



## **Founder's Circle**

### **Strengthen AIA California's 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Foundation & Expand Its Impact—In Perpetuity**

California has long been a leader in architectural innovation, setting the standard for design excellence and pushing the boundaries of creativity. From iconic landmarks to pioneering sustainable solutions, the state has not only shaped its own communities but also influenced global trends in the built environment. With a rich history of groundbreaking projects and visionary architects, California continues to reimagine how people live, work, and connect with their surroundings. This legacy of innovation and leadership is exactly why California needs—and deserves—a strong, enduring statewide California Architectural Foundation (CAF).

### **A Critical Moment for CAF**

Our profession faces ongoing challenges: a shortage of skilled architects, an urgent need for mentorship and education, and the necessity of expanding public awareness to cultivate more champions for architecture's impact and value. Since its founding in 1979, CAF, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, has launched scholarships and initiatives that support both aspiring architects and the profession.

In 2023, we reimagined CAF's role—raising the organization's profile, expanding leadership, developing key new programs, forging partnerships, and increasing awareness of our mission and impact, all while aligning closely with AIA California's strategic plan. A multi-year financial investment

from AIA California, alongside grants and the generous contributions of over 350 (and growing) individual donors, has helped launch and start to sustain our operations, programs and scholarships. However, to truly thrive, CAF must now establish a solid financial foundation that supports ongoing operations—allowing us to dedicate our full energy and passion to creating lasting impact. The Founder's Circle was created to secure this future.

The Founder's Circle is a group of firms making an investment of \$5,000 over 5 years (\$25,000) with the goal of establishing a permanent financial base for CAF—ensuring we have the resources operate, lead, innovate, and support the architects of tomorrow. Founder's Circle contributors will receive the following benefits:

### **Leadership & Influence**

- Seat on the Founder's Circle Advisory Council, providing direct input on CAF's strategic initiatives.
- Complementary enrollment in the California Architectural Practice Experience Program (capX) and first access to the intern / job shadow list annually.
- List of CAF scholarship recipients contact information as potential hires.

### **Recognition & Visibility**

- Prominent recognition as a Founder's Circle Member on CAF's website, annual impact report, and key publications.
- Inclusion in CAF communications, showcasing your firm's leadership in shaping the future of architecture.
- Regent-hosted benefactor dinner

### **Legacy & Impact**

- Directly contribute to CAF's long-term sustainability and growth, ensuring its lasting influence on the profession.

- Support critical management and operational expenses, allowing CAF to expand its reach.
- Leave an enduring mark on the future of architectural education, mentorship, and community engagement in California.

Your leadership today will shape the future of the profession for generations to come. Join us in strengthening CAF's legacy and continue to build an innovative foundation that California's architects can take pride in—now and for years to come. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, CAF welcomes your support, and donations may be tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Have questions or are you ready to join the Founder's Circle? Contact CAF: [kanderson@aiacalifornia.org](mailto:kanderson@aiacalifornia.org)