

October 2021: The Architectural Foundation of Greater Rochester (AFGR)

American Institute of Architects – Rochester Chapter (AIA Rochester)



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“Please contribute....to The Architectural Foundation of Greater Rochester (AFGR)“

“In doing so you will be supporting the Foundation’s efforts to ‘advance and enhance the profession of Architecture’ through its support of scholarships, educational programs, and public outreach efforts to educate the public-at-large on the intrinsic value architects bring to the communities in which they reside and serve; and to support and encourage a most diverse group of young practitioners and students through the award of academic scholarships.”

In September the Foundation’s 2021 ambitions were nicely capped by the *Swinging Fore Scholarships Golf Tournament*, a sold-out Ravenwood event led by **Nate Rozzi**, **Linda Hewitt**, and a team of AIA volunteers. Highlights included fine weather, 140 golfers, and thanks to an excellent pre-event campaign, a wider than usual array of participants -- architects, industry experts/vendors, and AIA friends.

Despite the fits and starts of COVID, the Foundation’s year was marked by strategic planning and collaboration, with the early year delivery to the Foundation and AIA Rochester of the *Danforth Planning Report* setting the stage for subsequent formal reach outs to the Farash Foundation, Rochester Area Community Foundation, and The Landmark Society of Western New York. Now firmly ensconced in the renovated Warner Castle at Highland Park with the Landmark Society, the Foundation Board’s 2021 meetings reflected the in-person, virtual, and by-telephone nature of day. Strategic planning returned to fore in late summer and the fall, as **Allen Rossignol** welcomed *Foundation Emeritus Rich Pospula*, **Jim Durfee**, and **Nate Rozzi** to his *Edge*

Architecture studio to help craft a five-year plan aimed at accelerating Foundation fundraising, brand identity, and related programming.

Along with AIA Rochester, the Foundation services a geographic footprint that encompasses our seven-county region, ambles down to the southwest to include Alfred, and, through Executive Director Linda Hewitt's collaborative outreach, spends a lot of time supporting the Southern Tier and Buffalo's AIA Chapters too. Throughout the year, the Foundation focus includes the Design Awards, Golf Event, the underwriting of a "Women in Architecture" program, and several other design-focused programs.

Since 2010, those efforts – and generous donations (see below) -- have fueled the distribution of over \$150,000 in the form of over 75 academic scholarships. In 2021 the Foundation provided \$17,000 to 9 scholarship winners.

“Please contribute.....SWBR Architects, M/E Engineering, & Marathon Engineering did just that!”

In honor of Tom Zimmerman's design career and his own Foundation development leadership, in March 2020 SWBR, M/E Engineering, and Marathon Engineering donated a combined \$15,500 to the Foundation, joining Bergmann Associates, the Myron Starks Foundation, the "Women in Architecture's" long-standing anonymous underwriter, and several other preexisting donors. Their explicit desire to play a role in educating the next generation of Rochester designers and support the collaborative Rochester design community "marketplace" was announced during the early 2020 first surge of the COVID-19 pandemic and assignment of much of the design community to their home offices, as well as during a roiling presidential campaign. Consequently, they knowingly accepted the lack of publicity that would normally accompany such a gift – a further expression of support and confidence in the AFGR that will empower us as we move forward.

With support of underwriters and donors, at the Foundation and AIA, we believe in our professional lifetimes there will never be as pivotal and as important a time as now for our efforts to: 1) help educate our best new designers, 2) fund the full vetting of these conversations with our partners in the broader design community, and 3) to highlight and promote Alfred, FLCC, MCC, and RIT's design programs

In 2022 the Foundation will once again be challenged to pick up the educational mantle so clearly articulated by Tom Zimmerman and Rich Pospula, to “*promote and enhance the practice of architecture as a regional cultural and artistic resource....*”

For more information about the Foundation, AIA Rochester, and how you can play a role in the conversation and our financial development efforts, visit our websites:

[Architectural Foundation of Greater Rochester](#)

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