The AFC hosted a Corporate Partner appreciation event on March 2 at Graydon’s offices in the Scripps Center. While the primary goal was to create a networking opportunity for our important financial supporters to share and learn what the AFC is doing in 2017, it was also an opportunity to learn more about the redesign of Union Terminal. Steve Kenat from GBBN and Bob Grace from Turner Construction gave an update on the design and construction progress. The AFC wishes to extend its appreciation to Graydon, one of the AFC’s newest Corporate Partners, for allowing us to use their new office for this event.

The AFC was the beneficiary of Rhinegeist Brewery’s weekly Charitable Suds event on February 22. Each week, the brewery selects a charity to be featured in a fundraising event from 5 to 8 pm on Wednesdays. The beneficiary receives $1 for every beer purchased within that time period. The AFC invited our members and supporters to join us for a fun, social event. Needless to say, the beer was flowing that evening resulting in Rhinegeist donating over $500 to benefit the Design LAB program. The AFC wishes to thank Rhinegeist and our members and supporters who attended for their generosity and for having a great time.

The AFC will host an event in conjunction with AIA Cincinnati on April 13 to explore the potential of decking over Ft. Washington Way. Entitled “Healing the Divide: Restoring Our Connection to the Riverfront,” the program will offer presentations on previous studies and a roundtable discussion on what could be planned for the most important new development site in the CBD. Experts from Cooper Robertson NYC, MKSK Columbus, and Emersion Design Cincinnati will explore what will make this area successful and vibrant. Graydon will once again host the event in their space that overlooks the site.

The 2016-17 theme for Design LAB is “bridge”, and the classroom program is underway. Over 2,200 students in 110 classrooms are working with their professional volunteers to design bridges that connect people, places, nature, or whatever they have designated their bridges do. The photo to the right shows students learning thru a demonstration on how suspension bridge structures work. Models are being developed, and the best from each school will be showcased at the Public Library from April 30 thru May 6. Since the AFC has resumed leadership of the program, student participation has grown from 1,000 just three years ago.

The AFC is planning to launch its newest endeavor, Open Doors OTR on the weekend of October 28-29 and is in the process of seeking funding for the event. Modeled after programs in Milwaukee, Baltimore, and Denver, Open Doors OTR will provide access to more than 20 venues located throughout the Over-the-Rhine neighborhood showcasing art and architectural venues that are not regularly open to the public. Attendees will be able to select the venues that they would like to visit and do so at their own pace using the guide developed by the AFC. With 15 venues committed and another 10 considering our request, we know this will be an exciting opportunity for the public to see stimulating design venues.

The AFC is pleased to welcome three new Corporate Partners this year: Graydon, CMTA Consulting Engineers, and Pioneer Cladding & Glazing Systems. Since joining the AFC as a Silver Corporate Partner, Graydon has been very generous in hosting two AFC events at their new offices in the Scripps Center. CMTA is celebrating its move into Over-the-Rhine and will be one of our venues for the Doors Open OTR program in October. They are our newest Silver Corporate Partner. Pioneer has recently joined the AFC as a Platinum Corporate Partner. They are involved in some very high profile projects in the area, and we hope to feature some of their projects at future events.

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