



**NEWS RELEASE**

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**AIA Florida delivers key architecture messaging to state lawmakers**

*Sea-level rise, stronger codes and standards, and architects' participation in disaster recovery efforts are key topics for 2019*

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** -- More than 100 AIA Florida members and students from Florida architecture schools convened in Tallahassee on Feb. 5 for the association's 2019 AIA Florida Legislative Day.

The day started with a legislative briefing and recognition of the 2018 class of AIA Florida Citizen Architects. The 2018 class include seven architects who dedicated time to volunteering in their



*Sen. Bobby Powell (D-Palm Beach) with AIA Florida members in his Capitol office.*

communities. Congratulations to Jody Beck, AIA, LEED AP, David Corban, AIA, LEED AP, Linaea Floden, AIA, Ward Friszolowski, AIA, Jeffery Gross, AIA, Jeffery Smith, AIA, and Joe Snider, AIA.

Armed with the ever-popular AIA Florida legislative issue blueprint," members met with legislators from around the Sunshine State.

Executive Vice President Vicki Long, CAE, Hon. AIA, and Vice President of Advocacy, Ignacio Reyes, AIA, briefed members about the purpose of the gathering. The 2019 messaging taken to the hill focused on: sea-level rise legislation, strengthening codes and standards, and promoting awareness of architects' participation in disaster recovery efforts.

Sen. Jose Javier Rodriguez (D-Miami) spoke to AIA Florida members about his proposed bill SB 78 and its companion, HB 169 (Fernandez, D-Miami), which would prohibit state-financed construction projects from commencing construction of certain structures in coastal areas without first conducting a sea-level impact projection study and having such study published and approved by the Department of Environmental Protection. *[Update: The bill did not pass.]*

Armed with the popular AIA Florida legislative issue "blueprint" issued each year, members met with legislators from all corners of the state. The day wrapped up with a reception at AIA Florida headquarters attended by many legislators who mingled with members and architectural students.

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*The **Florida Association of the American Institute of Architects**, headquartered in Tallahassee, represents the interests of more than 3,600 members in Florida and the Caribbean. Members adhere to a code of ethics and professional conduct that assures the client, the public and colleagues of an AIA-member architect's dedication to the highest standards in professional practice.*

*The **Florida Foundation for Architecture** is a non-profit organization that exists to advocate the value of architecture to audiences beyond the profession and sponsors the People's Choice Awards. This is accomplished through Foundation events, publications and grants for programs that feature architecture and are open and available to the general public and related professions, as well as architects.*