

How ACEC New York is complying with Commission on Public Integrity

ACEC New York strives toward complete compliance in all events, particularly those involving members of the legislature or state agency staff. For the past 3 years we have had meetings and have traded correspondence with New York State Commission on Public Integrity (CPI) (and its predecessor organization) to help us develop compliance standards. The following list is how we meet the 4 requirements set forth by the CPI for the widely attended exception.

ACEC New York's 2010 Public Policy Educational Program will be held on Monday, February 1st, from 6:30-8:30PM at *Angelo's 677 Prime*. Hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be provided. The agenda will include presentations approximately every 20-25 minutes on one or more of the key issues as described in the information below.

The event must be open to a large number of persons from a given industry or profession.

Our event is open to our members, non-members, legislators and many other individuals and organizations. Additionally, we open our event other associations within the industry, such as the General Contractors of America, Professional Engineers Society, General Building Contractors, American Institute of Architects, and others, to ensure the event is deemed widely attended. We have also reached out to our industry partners to ensure we have a high enough number of non-members to reach compliance standards.

Invitations or event registration information is sent to a wide distribution list of non-member professional design firms and candidates for affiliate membership such as accounting, legal and insurance companies. Further, our event registration form is distributed among other associations that are involved in related fields such as transportation, design, construction, material suppliers, and also to related firms in neighboring states. If space is available, no one is prohibited from registering for and attending our event. We anticipate more than 500 specific invitations/ registration forms to be sent out and an additional 500 non-members will receive the same information. Please note that associations count members in different ways and while our membership is by company, they include more than 17,000 employees in New York State. Other associations may represent individuals, such as the Professional Engineers or Architects associations with up to thousands of individual members.

In addition to an overall infrastructure agenda that applies to many of the attendees, there are other issues that are important to licensed design professionals, related business and our elected and appointed leaders. Licensure and corporate ownership have public safety implications that must be addressed. New York's procurement regulations must be transparent, fair and beneficial to the state and its residents. These are the primary issues that will be addressed in this forum.

The principal purpose of the event must be to promote the exchange of information about one or more issues of public interest.

Our Public Policy Education Program is an information session geared toward educating those in attendance about the pressing issues regarding the infrastructure, construction and design

profession industry. We also initiate dialogue regarding legislation that addresses the business of engineering, architecture, land surveying and landscape architecture in New York State.

Given the recent report by Comptroller DiNapoli, every legislator is concerned with the quality of the roads and bridges in their areas. Further, infrastructure is more than roads and bridges. It is the water and sewer systems that are failing, have massive leaks, and may be polluting our lakes, rivers and groundwater. Our airports are overcrowded, our dams have deficiencies and all of these pieces add up to concerns about quality of life and public health and safety.

To promote this exchange, attendees and guests will be provided with various materials depending upon their specific geographic location and issues of concern and interest. These materials will be reviewed and feedback will be collected by ACECNY staff to develop additional outreach, modify positions to reflect concerns, and address the overall needs as they arise and change.

In addition to our materials and interaction, ACECNY has 2 planned program pieces. An agenda will be handed to all people and industry representatives will make presentations on the issues. This will be enhanced and accompanied by a slide show that highlights the issues and will be displayed on screens located in the venue.

Those attending must represent a broad and diverse range of interest in the subject matter of the event.

Due to our strong relationships with our industry partners and other business leaders, our event attendees will represent a broad and diverse range of interests within the infrastructure arena. Internally, this diversity includes the breadth of the design industry; small firms (1 or 2 people) & mega firms (10,000 plus employees worldwide); Majority owned firms & women and minority owned firms; Multi-disciplinary firms & discipline specific firms (Structural, Mechanical, Environmental, Electrical); All 4 of the licensed design professions; engineers, architects, land surveyors and landscape architects; Other infrastructure interested parties; contractors, sub-contractors, accountants, attorneys, financial institutions/banks. All of these groups include members and non-members.

Within our industry there are disparate positions on many issues; investment in roads vs transit; goals for women and minority firms; Design Build vs Design –Bid Build; Are Public Private Partnerships good or not; Where should funds be invested geographically in the state and the rural-urban competition for funds and projects.

One thing most of the people agree on, as well as most residents of New York, is that our aging infrastructure is failing us and we need to develop ways to effectively fund our basic needs.

Attendance at the event must be related to the duties and responsibilities of the public officers who are offered or accept complimentary attendance, or allow any such public official, or his or her designee, to perform a ceremonial function appropriate to his or her position.

Those who make decisions at the top level of the State in the legislature and at agencies and authorities need to be educated and interact with the professionals and companies that design and build our infrastructure. The best ways to deliver projects that benefit all residents and businesses of New York is an important and often lengthy process to understand. With new project delivery methods, some of which require specific legislation, members of the public sector often do not have opportunities to interact with private sector designers and related parties who have been involved in similar projects in other jurisdictions.

On the business side, legislators are the final link between design professionals business interests and their goal in keeping New York strong, not only in small and private business, but in the world-wide scope of infrastructure. Our ability to compete on a global economy requires New York to have the basic resources in place to allow our citizens and our businesses to be on equal footing with our competitors- be they other states or other countries. As referred to previously, our needs in overall infrastructure (energy, IT, water, transportation, education) are immense and the public and private sectors need to have the opportunity to educate each other and exchange information and best practices to provide these basic needs. All legislators must be involved in their local infrastructure needs and key investment decisions by New York State will impact every resident and every business.