

March 10, 2024

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council
350 Albert Street, P.O. Box 1610
Ottawa, ON, K1P 6G4

Re: Quality in Canada's Built Environment: Roadmaps to Equity, Social Value and Sustainability – Calgary Research Site

Dear Dr. Brian R. Sinclair:

American Institute of Architects Canada Society (AIA Canada Society) is pleased to participate in the *Quality in Canada's Built Environment: Roadmaps to Equity, Social Value and Sustainability Project*. We support and endorse the objectives of the partnership to address the critical issues of equity, social value and sustainability in the built environment. Given the impact of climate change, social unrest, growing inequity, and other extraordinary forces, we believe that this coalition of Canadian universities, cultural institutions, professional associations, cities, and community partners is timely and even urgent.

We understand the research aspirations and agree to the role and level of participation of our organization as outlined within the application; we are committed to participating in 3 meetings per year; and we agree to adhere to the governance principles of the project.

In particular, our partnership team in Calgary will be active in “Cluster 3: Inclusive Design for Health, Wellness, Aging and Special Needs”, where we will focus our research on “**Designing Inclusive, Sustainable and Healthy Cities**”. In this research cluster, we are interested in supporting efforts to address key questions such as:

- How can our understanding of design excellence be broadened, beyond a current focus on form and aesthetics, to also encompass **inclusion, sustainability and health**?
- How can we reconsider and redesign our spaces, places, buildings and neighborhoods to respond to our new broader and more equitable definitions and **understanding of quality in the built environment**?
- How do we contribute to **strengthening and advancing inclusion in Calgary** communities? And what role does **design** play, within this pursuit, to heighten inclusion, improve public health, and secure a more sustainable future?

AIA Canada Society is the Canadian chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). Established in 2017 to bring AIA members residing in Canada together, we are a non-profit professional organization that advances and promotes key issues important to our profession, including sustainability, inclusion, and equity. We also have close connection with six other international chapters under AIA International, collaborating on events and continuing education programs around the globe.

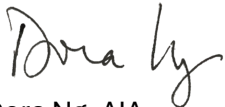
Confirmed Support

In support of this initiative, AIA Canada Society will commit to in-kind contributions, including:

- Participation in 3 meetings per year of in-kind labour over the remaining 3 years of the 5 year term of the project;
- Sharing of knowledge and guidance, relative to the AIA Canada Society's expertise and mandate, in workshops and seminars.
- Assistance with knowledge dissemination and mobilization through AIA Canada Society's platform, including professional networks and social media.

Quality in Canada's Built Environment represents a unique opportunity to improve quality of life for all Canadians and address serious deficiencies in our urban landscape. AIA Canada Society is proud to be part of this partnership and we look forward to working with institutions, organizations and individuals from across the country on this critical initiative.

Sincerely,



Dora Ng, AIA
President, AIA Canada Society