

Becoming Architects Canada
Devenir architecte Canada



LAUNCH EVENT FINDINGS

June 20, 2021

<https://www.bac-dac.ca/summary-report>

<https://www.bac-dac.ca/>

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Launch Event for Becoming Architects Canada / Devenir architect Canada took place on Thursday June 03, 2021.

The fifty-three (53) registrants included :

5 Licensed Architects

10 Students

5 BEFA candidates:

24 Registered Interns (Canadian registered)

1 Syllabus Candidate

6 Other

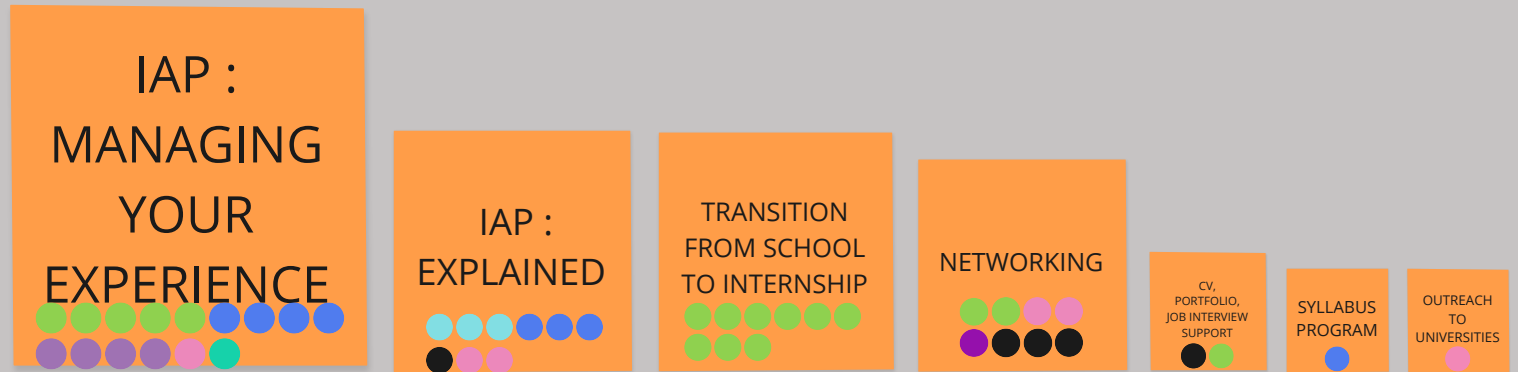
Total attendance at the event was 48 (including the 5 members of the Board of Directors).

The Launch Event was scheduled to last 1.5 hours. After 15 minutes of informal mingling, there was a short slide presentation introducing the organization and the Board of Directors. The remainder of the event was devoted to break out table discussions followed by re-grouping to share findings with the objective of collecting feedback from attendees which would inform Becoming Architects Canada / Devenir architect Canada's priorities and objectives. The final group discussion was so enthusiastic and generated such energy that most attendees stayed for an additional half hour. During closing remarks and after, attendees expressed their appreciation and enjoyment of the event, with many volunteering to serve on one of the four main committees : Knowledge, Events, Media, and Outreach.

The Launch Event Findings Subcommittee was the first struck under the Knowledge Committee, and is proud to present the results of its analysis of the evening's discussions in this report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

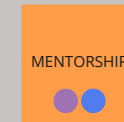
1. What initiatives should we focus on?



2. Issues/Concerns with regards to your path to licensure?



3. What areas do you find currently lack support (for interns, syllabus students, etc.)?



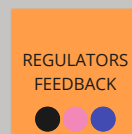
4. What support are you looking for specifically with regard to ExAC prep?



5. How to get on the path to licensure?



6. Regulators feedback



BAC/DAC BACKGROUND

Becoming Architects Canada / Devenir architecte Canada is the new voice for all individuals on the path to architectural licensure in Canada as well as recent licensees.

Our Certificate of Incorporation as a Canada Not-for-Profit Corporation is dated March 2021 - but we are by no means newcomers to advocacy!

We embarked on this journey in 2014 when Intern Architect Representatives from Architectural Associations across Canada met at the 2014 RAIC Festival to discuss interns' concerns with the IAP program. We discovered that we shared many of the same concerns within our separate silos, and could learn much from each other's experiences.

A few of us met again at the CACB conference on "Educating Future Architects" in September 2014, where our AHA! moment struck. During one of the conference's final workshops, we determined that a national advocacy group for intern architects was needed.

Following an internal debate about the pros and cons of being an independent entity, we agreed to approach the RAIC - Canada's national advocacy organization for architects - with our newly formed organization. We were awarded the "College of Fellows Centennial Fund for Intern/Intern Architects" at the 2015 RAIC Festival and at the 2016 Festival in Nanaimo, BC, RAIC Emerging Practitioners (RAIC EP) was officially launched.

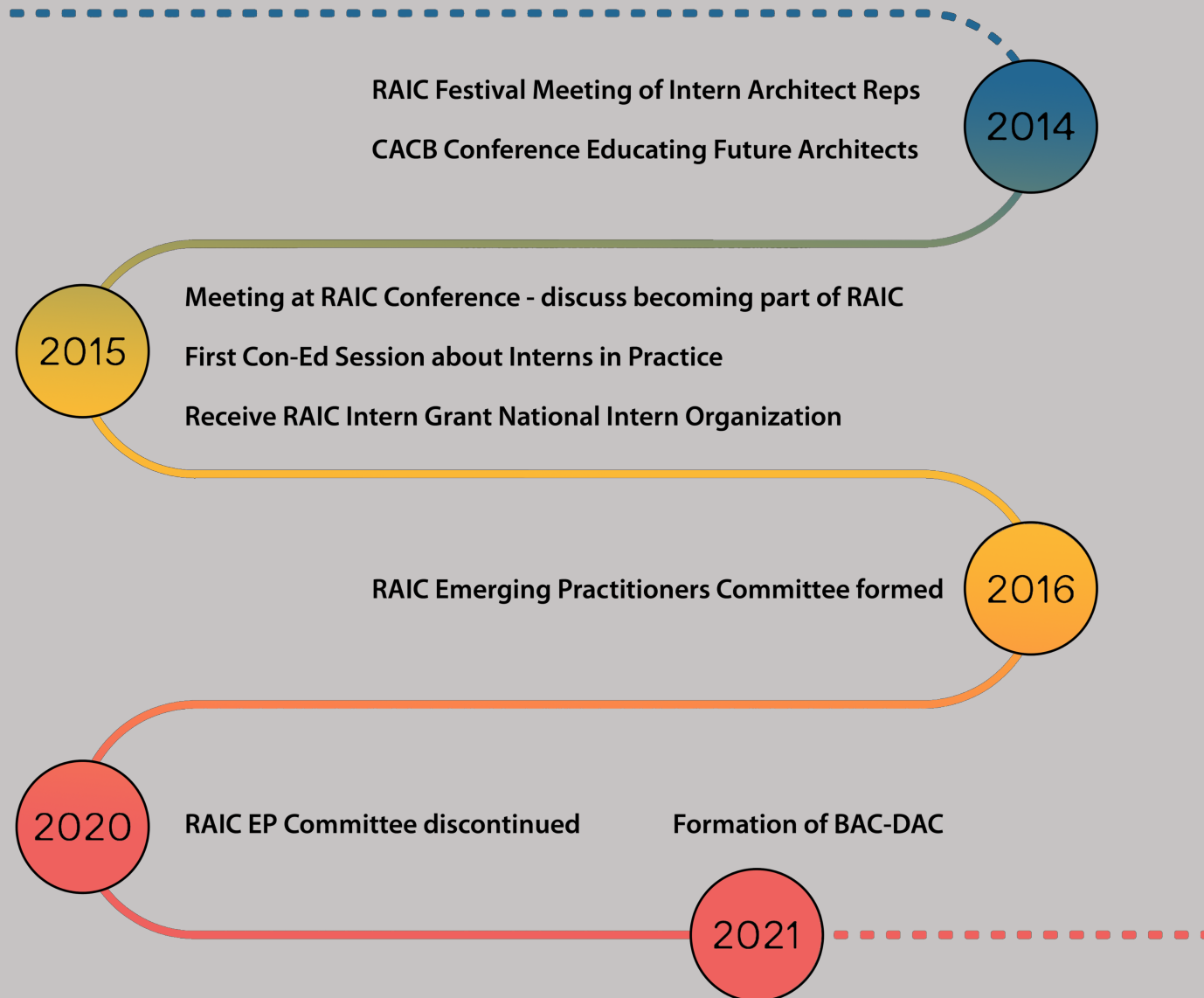
As the RAIC EP we accomplished a great number of initiatives - carrying out vital research, disseminating information to our constituency, organizing nationally broadcast webinars in support of ExAC prep, creating ConEd Sessions, and holding design competitions. While a number of our initiatives continue to be offered by the RAIC - most notably our webinar series in support of ExAC prep - the committee itself was discontinued in September 2020.

Which goes to prove Philosopher Rudolf Steiner's theory of the 7-Year Cycles of Life : Seven years after we first began our journey, the next cycle has begun.



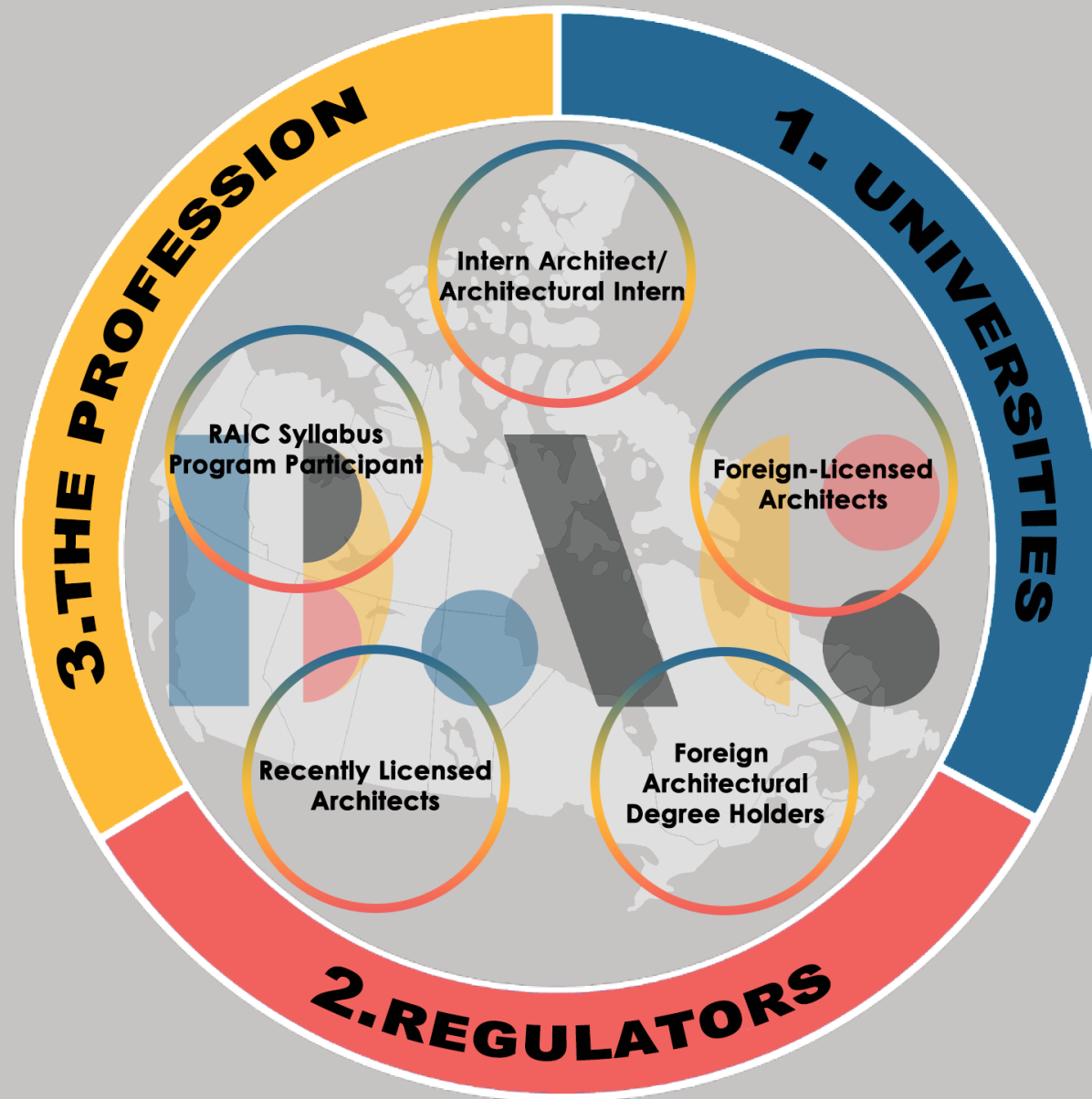
BAC/DAC BACKGROUND

OUR JOURNEY



OUR MISSION

“To strengthen the voice of and connect those on the path to architectural licensure in Canada in order to support, serve and advocate for their professional growth.”



ABOUT US

Becoming Architects Canada [BAC] | Devenir architecte Canada [DAC] is a group of Architects and Intern Architects dedicated to supporting and advocating for individuals on the path to licensure.

BAC/DAC is focused on serving individuals who are:

- Intern Architects
- Syllabus Program Participants
- Foreign-Licensed Architects pursuing licensure in Canada
- Foreign Architectural Degree Holders pursuing licensure in Canada
- Recently Licensed Architects (up to 10 years post-licensure)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ksenia Eic - PRESIDENT, Events Committee Chair

Patrick Lefebvre - VICE PRESIDENT, Outreach Committee Chair

Graeme Haunholter - SECRETARY, Media Committee Chair

Afsaneh Asayesh - TREASURER, Knowledge Committee Chair

Erin Kirkland - Director

OUR OBJECTIVES

1. Advocating

Provide advocacy & support around issues concerning our constituency, raise their profile within the architectural community. Contribute to and advance the dialogue between soon-to-be and recently licensed individuals, professionals, educators, and regulators while promoting accountability for them as valuable participants in our profession.

2. Networking

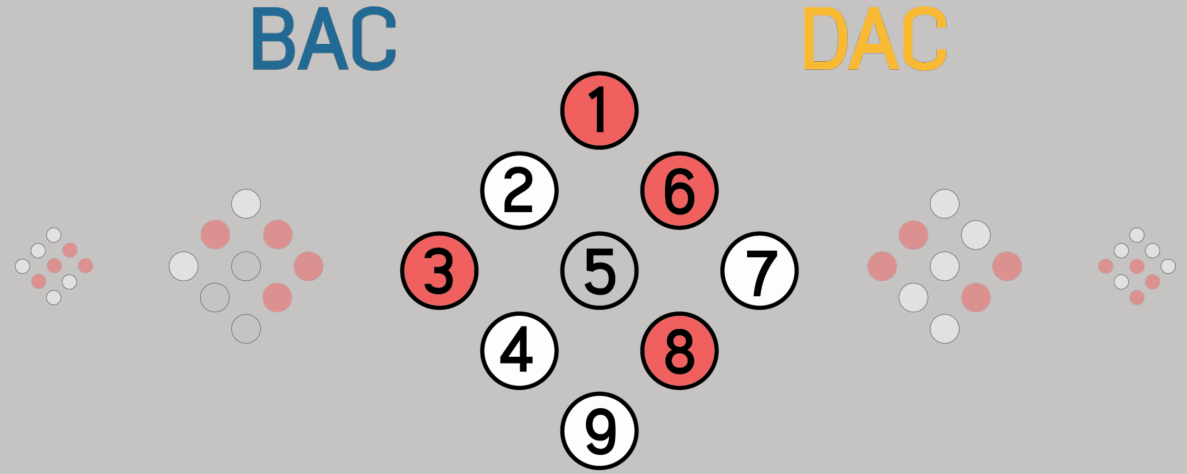
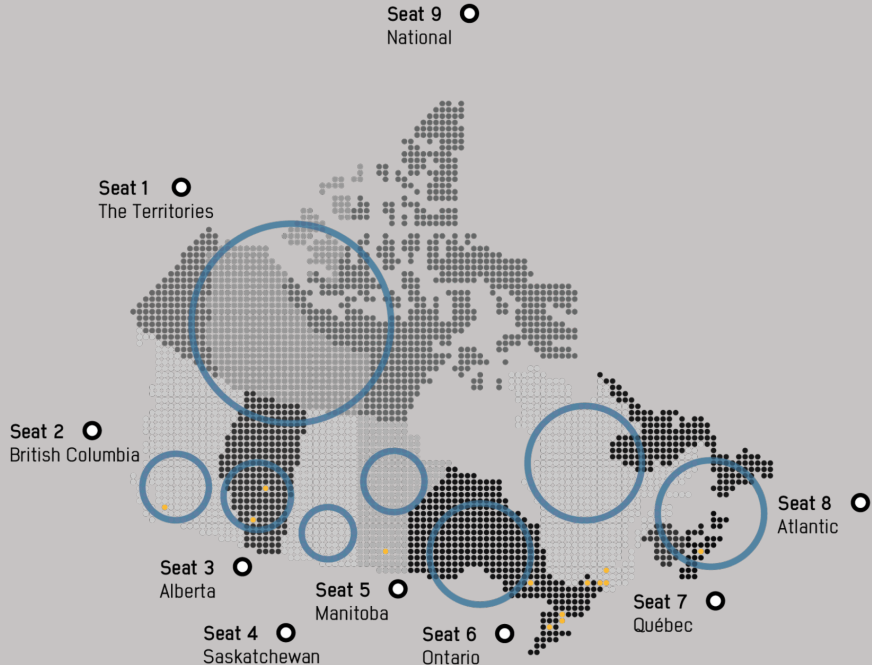
Provide a forum for individuals on the path to licensure as well as recent licensees to help one another, collaborate, share. Provide national networking opportunities while exploring other opportunities to partner with similar organizations internationally.

3. Educating

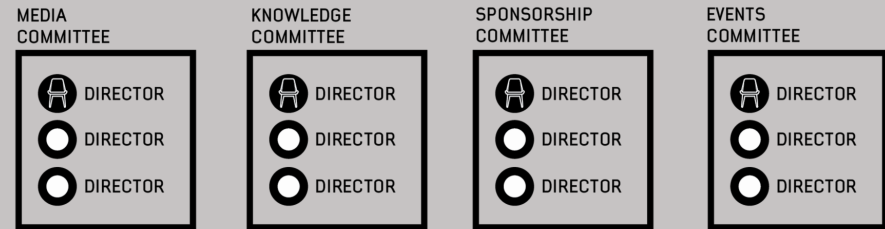
Provide a national resource for information, answers to questions, and addressing issues of concern to our constituency. Gather input on issues affecting this demographic and disseminate nationally.



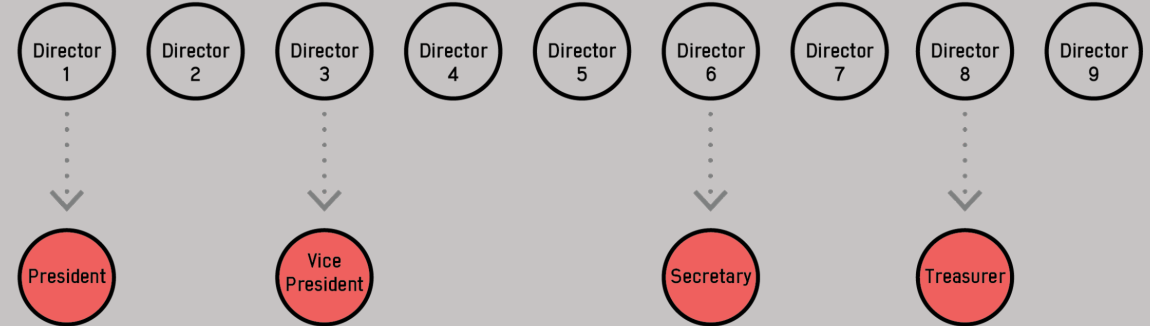
ABOUT US



REPRESENTATIONL SEATS



THE DIRECTORS



THE OFFICERS

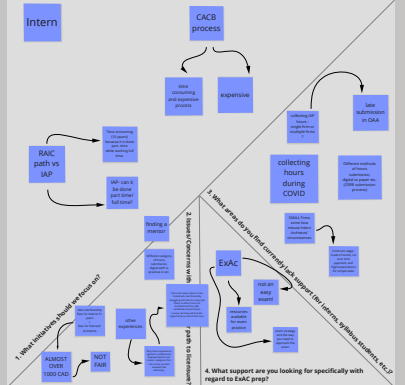
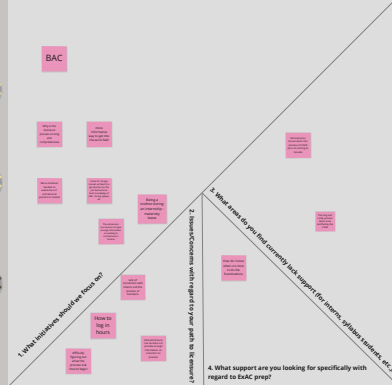
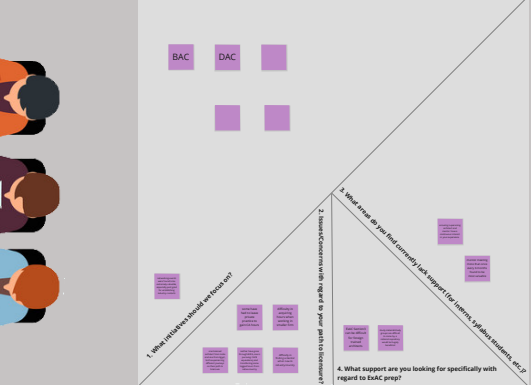
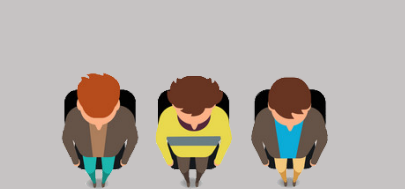
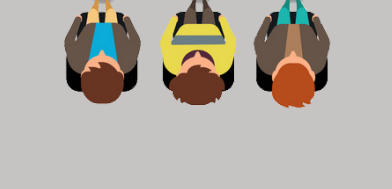
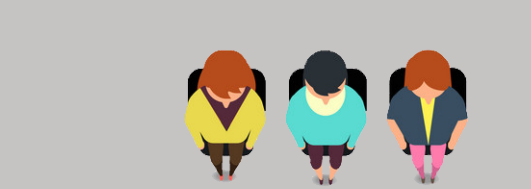
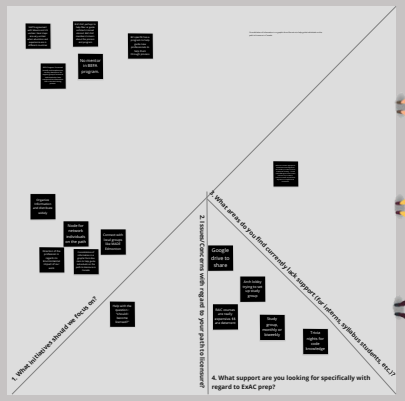
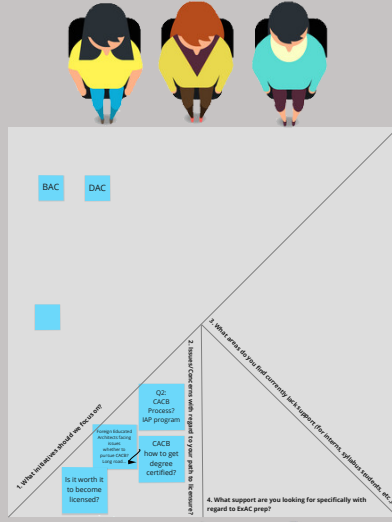
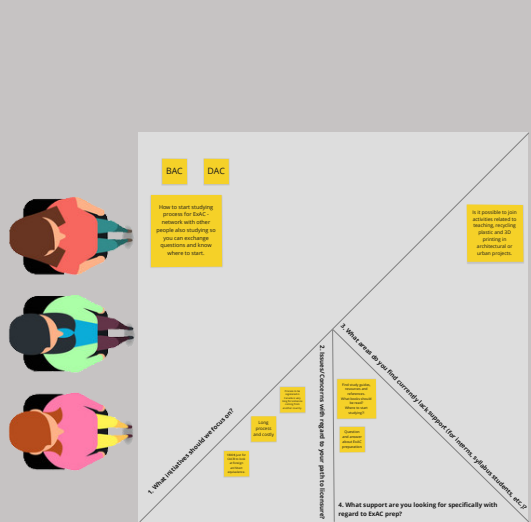
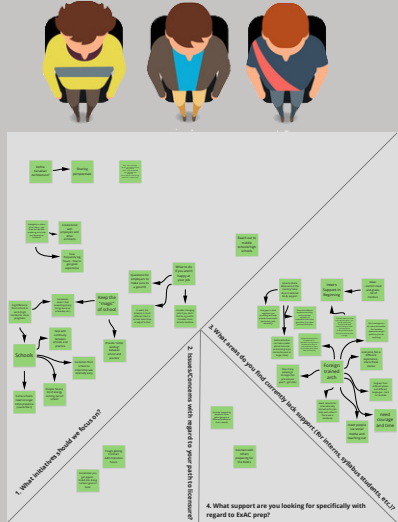
BAC/DAC LAUNCH EVENT, June 03, 2021

BAC/DAC LAUNCH EVENT AGENDA : 8:00 - 9:30 p.m.

ITEM	TITLE	SPEAKER	SLIDES / DISCUSSION PTS
1	Informal Mingling	N/A	Link opened at 7:45 p.m. ET
2	Organization Intro	Ksenia Eic	(summary of Canadian Architect Article)
3	Vice President + Outreach	Patrick Lefebvre	. About Us
4	Secretary + Media	Graeme Haunholter	. Website Overview
5	Treasurer + Knowledge	Afsaneh Asayesh	. Knowledge - Proposed Initiatives . 2016/2021 Regulators snapshots
6	Director	Erin Kirkland	. Universities
7	Events	Ksenia Eic	. Future Events
4	Break Out Groups	8 tables (use Miro)	1. What initiatives should we focus on? 2. Issues/Concerns with regard to your path to licensure? 3. What areas do you find currently lack support (for interns, syllabus students, etc.)? 4. What support are you looking for specifically with regard to ExAC prep?
5	Group Summaries	1 person from each table	Feedback on direction of BAC-DAC
6	Conclusion & Next Steps	Ksenia	Thanks to attendees + all who supported event by helping to promote it



BAC/DAC LAUNCH EVENT, June 03, 2021



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

<https://www.bac-dac.ca/summary-report>

LAUNCH EVENT SUMMARY SUBCOMMITTEE (KNOWLEDGE COMMITTEE)

Afsaneh Asayesh (OAA) - Chair
Ehsan Jahani (Intern Architect, OAA) - Co-chair
Joline Bouhamdan (Intern Architect, OAA)
Sogol Rabiei (Intern Architect, OAA)

TASK DESCRIPTION & DELIVERABLES

Gather, organize, and prioritize the feedback from Launch Event
Produce a summary in graphic form - Ideally in Miro

METHODOLOGY

Research : Review & understand discussion items @ all 8 tables

Analyse : Identify expanded taxonomy

First 4 topics are discussion topics as noted on each table :

1. What initiatives should we focus on?
2. Issues/Concerns with regard to your path to licensure?
3. What areas do you find currently lack support (for interns, syllabus students, etc.)?
4. What support are you looking for specifically with regard to ExAC prep?

Additional topics identified:

- CASA
- How to Get on Path to Licensure
- Unrelated to our mandate
- Regulator Feedback

Organize :

Sort comments from tables into taxonomy derived from the analysis of table comments

Identify the overarching issues expressed in table comments with respect to the taxonomy developed (i.e. Subheadings)

1. What Initiatives Should We Focus on?

- IAP : Managing Your Experience
- Networking
- CV, Portfolio, Job Interview Support
- Transition from School to Internship
- IAP : Explained
- Outreach to Universities
- SYLLABUS Program

2. Issues/Concerns with Regard to Your Path to Licensure?

- Value of Licensure

3. What areas do you find currently lack support (for Interns, Syllabus Students, etc.)?

- Mentorship

4. What Support Are You Looking for Specifically with Regard to ExAC Prep?

- ExAC Informational Webinars
- ExAC Prep

5. How to GET on Path to Licensure

6. Regulator Feedback

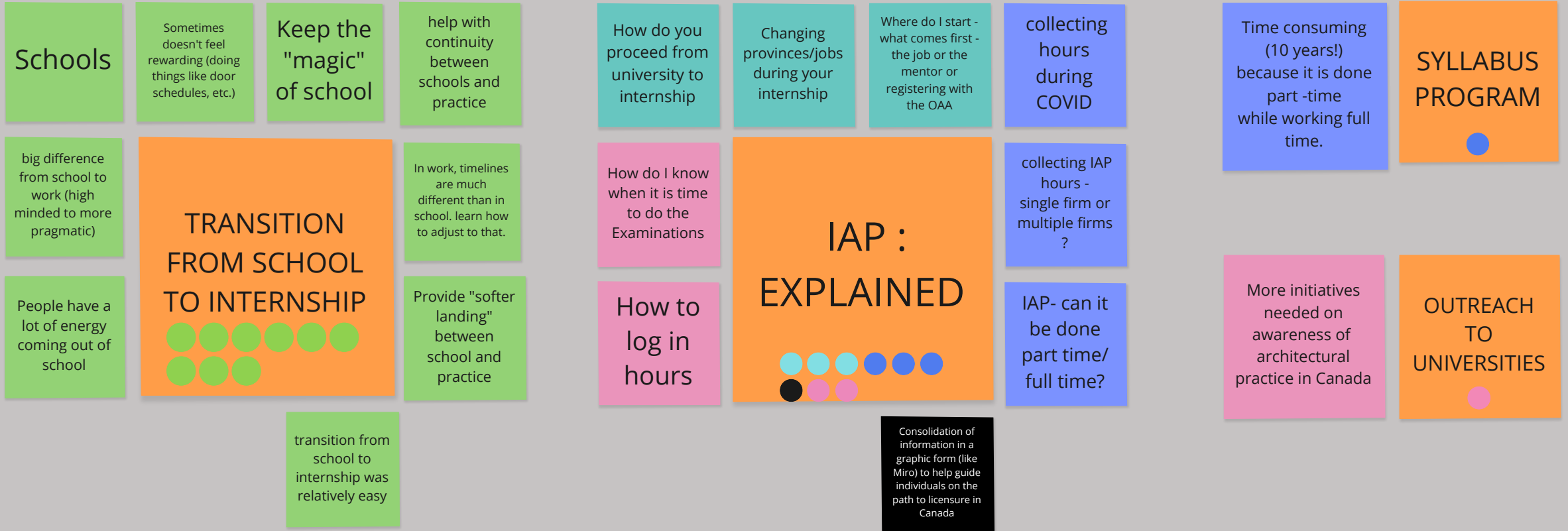
Prioritize & Format Graphically :

- Create stickies in a colour distinct from that assigned to each of the 8 tables on which to place Sub Headings
- Group table comment stickies around Subheadings
- Add dots coded to table colour correlating to number of comments (hits) on each Subheading sticky
- Stickies enlarge in proportion to the number of dots added creating a visual hierarchy

Summarize

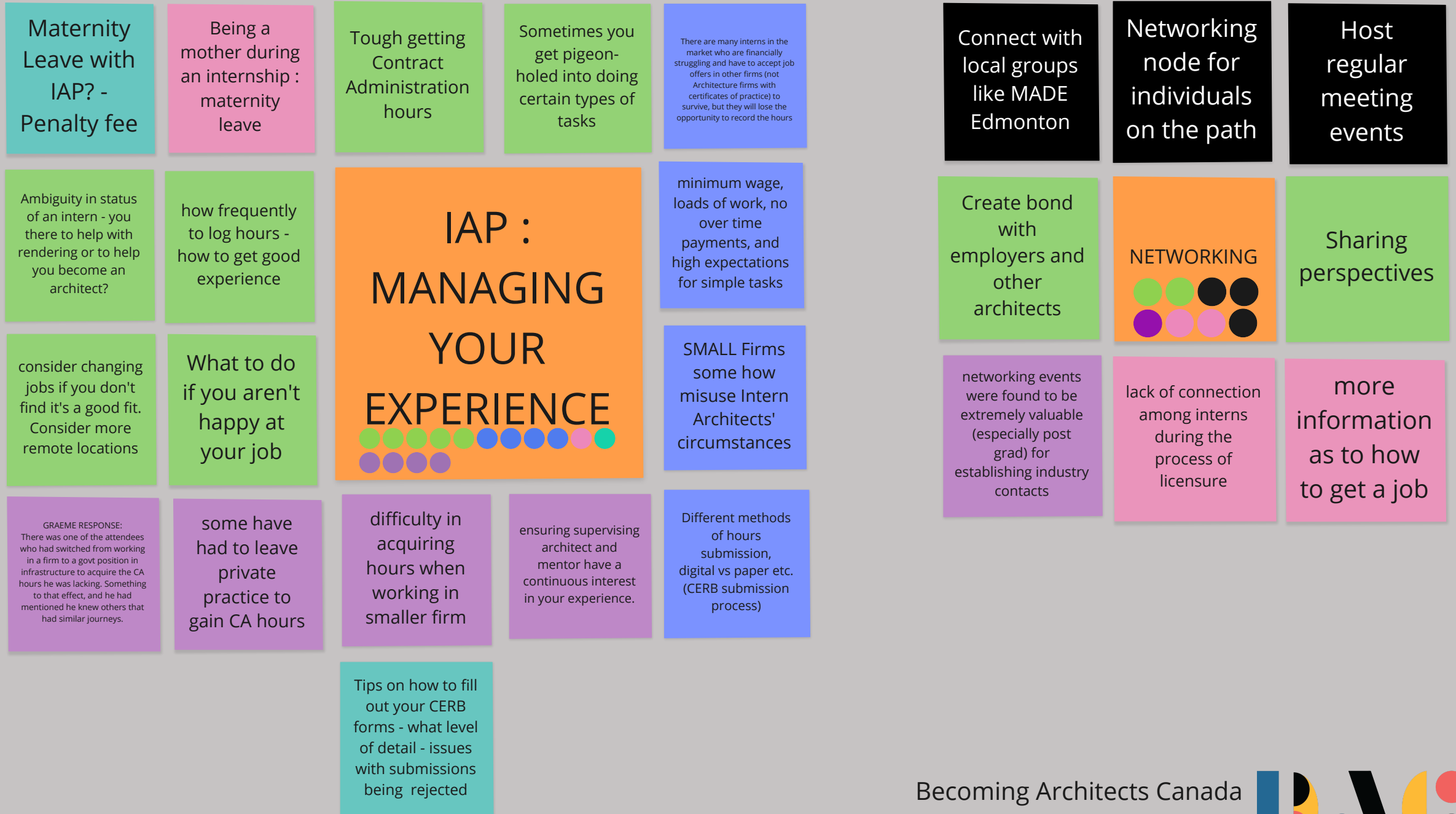
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

1. What initiatives should we focus on? Type something



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

1. What initiatives should we focus on?...contd.



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

2. Issues/Concerns with regard to your path to licensure?

VALUE OF LICENSURE



More initiatives needed on awareness of architectural practice in Canada

Is it worth it to become licensed?

Help with the question : "should I become licensed?"

3. What areas do you find currently lack support (for interns, syllabus students, etc.)?

difficulty in finding a mentor when new to industry/country

MENTORSHIP



finding a mentor

4. What support are you looking for specifically with regard to ExAC prep?

Connect with others preparing for the ExACs


Find study guides, resources and references. What books should be read? Where to start studying?!

How to start studying process for ExAC - network with other people also studying so you can exchange questions and know where to start.

Question and answer about ExAC preparation

resources available for exam practice

ExAC INFORMATIONAL WEBINARS



not an easy exam!

exam strategy and the way you need to approach the exam

quizlet.com - Exac prep

Trivia nights for code knowledge

Arch lobby trying to set up study group

study material/study groups are difficult to come by. a national repository would be hugely beneficial

ExAC Section3 can be difficult for foreign trained architects

ERIN'S RESPONSE:
Just to continue sharing about what we are doing... probably most of it is on our website already. [5.47](#)
And act as a place to share resources for exac exams if we are able to

RAIC courses are really expensive. \$\$ are deterrent

Google drive to share

ExAC PREP



Can there be a study package the BAC DAC can provide or help connect study groups

Study group, monthly or biweekly

More information about who we are.. Exac resources



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

5-HOW TO GET ON PATH TO LICENSURE

PATRICK'S RESPONSE:
This was a generic government run program in BC to help professionals from abroad get established that someone brought up. Not sure of the name, but we could look into the program.

No mentor in BEFA program.

Time consuming and expensive process

RAIC path vs IAP

CACB process

expensive (CACB certification process)

HOW TO GET ON PATH TO LICENSURE



Process to be registered in Canada is very long for someone coming from another country.

BAC-DAC perhaps to help filter or guide architects trained abroad. BAC-DAC members to learn about the process and program

What do I do if I was an Architect Abroad

1800\$ just for CACB to look at foreign architect equivalence.

NAFTA agreement with Mexico and US unclear. Next steps are very unclear when education and experience are in different countries

Technologist to architect info graphic?

one licensed architect from India and one from Egypt, both experiencing different journeys on their path to licensure

BEFA Program. Structured broadly and templates are not very descriptive. No support group or access to individuals who have completed the information. Left in the dark during process.

Guidance for transition from Arch Tech to Architect

neither have gone through BEFA, one is pursuing CACB equivalency and transferring some logged hours from native country

BC specific has a program to help guide new professionals to help them through process

CACB how to get degree certified?

Foreign Educated Architects facing issues whether to pursue CACB? Long road...

Q2: CACB Process? IAP program

difficulty figuring out what the process is & how to begin

6-REGULATOR FEEDBACK

REGULATORS FEEDBACK



Difficult to receive appropriate information from Regulators with smaller jurisdiction due to inadequate funding --> Small staff challenged to meet needs of interns in jurisdiction. CALA to consider "Equalization Payments" to support local Association.

OAA membership fees for Interns 5+ years = fees for licensed Architects

OAA admissions course does not provide enough information on transition to practice



NEXT STEPS

In order to formulate our path forward, we organized the priorities identified previously into Short Term, Mid Term, and Long Term Goals and defined these with timelines (based on our previous experience with RAIC EP and what we achieved in the six years since the founding members first made contact in 2014 :

SHORT TERM : 2021 - 2024

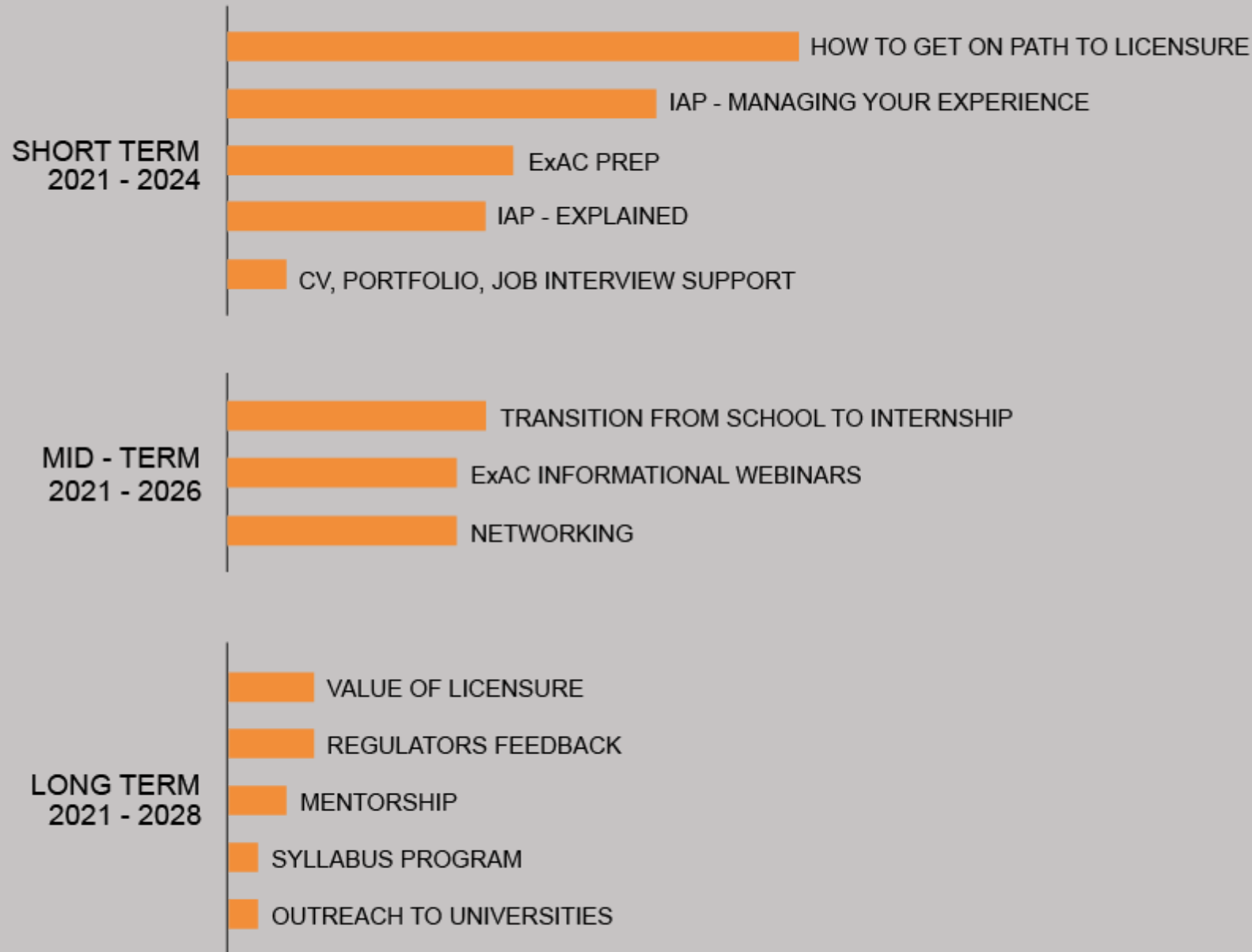
MID TERM : 2021 - 2026

LONG TERM : 2021 - 2028

The three projected timelines all begin tomorrow, and run concurrently. They are prioritized based on demand (i.e. number of “hits” at Launch Event Discussions). Our fervour for doing all in our power as quickly as is feasible to support succession and success in the profession we love certainly drives the timelines. There is also the added urgency for initiatives we feel should be valorized to a greater extent within the profession - such as the all important issue of Mentorship. None of us would have been able to achieve our successes without the guidance, care, and modelling provided by our mentors - titled or not. This we know from experience - our own as interns, architects, foreigners, and human beings - as well as that of serving on committees & with organizations such as :

- OAA & NWTAA Intern Reps
- The Interns’ Forum (TIF : 2013-2014, tasked with conducting research on interns’ issues and preparing OAA’s Position Paper for the 2014 CACB Conference),
- CASA,
- CACB,
- the OAA Interns’ Committee which was established with the objective of following through with the 2014 TIF Position Paper’s recommendations,
- and RAIC Emerging Practitioners.

NEXT STEPS



IN GRATITUDE FOR SUPPORT OF OUR LAUNCH EVENT

Thanks to the Regulators and Intern Reps:

AAA, AANB, AAPEI, AIBC, ALBNL, MAA, NSAA, NWTAA, OAA, OAAQ, SAA



NLAA (Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Architects), **BAIDA** (Black Architects & Interior Designers Association), **CASA** (Canadian Alliance of Students Association), **Canadian Architect**, **Kollectif**, **RAIC** Edmonton Network, **TSA** (Toronto Society of Architects), **CAFÈs** (Canadian Architecture Forums on Education) & all the individuals who supported us by helping to promote this event.