Q. Regarding the Emerging Professional’s Companion (EPC) located at www.epcompanions.org, can I report “exercises” for IDP “core” credit?
A. No, only “activities” can be applied to your core minimum hours required, while “exercises” are not applied to any specific training area. Also note that EPC activities completed for IDP credit may not receive academic credit. For more information, please refer to page 53-54 of the 2011 IDP Guidelines.

If you have any questions about IDP or Supplementary Education, please visit www.ncarb.org or contact your Nevada IDP State/Educator Coordinators: Daniel Chenin 480-7758 and Glenn Nowak 895-3031.

IECC HEARINGS IN OCTOBER
ARCHITECTS INVITED

The Nevada State office of Energy (NSOE) will hold hearings on the adoption of the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code, in October and November and architects and members of the design and construction industry are invited to attend and provide comments regarding the adoption. The hearings are scheduled as follows:

CARSON CITY
Tuesday, October 18, 2011 – 8:30AM
Nevada State Legislature
401 S. Carson Street, Room 4100
Carson City, NV 89701
And via TELECONFERENCE by calling 1-800-636-3807
Access Code: 6652155
And by IN LAS VEGAS BY VIDEO CONFERENCE
at the Nevada State Legislature
Grant Sawyer State Building
555 E. Washington Avenue, Room 4401
Las Vegas, NV 89101

The purpose of these hearings is to solicit comments from interested persons on the regulations regarding the energy consumption in buildings, including manufactured homes; namely adoption of the 2009 version of the International Energy Conservation Code. All interested persons will be afforded a reasonable opportunity to submit data, views or arguments on the proposed regulations, orally and in writing. Written comments must be submitted with the comment form provided by the Director. Written submissions must be received by the Office of Energy at 755 North Roop Street, Ste. 202, Carson City, NV on or before October 11th, 2011 for the October 18, 2011 hearing.

For full information on the hearings visit the website www.aianevada.org.
THINK LOCAL FIRST

AIA Las Vegas has initiated a campaign that we hope will encourage all public entities to “Think Local First” when given an opportunity to select the providers of design, architectural support services, products, and construction for any and all building projects in Southern Nevada. But... We need your help.

In order to demonstrate that we have the talent and experience for any and all projects, we have recently focused on the project, one image of the project, and one paragraph describing the project to draft@aianevada.org.

In this tough economy... “JOBS” are the issue... then common sense tells you that we need to generate and keep as many of them as possible in our own local communities. We want to keep our economy strong and rebuild our communities using our local talents. These days we must all realize that when public money leaves Southern Nevada it benefits other communities... not ours, and the lowest bidder or the best apparent buy... is definitely not the best investment for sustaining our own community. Our local architecture, design, and construction community is rich in resources, and skilled, knowledgeable, and professional experts who can provide exceptional design and construction services. We are asking all public entities to “Think Local First” and help Southern Nevada recover and rebuild from this recession.

We want to include your best work in the list of examples that will be sent to all public entities and decision makers. Send us your project today.

NOVEMBER MEETING

Accountant... Attorney... Banker... To be successful every business needs to have these three cornerstones. Trusted advisors who are focused on the success of your business so you can focus on Architecture. Even with these advisors in place, you need to know enough about profit and loss, legal concerns and financial matters to understand and evaluate the advice they give. The November Membership Meeting, presented by the AIA NV EPYAF Committee [Emerging Professionals Young Architects Forum] will give you the opportunity to hear why you need to have these trusted advisors and what you can do for you. You’ll also have a chance to ask questions and learn how to become a “trusted advisor” to your clients.

The meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 16th in the auditorium of the Historic Fifth Street School, with a reception at 5:30PM. To attend RSVP online at www.aielasvegas.org.

DECEMBER MEETING

AIA ANNUAL MEETING AND HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

SAVE THE DATE – Wednesday, December 7th
Our annual Holiday Celebration is always a great way to end the year and get ready for the next one. Be sure to join us for this year’s event when we will celebrate the holidays, say thanks to all who have supported your Chapter this year, install the new Board of Directors and generally have a great time. Watch for additional information on time/location and surprises in the November newsletter and plan to be there.

UNLV SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

DAVID BAIRD, AIA
DIRECTOR, UNLV SOA

Some more great news from the UNLV School of Architecture!

We finally got final word on the architecture programs accreditation. We officially received a full six-year term and will not have a NAAB Team visit until 2017. All previous and lingering concerns have been eliminated and for the first time the program met five of NAAB’s criteria with distinction. This is great news for the program, school, and university. I want to congratulate the students, faculty, UNLV Administration, alumni, supporters and the AIA for this accomplishment... it took a village. Copies of the report are available to the public in the Architecture Studies Library.

KEVIN KEMNER has just returned from Tennessee where he and four students designed, fabricated and assembled a full-scale installation - the classroom of 2021 - at a national education conference. One of their many collaborators was a furniture manufacturer in Germany that prototyped classroom furniture for the installation.

RANDALL STOUT, FAIA is preparing an online course at UNLV based on the tutorial he developed for RhinoBim. We suspect this course will be ready by next year and will attract students and professionals from around the world.

The DDC recently secured another grant to examine alternatives to current landfill practices. Randall Stout will be leading this effort with support from STEVE CLARKE - new faculty in the landscape architecture program and noted expert in urban agriculture as well as Glenn Nowak - DDC Interim Director.

We had two fourth year students placed in the top 11 in a urban design competition that involved redesigning a portion of London. For images and more information please visit our Facebook page. To visit our page simply go to the SOA website a click the Facebook icon.

2011 CONTINUING EDUCATION LUNCHEON SCHEDULE

Thursday, Nov. 10 – Hosted by Vicky Jones of Tate Access Floors – Program TBA
Thursday, Dec. 8 – OPEN

Please note: There is no charge to attend our CE classes. But if you RSVP and then fail to show up, there is a no show fee of $30.

INTERESTED IN SCHEDULING A CE PROGRAM IN 2012?

AIA Las Vegas continually seeks programs and educational opportunities to present to our membership so that they can achieve their required CE credits. If you would like more information on scheduling a CE Presentation through AIA Las Vegas, please contact Kelly Lavigne at 702.895.0936 or klavigne@aianevada.org.