The AFC conducted a bus tour of Columbus Indiana on November 3 and construction tours of 2 buildings on the UC Medical Campus on November 15.

A group of architectural enthusiasts joined the AFC to explore the midwest mecca for modern architecture, Columbus Indiana. The bus tour included stops at 2 significant churches as well as a walking tour downtown. Hearty fans of architecture also joined the AFC on a very cold and rainy day to tour the new Gardner Neuroscience Center and the Health Sciences Building on the UC East campus. Both buildings were designed by the Chicago office of Perkins & Will, first for UC Health and the second for the UC Academic Health Center.

The AFC is offering a tour of the Boulter House designed for the UC Academic Health Center.

The AFC held the inaugural SEEK CINCY event on October 16 to promote awareness of architecture thru a fun, interactive program.

SEEK CINCY is an architectural scavenger hunt that challenges the participants to identify significant local buildings and places from clues provided by the AFC. Teams of 5 representing local companies had to select from 50 clues and go as many of the locations as they could within a 2 hour period. Teams documented the location by taking team photos and posting them on Instagram. AFC volunteers tracked their progress and confirmed their accuracy while photos streamed live on Instagram. The scavenger hunt was followed by a reception and awards ceremony at the old police station on Broadway.

The AFC is hosting a series of discussions in 2019 to explore what makes a building significant and Why Architecture Matters.

The mission of the architectural foundation is to promote understanding of the value of architecture and design to the health and vibrancy of our community. The first discussion will occur in February and focus on the design of Union Terminal. Looking at functionality, the discussion will look at the creative solution achieved to integrate dissimilar systems into the design allowing for the effective flow of vehicles and people thru the building while creating one of the most iconic buildings in the city’s history.

The 2019 Design LAB program is titled “Push Play!” and is under way with about 2,000 students participating in the program.

The program launches formally in January, but many volunteers have already made classroom visits to introduce what architecture is to the students and stimulate their imaginations about what play spaces can be. The students will be presented with a design challenge to create their own play space and will have 4 months to do their designs and create models of their solutions. The program continues to grow thanks to support from the Spirit of Construction Foundation, the First Financial Foundation, and firms like SHP Leading Design and Hixson.

The AFC wishes to thank Michael Kelley for his 12 years of service to the foundation.

Michael, the 2012-13 President of the Board of Trustees, stepped down from the Board at the November meeting after the completion of his fourth term on the Board. During his presidency, the AFC instituted its first public Great House Tour of the Hanna Residence and assumed responsibility for the Architecture By Children program from AIA Cincinnati. The latter was rebranded as Design LAB: Learn And Build and continues to grow in participation and popularity. Michael continued to focus his interest on subsequent Great House Tours including the iconic Taft Residence, the Geier House, and the Corbett Residence.

The 2018 Program Launches

The program continues this year with the addition of Architecture Matters discussion series and launches the Architectural Foundation of Cincinnati Education Director role.

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