



Youth Outreach Analysis – Architecture in the Schools Committee
SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATIONS for the AIA MN BOARD

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Over the last year, Mary-Margaret Zindren, Nicole Bauknight, Angie McKinley, and PaviElle French; have been analyzing the past efforts of the AIA Minnesota Architecture in The Schools Committee (AIS).

In this **process** of analysis, we have taken a look at our prior AIS events; and activities. We have talked to both architect members that are/were involved in the AIS Committee, as well as educators in the Twin Cities. Angie McKinley has created a matrix that lists programs that we have either participated in within the last few years or that currently exist and are hosted by other organizations.

Our EVP, Mary-Margaret Zindren has stated that there are two primary goals here:

- To introduce young people to the field of architecture.
- And for the student to benefit from participating in the program.

Additionally, we would like to create programs that through collaboration, would not require heavy amounts of time and energy, as we understand the nature of the profession, and understand the capacity, time, and energy constraints on those who participate in our membership-based committee.

Our overall goals are:

- Increase the number of young people from under-represented populations who consider architecture as a career.
- Foster a sense of agency for youth related to their influence over shaping the built environment.
- Increase awareness of the idea that decisions of the past (e.g., redlining, racial covenants, discriminatory lending) are connected to the built environment of today and tomorrow.
- Grow recognition of the ways that the built environment can positively impact climate change.
- Foster an understanding of architecture as inherently collaborative (within the profession, within the building industry, and within the community)

We have **surveyed architects, and educators**, asking for their honest opinions on the successes, complexities, and difficulties, of their past engagement with the K-12 pipeline.

1. What is the age group/grade-level you teach?
2. What motivates you to reach out for an architecture engagement (i.e., STEM/STEAM Days, architect classroom visits, design activities)? Or, what makes you hesitate or keeps you from reaching out?
3. How can architecture engagements work better alongside your curriculum? If you could help craft an architecture engagement, what would you want it to look like? Who or what would you want it to reflect/represent?
4. What are some of the positive aspects of partnering with AIA MN for architecture engagements and what are some of the challenges? How can AIA volunteers, architects, and designers, better assist in incorporating the work they do into your lesson plans?
5. In your experience, what has been the most impactful outcome from an architecture engagement? What are some of the good things that have happened because of participating in architecture-related activities?

And we also **engaged our past AIS Committee members** in conversation. Our questions were as follows:

- What motivates you to be involved with this work?
- What made it difficult for you to be involved in this work?
- What was most enjoyable about your involvement in this work

We also **met with architects** such as Abimbola Ajoso, FAIA (Design Camp at the UMN), and Dustin Rehkamp, AIA (ACE Mentorship), about their respective mentorship programming for K-12 youth. We engaged them in a conversation about the work they have been doing, how AIA Minnesota can help assist with this work, and what collaboration could look like between their programming and AIA Minnesota Architecture in the Schools Committee.

We have also identified some possible options of programming that is ongoing that would be a potential way to collaborate in a more equitable way, within the K-12 scholastic community/youth:

- [ACE Program Mentorship](#) (Dustin Rehkamp)
 - ACE Program Mentorship Collaboration 2023-24
 - We'll need to reconstitute the committee.
 - We'll get something rolling regarding this program in 2023 regarding logistics and thinking to implement it in 2024.
 - We also will need to collaborate with recent students.
 - We have to think about the scope and scale of this project.
 - How might AIA knit together these constellations?
 - We'll want to bring forward the work that the YOA has done for the presentation to the board, and to the Council of Firms as well. And we also need to know what firms are doing along the lines that align with this work.



- Once recommendations are brought forward to the board, we can also start talking with Dustin and a smaller group. Of folks. This will need to happen within the next two to three months.

(MMZ-March 2023)

- [Design Camp at the UMN](#) in the summer for kids (Abi Ajoso)
- [EDICT](#) Internship Program, Future Map, and MN-Based Community Power. (Jheeza Guzman)
- [Step up, Achieve Minneapolis](#) (Angie McKinley)
- Kitty Anderson Youth Science Center at the Science Museum of Minnesota

Reconvening the Architecture in the Schools Committee –

- As we are slated to **reconvene the AIS Committee in July/August of this year**, we hope to create more meaningful, invested relationships/mentorships (and programming) with students, educators, and the Twin Cities, and Greater Minnesota communities.
- We are planning an in-person gathering on **August 2nd** to reconvene the Committee as we are looking toward being onsite for the MN State Fair STEM Day on August 24th.
- We will reach out to the Committee members in **July**, brief them on our findings over the last year, and begin to start working on the STEM Day activities.

Recommendations –

- Reconvene the AIS Committee in the summer of 2023.
- We recommend that we continue to track our progress internally, and continually update the Board.
- Identify and maintain AIS projects that are larger-scale projects with a greater impact and reach within the Minnesota student population.
- Identify a slate of projects for the AIS Committee to support and deliver each year that align with the capacity and expertise of the group. Doing so will enable AIS to be a 'Responsive' committee, as opposed to being a 'Reactive' committee.
- Create a process that the committee can use to evaluate new requests for support/collaboration in order to efficiently determine whether those requests are within the scope and capacity of AIS goals to pursue.