

CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE BIENNIAL

2021 Family Programs: Request for Proposals



Participants in a CAB family program with the Chicago Architecture Center at Garfield Park Conservatory; photo by Daris Jasper, 2019

Chicago Architecture Biennial Family Programs engage families with children ages 5-10 in hands-on activities that introduce architecture and design themes through age appropriate content. In 2021, a series of virtual Family Programs will be offered between May - December. Programs will be developed in partnership with organizations and practices dedicated to connecting young audiences with architecture, design, and urbanism through imaginative and engaging activities.

To submit a program proposal, visit bit.ly/familyprogramintake

Program Overview

Details

The Chicago Architecture Biennial (CAB) is seeking youth education partners to develop programs for families with children ages 5-12. These sessions should engage young audiences (and their parents or caregivers) through activities that teach concepts and/or spark interest in architecture, design, and the built environment.

Family Programs are part of CAB's Learning Initiatives, which provide free, educational programming for all ages in order to facilitate active exploration of the built environment and encourage audiences to see architecture and design as tools for change. Through age-appropriate content and language, proposed Family Programs should aim to fulfill the Learning Initiatives commitment to meaningful engagement, building connections between content and learners' lived experiences, and collaboration. Programs may also reflect CAB's organizational mission to support innovation and highlight a future for architecture that is sustainable and equitable.

Successful past Family Programs have invited families to imagine new cityscapes through collaborative drawing; shared Indigenous histories of Chicago; taught about shapes and structures through building with edible materials; and used stickers to plan resource distribution across a city map. Participants in Family Programs should come away with both a lesson about architecture, design, urbanism, or a related topic and a completed creative project (drawing, structure, story, etc.).

At this time, Family Programs will be run as either live, virtual events or pre-recorded videos. Both live and pre-recorded programs may be attended during an initial, scheduled screening time and viewed at a later date via the CAB website. Therefore, programs should be engaging and encourage participants to "play along" but not plan for live audience interactions.

Goals

- Engage youth audiences ages 5-10 and their families / caregivers
- Present architecture and design themes through developmentally appropriate activities and language
- Explore new ways of engaging youth audiences through virtual programming
- Create educational resources for caregivers and educators

Deliverables

- A 45-minute - 1 hour live, virtual event OR pre-recorded video
- Supplemental materials (supplies list, pre-activities, related resources) to be shared with participants before or alongside the program

Audience & Schedule

- Target Audience: Families or groups with children ages 5-10 (grades K-5)
- Schedule: Live programs should be held outside of regular school hours, on evenings and weekends. Programs may begin as soon as May 2021 and through the end of December 2021.

Format

- Program should be 45-minutes to 1-hour in length
- Proposals can be for individual programs or a series of programs (up to 3)
- Live programs will be presented via Zoom Webinar unless otherwise discussed
- All proposals should be for virtual programs. As public health guidelines change, CAB will reach out to partners about the possibility of moving to outdoor or in-person formats. Moving to in-person will not be required at any time (even if guidelines allow).

Submitting a Proposal

Overview

Organizations or individuals interested in hosting a single or a series of Family Programs should submit a proposal through the **Family Programs Intake Form**. CAB understands that some details of your program may not be confirmed yet or may change—please complete the form with the most accurate information available at this time. Family Programs will be hosted and promoted through the CAB website/social media.

Funding

Single virtual programs will be funded between \$350-\$500 per session, depending on the length and type of program. Those interested in developing a series of programs (up to 3) will be asked to submit a request for additional funding (up to \$1,500 on top of per-session funding) for outreach, project development, and other costs. CAB has a limited amount of funding for Family Programs; we will support as many programs as possible at this time and additional opportunities may be available in the future.

Partner Responsibilities

Family Program partners will be responsible for the following to ensure a successful program:

- Developing content and graphics for a 45-minute to 1-hour virtual program
- Developing content appropriate for participants ages 5-10 related to architecture and design
- Developing materials (supplies lists, instructions, etc.) for participants to access before attending or viewing program, if applicable
- Supporting outreach where possible (ie. sharing on social media, newsletter, etc.)
- Access to technology (camera, high speed internet, etc.) necessary to produce a high quality program
- If using a platform other than Zoom Webinar, managing technical aspects of production and streaming

Selection Criteria

CAB is only able to support a limited number of Family Programs in 2021. The selection process will prioritize proposals based on the following criteria and factors:

- Ability of partner to successfully host a virtual youth program, as evidenced by previous work and proposal
- Visible commitment to engaging youth audiences in topics related to architecture and design, as evidenced by previous work and proposal
- Alignment with CAB and Learning Initiatives mission and vision
- Schedule and availability
- Available funding

Proposal Materials

The [Family Programs Intake Form](#) will ask you to provide the following information and materials:

- 1) Name and contact information for main point of contact
- 2) Names and bios for any individuals or organizations involved in program planning and implementation
- 3) A detailed overview of the proposed program including any goals, intended outcomes, and an agenda
- 4) If you are proposing a series of programs, please provide the total funding requested and a budget narrative outlining how the funds will be used
- 5) Scheduling preferences (including time of day and date)
- 6) What, if any, experience do the program leads have in working with youth ages 5-10 with content related to architecture and design (or other areas)?
- 7) What, if any, experience do the program leads have producing virtual programs?
- 8) How, if at all, will you be able to support outreach to relevant audiences around the proposed program/s?

Calendar

March 1 — Family Programs Intake Form open for submission

June 4 — Family Programs Intake Form closes

April 5 — Begin rolling Family Program approval notifications; notifications will continue through summer

June — Family Programs begin

September 17 — Chicago Architecture Biennial opens to public

December 31 — 2021 CAB programming season ends

Contact

More information about CAB, the 2021 edition, and Learning Initiatives may be found on our website:

chicagoarchitecturebiennial.org

As you are developing your proposal, feel free to reach out with any questions.

education@chicagoarchitecturebiennial.org

Organization and Edition Information

Chicago Architecture Biennial

The Chicago Architecture Biennial (CAB) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to creating an international forum on architecture and urbanism by producing year-round programs and a biennial exposition of city-wide activations for a diverse audience of designers, educators, advocates, students, and local communities. CAB's programs produce opportunities to explore and address timely global issues through the lens of architecture and design, emphasizing sustainability and equity.

The Available City

The fourth edition of the Chicago Architecture Biennial, titled *The Available City*, will open in September 2021. *The Available City* asks us to consider the impact collective space can have in cities today. The edition will create opportunities for conversations about the intersection of architecture and design and such critical issues as health, sustainability, equity, and racial justice. CAB's 2021 Artistic Director is designer, researcher, and educator based at the School of Architecture at the University of Illinois at Chicago David Brown. A concept that was incubated during the inaugural Chicago Architecture Biennial in 2015, Brown's long-term body of research forming the basis for *The Available City* began with an inventory of vacant city-owned lots across Chicago—currently numbering more than 10,000 sites concentrated on the city's South and West Sides. Over more than a decade of work, Brown developed this research into an ongoing urban design proposal that connects community residents, architects, and designers to work together to create spaces reflecting the needs of local neighborhoods. For the 2021 edition, Brown will explore the framework of *The Available City* on a global platform, engaging both local and international projects and practices that reflect new concepts for shared space and collective agency in the city. Programming leading up to and during the 2021 edition will include free, public offerings at sites in neighborhoods across Chicago and on digital platforms.

Learning Initiatives

Learning Initiatives is the Chicago Architecture Biennial's youth education program. Learning Initiatives provide free, educational programming to learners of all ages as a way to promote active exploration of the built environment and empower audiences to see architecture and design as tools for change. CAB's Learning Initiatives aim to: Facilitate meaningful and ongoing engagements with students, schools, community organizations, universities, museums, and other cultural institutions; Encourage connections between learners' lived experiences and CAB content; Reach students from populations historically underrepresented in architecture; and, Provide opportunities for co-learning across generations and disciplines.