



AIA Santa Barbara
A Chapter of The American Institute of Architects

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NATIONAL ARCHITECT GROUP AWARDS FUNDING TO THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, SANTA BARBARA

*Santa Barbara Architects Receive Funding to Advance
“A Sustainable Vision for Santa Barbara” from The American Institute of Architects*

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (January 17, 2007) – The American Institute of Architects, Santa Barbara Chapter, has been awarded \$10,000 of grant funding from The American Institute of Architects (AIA) in Washington, D.C. to develop an initiative that addresses sustainability for future buildings in the Santa Barbara region. The grant award is a part of AIA’s community-based initiative “Blueprint for America,” celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2007.

Titled “A Sustainable Vision for Santa Barbara,” the initiative’s mission is to educate the local community about sustainable design and incorporate that vision into sound planning principles for those in the architecture, construction and design communities as well as incorporating those principles into the City of Santa Barbara’s General Plan Update for the year 2030.

With skyrocketing housing prices in the South Coast area (some estimates have the median priced housing market at \$1,325,000), affordable housing options are minimal, and transportation congestion is raising questions by residents, planners and builders to find solutions to those problems while considering social, environmental and financial impacts to the region.

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The AIA Santa Barbara chapter is vigorously addressing these issues through forums and lectures, utilizing the talents and expertise of both local and national experts in design, energy conservation, government and other topics. The initiative will then expand to include workshops that will lead to charettes, a collaborative process between professionals in many disciplines (such as architects, planners, designers, public officials, developers, citizens) which include designs and drawings addressing issues that will result in a feasible plan contributing to the City's 2030 General Plan.

The AIA Santa Barbara is a non-profit organization that serves as an architectural community resource and represents the interests of organized architects and associated professionals within Santa Barbara, and is a part of The AIA California Council and the National AIA, its grant benefactor.

With a focus on providing support and resources to advance the development of livable communities throughout the nation, the AIA earmarked grant funding available through a competitive bid process to support the efforts of regional architect member groups to engage in community-based work.

“We are excited to have been selected for this grant,” said Joe Andrulaitis, AIA, LEED AP, the AIA Santa Barbara President and champion of the project. “We see a strong collaboration with a great many groups and individuals to move forward this very important issue regarding sustainable communities. With livable space at a premium in Santa Barbara, we know collaboration through the creative and functional processes – are key components to helping keep the Santa Barbara community viable, sustainable and connected.”

For more information about the initiative or AIA Santa Barbara, please call 805-966-4198 or go to www.aiasb.com.