Welcome to the BSA

The Next 5 Years
The Challenge
Confronting Our Challenges

Climate change and systemic inequity are the greatest threats to our health, well-being, and future.

Like many enterprises, architecture has been a contributor—and is well-positioned to be a leader in addressing these challenges.
Climate

Buildings account for nearly 70% of carbon emissions in urban centers.
Inequity

Architecture has taken actions that contribute to inequity.

- 19% of Bostonians are living at or below the poverty line.
- Among families with children, 24% live at or below the poverty line.
- Neighborhoods where the majority of Black Bostonians live have the highest poverty rates.
- The Boston household median net worth for white families is $247,500 while for Black families it is $8.

Source: Boston Indicators Project
Diversity

The architecture profession does not reflect the communities it serves.

23% Women
11% Latinx
2% Black
0.5% Native American
The Opportunity
Our Moment of Leadership

Architecture can lead on these issues.

Creativity  Collaboration  Design

Vision  Passion  Knowledge
Innovating the Way Forward

Our profession has a long history of innovating to address the challenges of the era.
Forging a New Path

The BSA is taking on the challenge, focusing on two initiatives:

- **Advancing Architecture**: Empowering architects to do their best work and lead on climate and equity.
- **Launching Action Lab/Accelerator**: Developing design, climate, and equity solutions that serve as global models.
Priorities for the Profession

Provide architects with models and tools to:

- Design net-zero buildings
- Build equitable environments
- Create inclusive career pathways
Priorities for Innovation

Create lab/accelerator for innovating and designing solutions to climate and equity.
Possible components:

- **Spaces for Experimentation:**
  - Community and Collaborative Design Program
  - Competitions and Urban Design Workshops
  - Civic and Community Leadership Center

- **Fellowships**
  - Resource/Idea Hub
  - Multidisciplinary Collaboration–Making it Real
The BSA will hire an innovation expert who will help guide the community on the journey to success.

The “form” that the action lab/accelerator will take and programs to be offered will be highly influenced by this process.
THE “WHAT”

Taking Action

We’re committed to producing outstanding solutions to the climate and equity crises within 5 years.
“This plan is impressive—very action-oriented at a time when we urgently need to be making progress on climate and equity. The focus on impact, not just programs, will help guide the field where it needs to go.”

ELLEN WATTS FAIA, LEED AP
Principal, Co-Founder Architerra Inc.
The Next Five Years
Communities

Accomplishments to date:

LENA PARK PROJECT

EAST BOSTON RESILIENCE PROJECT

FOOD FOR FREE
Community-Driven

The BSA has enabled the creation of dozens of community-driven projects through the action lab/accelerator.

Communities feel their needs have been effectively addressed through collaboration with the BSA/architects.
“The BSA, instead of treating our neighborhood like a lab, is the lab itself, and is bringing in a range of resources to support our inner city community, including architectural design and other supports for affordable housing and beyond. The BSA’s plan has real potential to benefit and support our communities.”

GAIL LATIMORE
Executive Director, Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation
Architects

Accomplishments to date:

EXPANDING ACCESS

INTERSECTIONS: EQUITY, ENVIRONMENT, AND THE CITY

HIGH PERFORMANCE BUILDING ENCLOSURES: RISKS AND REWARDS
Inspiring Excellence

Architects have designed award-winning, community-based solutions to climate and equity.

The profession has implemented strategies and initiatives that are building an inclusive profession for future generations.
“This plan is inspirational and one of my favorite parts is the action lab because it’s going to be about transformation. And within that, the concept of replicability is really important to achieve the change we want to see at scale in our communities.”

YANEL DE ANGEL SALAS FAIA,
LEED AP BD+C, CPHC, PHIUS, NOMA
Principal, Managing Director, Perkins&Will
Greater Boston Cities

Accomplishments to date:

- Urban Housing Unit
- Affordable Housing
- Small Site Designs
Building for the Future

The BSA and architects are central to the realization of city sustainability plans and addressing inequity in the built environment throughout cities.

Greater Boston is seen as a global model for innovation on climate and inequity.
“I have been impressed at the progress we have been able to make on affordable housing through our partnership with the BSA. It is wonderful to know that these types of collaborations will be central to the BSA’s mission in coming years—multiplying the impact that we can have for those living in the city’s neighborhoods.”

DONALD E. WRIGHT
Deputy Director, Real Estate Management and Sales
Department of Neighborhood Development, City of Boston
The World

Accomplishments to date:

LIVING WITH WATER

EMBODIED CARBON IN BUILDINGS SERIES

MASS TIMBER ACCELERATOR AND SYMPOSIUM
The Vision

Blazing the Trail

Boston is viewed as an exemplar, leading the field in innovative design that addresses climate and inequity.

Models created through the action lab/accelerator are being adopted across the globe.
“Facing our challenges is urgent. We have no time to waste. BSA’s approach focusing on innovation and scalability is brilliant. It’s going to lead to outstanding ideas and projects that will have ripple effects around the AIA, around the country, and around the world.”

DAN HART FAIA, PE
Executive Director of Architecture at Parkhill
2021 First Vice President/2022 President at the AIA
Join the Journey

Together, we will create the world in which we all want to live.