The AFC hosted a construction tour of The Cincinnati Zoo’s Gorilla World and Wings of the World exhibits on April 4 in conjunction with the USGBC.

Representatives of HGC Construction provided tours of these two exhibits with a focus on the sustainable strategies that were implemented in these projects. They also discussed some of the precautions that were necessary to do the renovations while the animals occupied these facilities. Attendees learned about the materials used to simulate their native habitats, construction techniques required to build artificial trees, daylighting strategies, and security barriers that do not obstruct views of the animals.

The AFC hosted a roundtable on Affordable Housing in Transitional Communities on April 18 in conjunction with Over the Rhine Community Housing.

An outgrowth of last year’s Doors Open OTR program, the AFC attempted to tackle this challenging issue by bringing together a panel of experts to discuss the problem. The new development that has occurred in OTR has created pressure on existing building owners to maximize their investments and, consequently, has resulted in some residents being displaced. The changing demographics also impacted the businesses that served the prior residents causing many to close. The roundtable explored how to maintain a mix of affordable housing and minimize displacement.

The 2017-18 Design LAB program, Food for Thought, concluded on May 5 at the Public Library with the Design LAB Exhibit and Awards Ceremony.

An estimated 300 students and parents attended the awards ceremony where students, teachers, and volunteers were recognized for their efforts. The best projects from each participating classroom were on display outside the Makers Space from April 28 thru May 5. On May 1, a jury of professionals reviewed the projects and selected the winners in 4 age categories and awarded prizes for the most innovative, most constructible, most sustainable, and juror favorite projects.

The AFC hosted a volunteer appreciation event on June 26 at the Keystone Bar & Grill in Covington.

The backbone of the Design LAB program is the talented group of volunteers who work with the AFC to make this program happen. With over 80 professional volunteers assisting the AFC, we were able to take the program into over 100 classrooms and reach over 2,000 students. Our volunteers come from the architectural, interior design, engineering, and construction industries, and they share their personal expertise with the participating students through the design process. This event is an opportunity for the AFC to let these volunteers know how important they are to the students, the program, and the AFC.

The AFC hosted a volunteer appreciation event on June 26 at the Music Hall Ballroom to honor Otto M. Budig, Jr. for his contributions to the built environment.

With Otto’s leadership in making the revitalization of Music Hall happen, it is hard to think of a more deserving recipient. His leadership will ensure that this architectural icon will continue to serve the community for years to come. 300 attendees celebrated Otto and recognized the impact he has had on other art organizations including the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company, the Ensemble Theatre, and the Carnegie Arts Center as well as The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden.

The 25th Apple Award Gala was held on May 23 at the Music Hall Ballroom to honor Otto M. Budig, Jr. for his contributions to the built environment.

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