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An Organization of The American Institute of Architects

July - August 2005

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Terrence E. O'Neal, AIA

Celebrating Our 75th

By Terrence E. O'Neal, AIA

2006 AIANYS President

2006 will be the 75th anniversary of AIA New York State . The organization was founded on the 14th of January 1931. As President-elect, I would like to propose some ideas for how we can celebrate the occasion. It is also notable that the following year, 2007, will be the Sesquicentennial (150th) anniversary of the National AIA. Sesquicentennial planning has begun at both the national and local levels.

In my discussions with members of the Board of Directors, we agreed that something to bring the state together may be appropriate. To that end, what about a state-wide conference in Albany, where architects and public officials from each major city in the state can discuss urban policy and where we go from here? Although each city has its own unique issues, the objective would be to find common ground and perhaps also legislation that would be in our collective interest as “ One New York State .” This, of course, follows along with National AIA's “One AIA” initiative. Invitees would include mayors and/or urban/city planners from each city to discuss livable communities, inner city revitalization and its success or failure, why, and what can be done to improve our communities? Can legislation help any of these initiatives? What is the impact in each community of the

newly-passed Transportation bill, and, finally, is there common legislation that would benefit all of us as “ One New York State ” to enhance our communities? We could ask each mayor or city planner to identify a top urban policy issue in their city.

Can we all work together to achieve a livable communities agenda in New York State? The main focus of such an event would be not only our legislative agenda, but the ways in which we can find common, local initiatives, that would benefit all of us in the state of New York, that is, all of the public.

We are contemplating this event for March 2006 at our Spring Symposium, and we invite thoughts from the membership. Please email your input to us at aianys@aianys.org We look forward to hearing from you.
