

Equitable, Accessible, and Sustainable: The Future of the National Lecture Program

Based on the lessons learned from organizing programs during the pandemic, we are redesigning the National Lecture Program to be more equitable, accessible, and sustainable. Starting in the 2022-2023 season, the National Lecture Program will move to a hybrid format. Under this hybrid format, each society will receive one in-person lecture and access to between 7 and 9 virtual lectures (approximately one-a-month during the academic year). Additionally, each society will have the opportunity to apply for grants, separate from the Society Outreach Grant program, to organize its own local programs.

The hybrid National Lecture Program featuring a mix of in-person and virtual offerings will:

- Greatly increase the number of annual programs that an AIA society, regardless of its size, will be able to access and offer its members—from one or two lectures to potentially 9-10 programs annually;
- Set aside resources for Societies to organize additional lectures locally;
- Double the amount of the lecture honoraria—an equity issue that was raised by membership at Council. The increased honoraria rate will directly benefit the wide range of scholars participating in the lecture program and make participation in the program more equitable;
- Increase exchanges with overseas scholars through the online lecture program and provide Societies with access to scholars and themes that may otherwise be underrepresented in the Lecture Program;
- Be more accessible to those in remote locations, overseas members, caregivers, those with mobility issues, hearing impaired audiences, and others that currently cannot access AIA lectures;
- Realign lecture expenses that have increased beyond the endowments set up to cover them with the annual endowment draw and plan for the industry-forecasted, significant post-pandemic increase in travel costs (up to 20%);
- Become more pandemic, inclement weather, travel delay, and disaster-resistant;
- Reduce the carbon footprint of the lecture program;
- Avoid the otherwise required step of eliminating programs (lectures) from the 15 societies that have fewer than 25 members and likely further extending programmatic cuts to 23 additional societies that have fewer than 35 members. The new program will not link lectures to a Society's membership numbers—a policy that several VPs for Societies, Society Officers, and AIA Board Members have argued is ineffective and punitive.

WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE FOR YOUR SOCIETY?



1 in-person lecture per year (unless you would prefer virtual) for each society regardless of membership levels



A monthly (September-May) Online Lecture series available to all societies, organized by AIA headquarters and hosted for different time zone hubs



A pool of grants to organize local lectures that societies can apply for with priority given to those that fulfill the lecture endowments' topical and geographical requirements