The AFC hosted a Roundtable Discussion on decking over Ft. Washington Way on April 13 at Graydon’s offices. The event was entitled “Healing the Divide” because the Cincinnati riverfront has effectively been severed from the CBD by the interstate. The planners who led the realignment of the highway in 2000 had the foresight to install foundations to support 4 decks between Sycamore and Race to help mend the urban fabric and provide continuity of the pedestrian experience. Don Clinton from Cooper, Robertson, Chris Hermann from MKSK, and Chad Edwards from Emersion Design discussed the potential of these decks to a crowd of more than 80 interested supporters.

The 2016-17 “Bridge” program concluded during the first week of May with the Design Fair and awards ceremony at the Public Library. The week began with a bridge break competition at DAAP for junior high and high school students to test their bridge designs to failure. The best projects from the 110 classrooms and more than 2200 participating students were displayed in the Public Library atrium throughout the week culminating with an awards ceremony and celebration on Saturday. Students were afforded the opportunity to present their designs to professionals who provided feedback on their designs and encouragement.

The AFC presented the Design LAB program at the A’17 Conference on Architecture in Orlando on April 28. The AFC was invited to participate in an event entitled “Inspire Architecture” to showcase what organizations are doing to promote awareness of architecture and design for K-12 students. Steve Sendelbeck was one of 10 presenters to showcase their educational programs and share best practices with the audience. We are proud to say that Design LAB was by far the largest and longest running local program of any of the programs presented. The event was sponsored by YKK, and they are producing a video of the event to share on YKK’s website.

Over the Rhine.
Modelled after programs in Milwaukee, Baltimore, and Denver, Doors Open OTR will showcase the best of what is new in OTR demonstrating the commitment that has been made to make it a viable and livable community. Participating venues include the Art Academy, Memorial Hall, the Shakespeare Theater, Cinetopia, Uptown Arts, the AIA Cincinnati Design Center, Matte Design, and other significant locations. The AFC is developing an app that will be used to share information on each venue and a video to promote the event through social media.