





CHALLENGE

After the devastation of Superstorm Sandy in October 2012, the Northeast region of the United States faced a monumental coordination challenge. State, local, and community organizations in 24 affected states struggled to come up with fast, effective, and non-duplicative response and recovery initiatives. At the time, there was no regional coordination among states and governing bodies, highlighting a powerful need for strong leadership.



The leader ship and programming of the AIA regional recovery working group have added real value to the regions recovery and made a significant contribution to ensuring a rebuilding process that maximizes impact and results in resilient more sustainable communities.

- Scott G Davis, Former Senior Advisor, Office of the Secretary of US Department of Housing and Urban Development

DECLARATION OF RESPONSIBILITY

I have personal knowledge of the nominee's responsibility for the exhibit listed above. That responsibility included project under direction of nominee.

Justin Mihalik, AIA

Co-Chair, AIA Regional Recovery Working Group

ROLE

At the AIA Grassroots Conference, Illya stepped into this vacancy to form the AIA Regional Recovery Working Group (AIARRWG), engaging four states sharing the same problems: New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. Collectively, these four states faced \$80 billion in damage, with 650,000 affected buildings, displaced communities, and a great degree of uncertainty. The Working Group comprised a coalition of architects, allied professionals, public agencies, community leaders, and other stakeholders whose focus on regional engagement attracted the attention of a number of federal agencies, including the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD).



Workshop 1 - NJIT, Newark, NJ



Henk Ovink, Special Envoy from the Dutch government on loan to US HUD and the UN



Formation of the AIARRWG at AIA Grassroots in D.C. with leadership from four states and AIA staff



Workshop 2 - NYIT, Westbury Campus, Long Island, NY. Opening plenary remarks by Azaroff



Ray Beiler, AIA, President, AIA New York State awarding Justin Mihalik, AIA and Illya Azaroff, AIA for work on regional recovery



Having the opportunity to work with Illya on Post Sandy Regional Recovery has allowed me to witness first hand his dedication not only to the cause of resiliency and building stronger, but his dedication to the AIA and the profession. The AIA Regional Working Coalition would not have been possible without Illya and the work of his committee, DfRR."

- Justin Mihalik, AIA 2014 AIA NJ President, co-chair AIARRWG



Tom Dalessio, Justin Mihalik, Azaroff, and Darius Shollohub, AIARRWG charrette

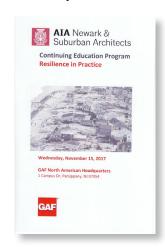


Colonel Paul Owens, USACE, speaker at several workshops with Azaroff

OUTCOMES

The AIARRWG conducted a series of three workshops that included federal, state, and city officials. The initiative launched its first workshop at the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) in Newark, NJ, aimed at developing united post-Sandy efforts and setting the framework for unprecedented knowledge sharing. Presenters included Henk Ovink, seconded to President Obama's HUD-led Rebuild by Design initiative from his position as Special Envoy for International Water Affairs with the Dutch government.

The second workshop took place in Old Westbury on Long Island to tackle housing recovery and future resilience in coastal communities, and featured a charrette led by the New York City Department of City Planning's (NYC DCP) housing recovery unit. Scott Davis of HUD and Colonel (now General) Paul Owens of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers were among the key speakers. BASF hosted the third workshop at Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey focusing on regional infrastructure and transportation security.



Follow up programming incorporating resilience into practice

The results of the second workshop became the foundation for the NYC DCP's "Planning a Resilient New York City," the design guidelines for flooding used throughout the recovery process with HUD and in concert with New York City's Build It Back housing recovery program, which helped people in all five boroughs. The Working Group exported the document to other regional governments with similar housing stock to address similar rebuilding policy efforts; it is still used today across the U.S. as reference material for cities grappling with flooding. The AIARRWG continues to promote a culture of collaboration and its work has had far-reaching impacts, with lasting effects on the development of recovery and resilience policy at federal, state, and local levels, as well as in many communities throughout the four states.

Recognition: AIA National conferred its 2015 Component Excellence Award on the AIA Regional Recovery Working Group.



Charrette presentations, part of three regional workshops