

Executive Summary
AIA for Haiti Summit, 01/13/11, Loews Hotel, New Orleans, LA

I. Background/History

The AIA for Haiti Summit was organized as a result of the Board of Directors motion, approved at the Board's meeting in August 2010, to express support for the Haitian architectural community and commitment to developing a process under which AIA volunteers will be able to provide assistance to those affected by the earthquake. That resolution followed a joint AIA/USGBC announcement in July naming Stacey McMahan, AIA, LEED AP, as the Architecture for Humanity (AFH) Sustainable Design Fellow to lead AFH's sustainable rebuilding efforts in Haiti. Ms. McMahan has been working directly with community members in AFH's Rebuilding Center based in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and attended the conference. Prior to this AIA Puerto Rico hosted a team of Haitian architects to discuss post earthquake design challenges and identify ways that AIA can provide support, particularly in the Caribbean region.

II. AIA for Haiti Summit Objectives

The AIA for Haiti Summit was specifically organized as a follow-on meeting to the April 2010 Haiti Summit that was held in Puerto Rico. This working session was organized to ensure that participants received up-to-date information from organizations and individuals that currently have a presence in Haiti. Subject matter experts and other participants focused on information in-take during the morning general session and on coming up with solutions for how AIA can participate in humanitarian efforts to support Haiti rebuild initiatives.

A key goal of this conference was to establish a framework for how the architectural profession can provide volunteers for the Haiti reconstruction effort, either through training, information exchange or by helping establish best practices for architectural design on the ground in Haiti.

In advance of the summit, four specific areas of focus for AIA participation in Haiti rebuild efforts were identified. These topics were explored during afternoon breakout sessions:

1. Identifying collaborative Partners in Recovery
2. Developing an Information Repository
3. Disaster Assistance
4. Design Assistance Teams

Note: The AIA currently has members with core competencies in disaster assistance and also has an established process with Community Design Assistance Teams (DATs).

III. Program Summary

The AIA for Haiti Summit brought together AIA members and non-member subject matter experts in the areas of diversity, volunteerism, disaster assistance, building codes and design assistance teams. Also participating were representatives from several other organizations that currently have an active presence in Haiti. Some of the participating organizations included The American Red Cross, National Urban League - Greater New Orleans, United States Green Building Council (USGBC), Architecture for

Humanity (AFH), Tulane University, National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA), Public Architecture, Hands On Network, and Black Design News Network.

A. General Session

Session I - AIA Collaborations Haiti and Beyond

The purpose of the session was to provide insight from individuals and organizations that are actively engaged in humanitarian and rebuild efforts. Speakers were requested to deliver first-hand accounts regarding the situation in Haiti one year later.

This important session moderated by Stacy Bourne, AIA set the tone for the day. The keynote address was provided by Paul-Emile Simon, Diplomat and Haitian Architect and Johanna Mendelson Forman, Senior Research Fellow CSIS. Paul Emile Simon, an esteemed Haitian Diplomat and architect, provided the opening keynote regarding the state of the country before and after the earthquake from multiple perspectives (cultural, historical, architectural and legislative. He reviewed in detail the history of Haiti from the colonialization period through the 2010 earthquake including challenges and opportunities. Highlights of this session included an overview of the Haiti Master plan.

Other perspectives were provided by Stacy McMahan, AFH/AIA/USGBC Fellow, Nate Harrold, Building Projects Coordinator, All Hands Volunteers, Carey Clouse, Tulane School of Architecture Haiti Initiative and Anthony Costello, FAIA, Ball State University / Principal: C+A. All speakers provided first- hand accounts regarding ongoing efforts to provide services, removal of earthquake rubble, status of homes and buildings and the living conditions in Haiti.

Session II - Organizations on the Ground

Organizations at the forefront of the Haiti crisis reviewed the real-time situation and how their organizations have responded to this natural disaster and humanitarian crisis. This session was moderated by Miguel Del Rio, AIA, who organized the first AIA for Haiti Summit in April 2010. Presenters during this session were Kay Wilkins – CEO, SE Louisiana Chapter, the American Red Cross and Renee Kemp Rotan, BDNN, founder of the Haiti Culture Code Initiative.

Kay Wilkins of the American Red Cross provided an extensive overview of the American Red Cross operations, services and challenges. This session provided in depth discussion regarding current and proposed programs, volunteer opportunities, funding and the importance of addressing Haitian culture in volunteer and support activities. Renee Kemp-Rotan presented compelling information regarding the importance of culture, particularly Haitian culture in humanitarian efforts and also any design initiatives. Tony Costello, FAIA provided insight into how foundations and non-profits are impacting Haiti pre and post earthquake with limited funding to create solutions. Cary Clouse of Tulane University provided an overview of the work that Tulane University is conducting to support the citizens of Haiti.

B. Afternoon Breakout Topics

The afternoon saw attendees and all morning speakers organized into working groups to discuss the four areas of focus identified above. Each group was charged with outlining potential solutions for the AIA to support efforts in Haiti and also to create a blueprint to support future disasters.

- Topic 1 – Collaborations/Partnerships in Recovery (Facilitator – Stacy Bourne, AIA)
Participants utilized information from the morning session to develop partnership

strategies and identify organizations for AIA to collaborate with regarding the next phase of the Haiti recovery process, which will support opportunities to engage AIA constituents in volunteer efforts.

- Topic 2 – Developing an Information Repository / Education (Facilitator – Bernard Scott, Tulane School of Architecture)
Participants tackled the challenge of creating a process for information exchange (i.e. building codes, sustainability, etc) and exchanged ideas regarding shared professional exchange, for example, visiting professors and subject matter experts.
- Topic 3 - Disaster Assistance (Facilitator – Terrance Brown, FAIA)
Participants explored disaster assistance processes. With limited building materials available to Haiti, it will be crucial for architects, engineers, and other design professionals to identify structures that can still be salvaged, repaired, and brought up to an acceptable level of safety and habitability.
- Topic 4 - Design Assistance Teams (Facilitator – Cooper Martin)
Participants will identify potential local opportunities for Design Assistance Teams to conduct open and participatory community design charettes. The goal of this group was to identify appropriate locations and determine feasible scope of work for projects that could take place within 12 months.

C. Breakout Report Out Summary of Recommendations

Topic 1: Collaborations/Partnerships in Recovery

Participants identified an extensive list of organizations with which the AIA can explore partnering. The organizations include allied professional associations, NGO's, not-for-profits, education institutions and government organizations. For example:

Architecture for Humanity (AFH), American Red Cross, United States Green Building Council (USGBC), Pan-American Development Foundation, BDNN, Habitat for Humanity, Organizations in the Dominican Republic, Planned Parenthood, ASTM International, International Code Council (ICC), American Concrete Institute (ACI), American Refugee Committee, Women's Refugee Commission, SADA (clinics), AME church and the Affordable Housing Institute, National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC), Union of International Architects (UIA), National Association of Minority Contractors (NAMC), Natural Building Network and National Association of Haitian Americans (NAHA).

Topic 2: Developing an Information Repository/Education

Participants identified zero cost and relatively low cost solutions to developing an information repository and strongly felt that a committee is needed to move this topic forward in a strategic manner. The primary recommendation is to utilize the AIA for Haiti website to develop a two-way information repository (AIA ↔ Disaster Victims). Information can be vetted and populated with up to date information that can be used by the Haitian architectural community and also as a source of information for future natural disasters and humanitarian efforts. The Task Force would consist of AIA members and Haitian citizens.

Other projects that could enhance the user experience include education, research, codes, programs, virtual design studio (web-based program), survey existing (cultural/buildings and

infrastructure), editorial/best practices and other resources. Additionally, work with ACSA and schools of architecture to capture information, organize visiting professorships and support apprenticeship programs.

Topic 3: Disaster Assistance

Participants in the breakout session explored the disaster assistance process for those who were not familiar with the process.

The team quickly determined that two of the biggest challenges to rebuilding efforts are 1) the amount of waste/rubble currently blocking pathways and 2) limited availability of building materials. With these challenges in mind, each challenge can be used as a solution to the other. By utilizing salvage materials, the issue of limited building materials can be overcome. Conversely, the use of salvage will result in assisting the removal of rubble.

- Reusable materials:
 - Rubble (fill bays, wire cages, base material, drains, Wattle and daub walls)
 - Metal roofing Light gauge material studs ribbed rebar
 - Cement Steel manufacturing

Bamboo and brick are supplemental materials that should be considered for use in Haiti rebuild efforts. Bamboo is sustainable and will create an industry and potential jobs.

- Conduct and/or provide training in the following areas:
 - Safety Assessments
 - Minimum Building Standards
 - Repair and Construction with Proper Materials
 - How to Interlock Blocks with Beams/Columns
 - Mixing concrete

Topic 4 - Design Assistance Teams

Participants in this breakout session agreed that the design assistance process could be utilized to provide general well-rounded expertise, project management blueprints and experts in planning and design to assist Haitian leaders.

The recommendations are listed below.

- AIA/AFH Blueprint for America model: 1% initiative
- APA, ACSA, and ASLA can adopt a school of architecture and engineering to support a 2 year degree at a minimum (technical and vocational). Identify funding through the materials industry and construction unions.
- AIA/NCARB/NAHB/ASLA/APA support 1 year internships in Haiti should be given full IDP credit.
- Collaborate with key organizations that already have a long term presence in Haiti (i.e. AFH, American Red Cross, etc.)

A design charrette can be utilized to address the appropriate needs of a community; however, basic needs such as clean water, sanitation, stable food sources, etc. must be met prior to discussing urban design solutions.

- D. On the morning following the AIA for Haiti Summit, the Diversity and Inclusion Council hosted a session on New Orleans entitled New Orleans/Post Katrina What's Next. This program, while not the primary focus of the overall program, provided insight into lesson learned after Hurricane Katrina.

V. Summary /Next Steps

Recommendations

The AIA can and should act as a conduit to bring together collaborative partners to support efforts in Haiti and beyond. There is a compelling opportunity to leverage the architectural industry's core competencies in education, design, disaster assistance, design assistance teams and volunteerism to lay a domestic and international foundation for humanitarian efforts to support natural and other disasters.

The original four areas of focus of breakout sessions could be the core of future AIA programming. They are: 1. Collaborative Partners in Recovery, 2. Information Repository, 3. Disaster Assistance and, 4. Design Assistance Teams. Based on the discussions at the AIA for Haiti Summit, AIA could move forward on four fronts::

Collaborative Partners

- Collaborate with organizations that have a presence in Haiti to provide expertise in educating the general population regarding effective reuse of rubble. This can serve as a way for Haitians to rebuild their communities themselves and provide training for individuals to become self sustaining.
- Collaborate with organizations that respond to natural and other disasters to ensure the AIA becomes a part of the network of disaster assistance organizations. It is important for AIA to become a part of the process, since AIA does not have the resources to create the process.

Information Repository/Disaster Assistance

- Establish education information exchange and visiting professor programs to support ongoing efforts in Haitian schools of architecture.
- Collect and disseminate up to date information utilizing the AIA for Haiti portal as a repository which will be accessible to the Haitian architectural community and other organizations doing humanitarian work in Haiti.
- Establish a network of member volunteers to provide assessments and training in multiple areas.

Design Assistance teams

- Attendees agreed that Design Assistance Teams, while important, are not at the top of the immediate priority list. Utilizing the DAT process to assistance Haiti will require significant commitment from the Haitian government, AIA and other organizations. However, this is an area where AIA can make an impact if efforts are highly orchestrated.

Other

- Continue to collaborate with Mr. Paul-Emile Simon and other key Haitian representatives to ensure alignment with Haitian government initiatives.
- Realign AIA for Haiti Summit outcomes with the outcomes from the April Puerto Rico Summit.

Prepared by: Sherry Snipes, AIA Director, Diversity & Inclusion
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