

# Today's Agenda

Welcome and review of meeting objectives

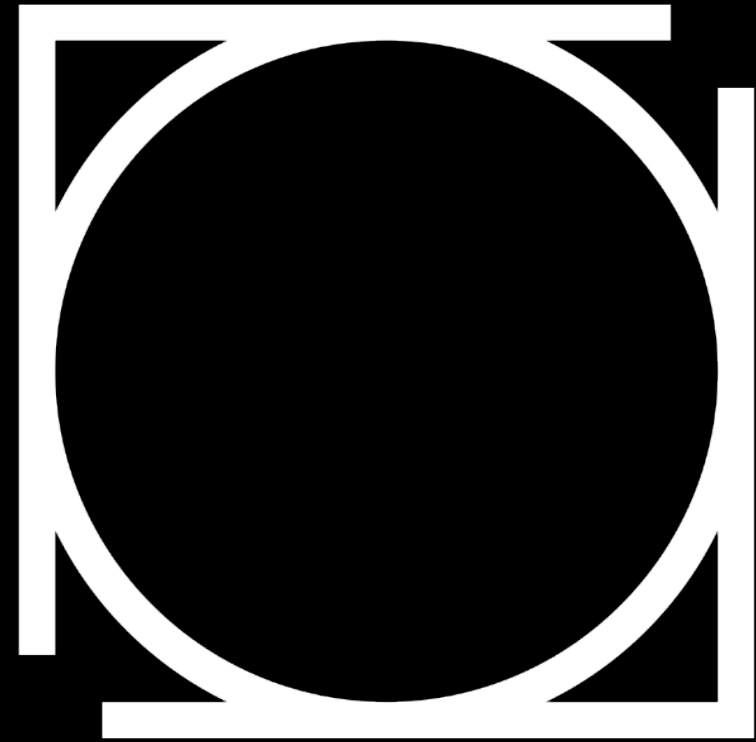
Annual Society Orientation

Consideration of specific issues raised at the last virtual meeting

Date and agenda for April Zoom meeting

May Society Chairs meeting – agenda ideas and logistics

**Society**  
**Orientation**  
**February 2024**



# Topics to cover

- OAA | Society Mandates
- Relationship between the OAA & Societies
- Roles & Responsibilities: Chair | Council liaison
- Staff support for local Societies
- Resources for Societies
- The Society Handbook
- The OAA Strategic Plan
- Annual Calendar of Events

# OAA Mandate

To regulate and govern the practice of architecture in Ontario in the service and protection of the [public interest](#) in accordance with the *Architects Act*, its Regulations and By-laws; to develop and uphold standards of skill, knowledge, qualification, practice, and professional ethics among architects; and, to promote the appreciation of architecture within the broader society.

# Additional objects under the Act

**For the purpose of carrying out its principal object**, the Association has the following additional objects:

1. To establish, maintain and develop standards of knowledge and skill among its members.
2. To establish, maintain and develop standards of qualification and standards of practice for the practice of architecture.
3. To establish, maintain and develop standards of professional ethics among its members...and,

# What Makes the OAA Unique vs Other Regulators?

**For the purpose of carrying out its principal object,**  
the Association has the following additional objects:

4. To establish and maintain or to assist in the establishment and maintenance of classes, schools, exhibitions or lectures in, and **to promote public appreciation of architecture and the allied arts and sciences.**

# Governing Documents

- *Architects Act*
- Regulation 27
- By-laws
- Council Policies
- Operational Policies & Procedures

# Excerpt from the Architects Act

## By-laws

- **8 (1)** The Council may pass by-laws relating to the administrative and domestic affairs of the Association not inconsistent with this Act and the regulations and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing,
  20. providing for the establishment and dissolution and governing the operation of groups of members as societies of the Association and respecting grants by the Association to societies or any of them;



# OAA Bylaws – section 65 - 75

## **SOCIETIES**

65. The **Societies in existence** when this bylaw comes into force are continued as Societies of the Association with areas constituted by their present boundaries until the Council shall determine otherwise and the constitution and/or bylaws of each such Society in effect at the date when this bylaw comes into force shall continue in effect until rescinded or amended in accordance with the provisions for rescission or amendment contained in such constitution or bylaws.

# Establishment

66. **Any five (5) members of the Association residing in one locality** may with the approval of the Council, form a Society of the Association with ‘offices’ at such place as they may select, provided that the territory of a new Society **does not encroach upon the territory** of an existing Society. Should any question of encroachment between the territories of two Societies arise, the same shall be settled by the Council.

67. The **Council may establish from time to time standard rules and procedures** governing the operation of Societies and the conduct of their affairs.

# Annual member fees & Bylaws

68. Subject to the provisions of the Act, the bylaws and any standard rules of procedures established under Section 70, **each Society may fix dues for its members and may pass bylaws** governing its operations and respecting the conduct of its affairs including provisions for amendment of such bylaws. A copy of all such bylaws and amendments thereto shall be filed with the Executive Director.

69. A bylaw passed by a Society and any amendments thereto is not effective until it has been filed with the OAA.

# Annual Reporting & Affiliate members

70. Each calendar year, **every Society shall file a report of its activities for the year, which shall include a financial reporting** as well as the number of members and affiliates of the Society, with the Executive Director on the date prescribed by the OAA.

71. The **Societies may provide for the admission of persons who are not members of the Association who shall be designated as affiliates** of the Society, but no person who is not a member of the Association, other than one intern architect, may be an officer of a Society.

# Obligations and Liability

72. No officer, member, or affiliate of a Society, **nor any Society, shall have any power or authority as such to contract in the name of the Association nor to assume any obligations** on behalf of the Association and the Association shall have no liability with respect to any debts or obligations assumed or incurred by any Society.

# Dissolution

73. The Council may from time to time declare any Society inactive and suspend its operation or dissolve any Society and provide for the transfer of the members and assets of any such Society to another Society or Societies.

74. If a Society shall be dissolved or ceases to exist for any other reason, or is declared inactive by the Council, all assets of that Society, unless otherwise directed by the Council shall vest in the Association and shall be delivered over by the governing body of the Society to the Senior Vice-President and Treasurer of the Association forthwith on demand.

# OAA Grants to Societies

75. The **Council may periodically authorize the making of grants to Societies** in such amounts and for activities that:

- (a) advance the knowledge of architectural education; or
- (b) maintain or improve the standards of practice in architecture; or
- (c) that support and encourage public information and interest in the role of architecture in Society;
- (d) such purposes as it considers appropriate.

# OAA

Regulates the practice  
and profession of  
architecture in the  
public interest

# Societies

Help further the  
objectives of the  
Association in  
accordance with the  
*Architects Act*



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# Purpose of Societies

- Help further the objectives of the Association in accordance with the *Architects Act*
- Local chapters of the OAA
  - Provide opportunities for dialogue and network
  - Work to raise the awareness, appreciation, and understanding of architecture
  - Societies also work to further strategic priorities and objectives in the OAA's Strategic Plan
  - The specific initiatives and focus vary across the province based on the circumstances and interests of the individual Society and its members

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# Council Liaison

- Acts as the conduit between the Local Society and the OAA Council
- Foster ongoing dialogue and enhance communication between the OAA Council and the local Societies
- Attend meetings of the Societies and take an active role in Society matters and events
- Provide information to local members regarding Open Council meetings and the direction of Council, speaking with one voice

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# Local Society Chairs

- Overall responsible for the operation and activities of their Society
- Ensure, with the assistance of other Society members, that the work of the Society is carried out in good faith and in accordance with the Society Manual, *Architects Act*, Regulation, and Bylaws
- Ensure the OAA is informed of the results of the Officers of the Society election
- Be familiar with the Society Handbook
- Review the Society's financial accounts
- Call and preside at all meetings of the Society, including Officers/Executive Committee meetings
- Provide the Annual Report to the OAA of the Society's activities and membership
- Attend and participate at the annual meeting of Society Chairs
- Ensure that the Councillor appointed to the Society is kept informed of Society activities and coordinate their involvement with them
- Arrange a meeting with the outgoing Officers of the Society to ensure a smooth transition of operations

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# Staff Support

## Public Outreach Specialist | Architectural Graduate

- Provide some level of administrative support to the Local Societies
- Responsible for updating the Local Societies Portal on the OAA Website
- Facilitate the sharing of information from Societies to the OAA, to other Societies, and vice versa
- Arrange informal meetings via zoom at regular intervals during the year for the purpose of providing the Chairs with an opportunity to connect with each other, and share ideas and feedback
- Coordinate and provide details for the Society Chairs Meeting at Conference and agenda, etc.

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# Helpful Links | Resources

- OAA Website, [Resources for Societies](#)
- [Local Society Handbook](#)
- [Strategic Plan](#)
- [Architects Act](#)
- [OAA Bylaws](#)

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# **Society Toolkit**

**Almost ready!**

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# Strategic Plan

- 5 ½ year Strategic Plan 2022-2027
- Evergreen - Council's annual planning session



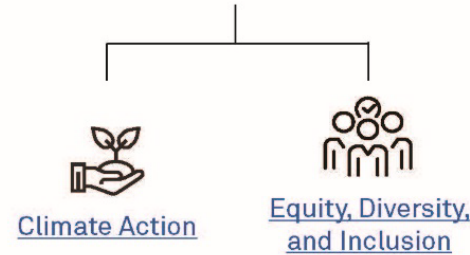
# VISION

An Ontario in which architects are valued contributors to society, by creating a safe and healthy built environment that performs at the highest levels and elevates the human spirit.

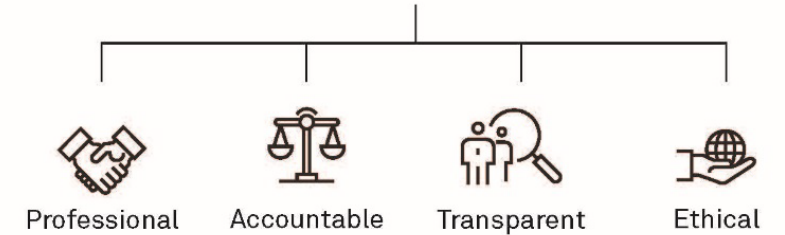
# MANDATE

To regulate and govern the practice of architecture in Ontario in the service and protection of the public interest in accordance with the *Architects Act*, its Regulations, and Bylaws; to develop and uphold standards of skill, **knowledge, qualification, practice, and professional ethics** among architects; and to promote the appreciation of architecture within the broader society.

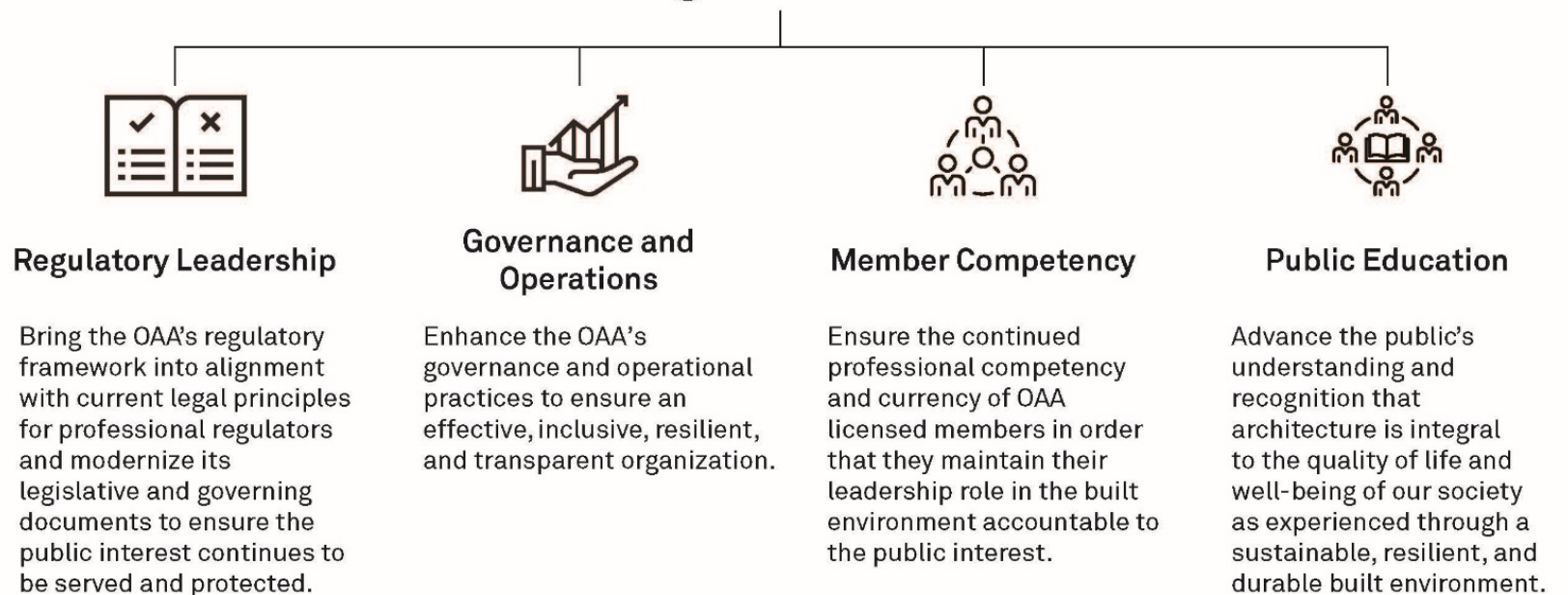
## Themes



## Values



## Strategic Priorities



### Regulatory Leadership

Bring the OAA's regulatory framework into alignment with current legal principles for professional regulators and modernize its legislative and governing documents to ensure the public interest continues to be served and protected.

### Governance and Operations

Enhance the OAA's governance and operational practices to ensure an effective, inclusive, resilient, and transparent organization.

### Member Competency

Ensure the continued professional competency and currency of OAA licensed members in order that they maintain their leadership role in the built environment accountable to the public interest.

### Public Education

Advance the public's understanding and recognition that architecture is integral to the quality of life and well-being of our society as experienced through a sustainable, resilient, and durable built environment.



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# Society Handbook

Key Resource for Societies in the  
operation and governance  
Key sections

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# Important dates

- Bi-monthly meetings via zoom
- Fall society meetings with OAA President & ED (August to November: Tina will schedule)
- OAA Conference and Society Chairs meeting in Niagara (May 21, 2024)
- [SPF deadlines](#) (Next Deadline, July 29, 2024)
- Annual report deadlines and financial statements (Notice will be sent in late 2024 – due January 2025)
- Annual General Meeting (AGM) (May 11, 2024)

**Questions?**  
**Discussion**

