



Mayor Steve Adler
Austin City Hall

May 5, 2022

Dear Mayor Adler,

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) is committed to protecting the Health, Safety, and Welfare (HSW) of the public. Since 1857, this concern is central to all that we do as architects, however, model building codes were originally created to address basic life safety and protection from hazards such as structural failure, fire, plumbing failure, thermal discomfort, and poor indoor air quality. Today we're faced with different challenges and hazards. We must redefine/update a more holistic definition of HSW to include growing bodies of knowledge in resilience, equitable design, and human health crises to protect human life and natural environment now and in future.

"We stand for protecting communities from the impact of climate change. Global warming and man-made hazards pose an increasing threat to the safety of the public and the vitality of our nation. Rising sea levels and devastating natural disasters result in unacceptable losses of life and property. Resilient and adaptable buildings are a community's first line of defense against disasters and changing conditions of life and property." - AIA

Architects have the unique ability to address our [rapidly changing climate](#) through design, but our progress is significantly restricted by policy, building codes and our clients' budgets. It is critical to our success, as advocates for resilient design, that the City support rapid regulatory change and financial incentivization. In response to Winter Storm Uri in 2021, AIA Austin has consolidated a list of recommendations for the City of Austin's consideration. These recommendations are a result of roundtable discussions and surveying of membership. Exhibit A outlines our top six recommendations related to permit requirements, addressing the existing building stock, building code adoption, engaging the private sector, and resiliency hubs. Exhibit B includes a list of additional recommendations as well as requests from AIA Austin Members.

The AIA Austin Advocacy Commission would like to understand how we can better serve and assist the City with future proofing efforts such as the resiliency hub program. Below are some questions worth considering:

- *Will there be upcoming opportunities for stakeholder collaborative charrettes for resiliency hubs? We recommend input from the professional and public community*
- *How can we as Architects become advisors to the immediate needs of the general public? i.e. could we author White Papers on "How to Weatherproof Your House"?*

AIA Austin stands ready to work with you to help communities better prepare for what comes next.

Thank you for your consideration of AIA Austin's recommendations for climate resiliency. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any additional questions or would like more information from AIA Austin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Camille Jobe".

Camille Jobe, AIA
AIA Austin President