



October 1, 2020

Honorable Nancy Rogo Trainer, FAIA, Chair 2021 Fellows Committee  
The American Institute of Architects  
[1735 New York Avenue NW](#)  
[Washington DC 20006](#)

Dear Nancy Rogo Trainer,

Following Superstorm Sandy, in the wake of over 600K homes damaged from the storm's wind and flooding, I/Enterprise Community Partners initiated a comprehensive and, far reaching initiative to help NY/NJ's multifamily affordable housing industry in recover their buildings, operations and homes. Over the course of three years we built an incredible body of work to promote equity and resiliency for thousands of homes across the Region. I met Illya in the early days of our efforts, when I worked with the National Emergency Training Hurricane Center to commission a two-day training on housing and community resilience. The goal of the training was to promote social connection and fundamentally equity and housing resilience for front line communities. From the moment I met Illya, I knew I had a dear collaborator to work on promoting equity and resilience for the nation's frontline communities.

Following Sandy, I asked Illya to join a core team I was leading to develop what would become a core and foundational guide to multifamily housing resilience, which would in turn, influence hundreds of designer, developers and architects across the US and beyond. He provided guidance and insight on how to shape our approach and strategic direction. This guide has gone on to influence how FEMA conceives of mitigation and of multifamily housing to flood risks and will go further to inform funding and policy.

Following Hurricane Maria, which destroyed well over 60K homes across Puerto Rico, the USVI, Haiti and Cuba—I set off to develop a book that would assist homeowners rebuild safe housing protected and adaptable to a range of climate risks prevalent in Puerto Rico and other island communities—the *Keep Safe a Guide for Resilient Housing in Island Communities*. The book profiles affordable and practical strategies for resilient housing ranging from water to energy to building envelope systems—all dedicated to supporting the most vulnerable homeowner, renter or community. I chose Illya as a senior advisor to our effort to inform the entire body of the work and his contributions were enormous and strengthened this guide—which is now being used by thousands to inform resilient housing throughout Puerto Rico and beyond. The book will lead to real impact in the field and will ensure millions of homes to come home to. In addition to our work in Puerto Rico, he connected me to a team in the USVI, who lead resiliency planning for the territory—who value Illya's partnership because they recognize he is not only committed to building strong and stable homes for front line communities—he delivers and executes. He has a rare blend of craft, vision and action that enables him to have impact and to ensure projects. I am honored to nominate Illya Azaroff for the AIA's highest honor,

A blue ink handwritten signature, appearing to read "Laurie", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Laurie Schoeman  
National Director, Resilience and Disaster Recovery  
Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.