Design Professionals Coalition (DPC) Strategic Priorities Plan 2026

Purpose: DPC is an ACEC coalition of large/leading engineering and project delivery firms, represented by Senior Principals from each Member Firm. We advocate a national business agenda for the A/E industry by educating, protecting, promoting, and advocating for the interests of our industry, our coalition, our individual companies, and the public good.

Vision: To be recognized as the leading voice advancing viable, sound solutions to A/E industry challenges and ensuring that engineers, planners, architects, and scientists inform the critical policy issues facing our nation.

2026 Objectives:

• Maximize Opportunities for Effective Collaboration within DPC Membership and with Similarly Aligned Industry Associations	***Network***
• Ensure On-Going Quality and Focus Educational Programs on Themes of Significance to Members	***Educate***
• Communicate Proactively with Membership on Legislative and Regulatory Issues to Maximize DPC's external influence	***Advocate***
• Make a Long-Term Positive Impact on our Communities, Industry, Employees and Society, Promote A/E Workforce Development	***Impact***

Strategies:

Network: Continue collaboration among DPC Members through effective programming, opportunities to participate, and opportunities to network. Host formalized networking activities at DPC Meetings, provide a welcoming atmosphere for new DPC Members and provide opportunities for greater C-Suite interaction. Support function-specific networking opportunities for DPC Member firms.

Educate: Focus programming on Emerging Themes: The Future of the Industry and our Firms; People, including best-in-class practices; Member "Case Studies/Lessons Learned"; and identify/develop legislative remedies for ACEC advocacy programs. Ensure on-going quality and consistency of educational programs through continued engagement of high-profile speakers.

Advocate: Maximize opportunities for DPC Members to participate in advocacy efforts to advance the regulatory and legislative interests of DPC Member Firms. Expand the use of Member Firm expertise to provide practical solutions and the "Ask" in Legislation and Rulemaking. Work closely with ACEC Advocacy programs' research and to support Industry positions.

Impact: Assess and increase the emphasis on Doing Great Things as a group. Make a long-lasting positive impact on our communities, industry, employees, and society by advancing built environment solutions to enable positive, long-lasting change, while promoting A/E workforce development for the next generation. Continue targeted recruitment of ENR's Top 100 Design Firms.

Strategic Framework:

Network: Maximize Opportunities for Effective Collaboration Across DPC Membership and with Aligned Industry Associations

- Facilitate the formation of Committees and Forums to address topics unique to our Membership.
- Enhance networking opportunities at DPC meetings with events and meeting session formats that foster direct conversation between Members in addition to the "big room" format.
- Inventory and publish membership associations in order to develop linkages among memberships.
- Attract and encourage greater C-suite participation and promote greater C-Suite interaction.
- Work with DPC Members to identify Alternate Representatives to maintain continuity during leadership transitions.
- Enhance our on-boarding of new Members in advance of their first meeting through post-meeting follow-up.

Educate: Ensure On-going Quality and Consistency of Educational Programs

- DPC will share knowledge and expertise with ACEC in mutual areas of interest.
- Survey Membership to gauge interest in program topics.

Ensure programs:

- Directly relate to the business success of Member firms.
- Provide practical and confidential "Case Studies/Lessons Learned".
- Engage high-profile presenters (from inside & outside industry), showing preference towards our industry and our Membership.
- Incorporate regular Member Firm input.
- Share ACEC programming in distilled and timely format with Member Firms.

Advocate: Maximize Influence Through Communication to DPC Membership on Legislative and Regulatory Issues Impacting DPC Firms, in Sync with ACEC's Strategic Plan

- Support the activities of DPC's Advocacy Committee.
- Through the Advocacy Committee, establish and advance Members' top legislative and regulatory priorities.
- Work closely with ACEC's Advocacy program to support Industry Positions.
- Inform ACEC Research Institute programs and focus.
- Provide ACEC with pragmatic solutions to develop the "Ask" in new legislation, regulation, and rules-making.
- Continue partnering with ACEC on Industry brand building initiatives.
- Encourage DPC Members to support ACEC PAC, including PAC-to-PAC contributions to ensure industry alignment on significant regulatory and legislative issues and opportunities.

Impact: Create Long-Lasting Positive Impacts on Our Industry, Communities, Employees and Society

- Encourage DPC Members and senior leadership from DPC Member Firms to run for ACEC National leadership positions to increase DPC's voice and highlight our important large firm perspective.
- Retain current DPC Members by encouraging deeper participation in programming enabling DPC firms to achieve "Great Things Benefitting Many."
- Lead development of sustainable workforce programs for the industry; encourage Member Firms to share their efforts promoting careers in our industry, develop outreach goals for firms, consider career toolkit to build on DPC firm leadership.
- Establish formal representation of DPC at ACEC National ExCom.