A Brief History

Beginning in 1986, a group comprising David Fukui AIA, Johnpaul Jones FAIA, Tom Kubota AIA, Marga Rose Hancock Hon. AIA, and Mel Streeter AIA began meeting informally, usually over breakfast at Lowell’s in the Market. By 1990, the group formalized as the AIA Seattle Minority Membership Committee, and grew to include Steve Arai AIA, Nancy Callery AIA, Kelli Hagen Assoc AIA, Denice Hunt AIA, Donald King FAIA, Rena Klein FAIA, Teresa Rodriguez AIA, Sharon E. Sutton FAIA, and Jim Suehiro FAIA – among others. The group organized itself around a commitment to bring diversity into the architecture profession. The effort of Roundtable members has made a sustained contribution to AIA Seattle leadership, with several Roundtable alumni/ae among AIA Seattle Presidents and Board members, to AIA Seattle programming through the annual Summer Solstice event, and to bringing youth from minority and disadvantaged backgrounds into the profession through K-12 activism and scholarship and other support for students at University of Washington College of Architecture and Planning. The Roundtable also has an ongoing influence in the AIA national Diversity agenda – including hosting the AIA national Diversity Conference in Seattle August 1997. Since 1990, the efforts of the Roundtable have supported the studies of 25 architecture and design students at the UW College of Built Environments, through the Denice Johnson Hunt Internship and the Marga Rose Hancock Diversity Scholarship established and supported via fund-raising at the annual Summer Solstice event.