

CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE CENTER

EXHIBITS • CRUISES • TOURS • PROGRAMS

CAC@Home and CAC For the Family bring fun, quality learning to young people and families across and beyond Chicago

Suite of offerings includes live and prerecorded video content, interactive design challenges, place-based activities, readings and more for all ages

For immediate release April 21, 2020

[High-resolution images with captions and credits downloadable here](#)

Media contacts

Zachary Whittenburg, Director of Communications

zwhittenburg@architecture.org, 312-322-1134

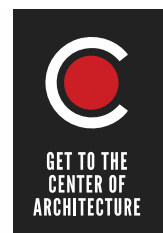
Anna Munzesheimer, Communications Specialist

amunzesheimer@architecture.org, 312-561-2109

CHICAGO – Beginning with [the debut issue of CAC@Home](#) sent on March 26, 2020, the [Chicago Architecture Center](#) (CAC) is pleased to offer a broad spectrum of timely opportunities for youth engagement, through and beyond its [temporary suspension](#) of in-person activities. CAC@Home is free and arrives weekly on Thursdays via email to all subscribers. Current CAC members receive the CAC@Home: Members' Edition mini magazine as well as exclusive access to additional content. Visit architecture.org/athome to access the free CAC@Home archive.

CAC For the Family comprises design challenges utilizing basic materials, remote engagement via [Zoom](#) with current and former [Girls Build!](#) program participants, and three weekly video series including Storytime with the CAC readings broadcast each Friday at 12:30pm Central Time via [Facebook Live](#), available afterward via CAC@Home and [the CAC's YouTube channel](#).

Says [CAC Vice President of Education and Audience Engagement Nicole Kowrach](#): "Schools may be out of session and museums are closed, but the CAC is working to keep children, parents and teachers learning about architecture and design, including the buildings around them, while practicing spatial distancing at home in their own neighborhoods."



“Families are currently challenged by working from home, supporting their kids’ learning and keeping everyone occupied,” adds Kowrach. “The CAC Education team has moved quickly to support them, offering ways for parents and other caregivers or educators—and not just in Chicago—to educate and inspire. We value the power of place-based learning in our programs for schools, and that learning is just as powerful in your own neighborhood and home.”

Design challenges and mini lessons

Moving quickly to adapt to school closures, the CAC began in March 2020 to repackage, and provide directly to families, elements of its acclaimed curricula originally designed to support teachers and STEM education in the classroom. These initial offerings included [construction projects](#), [physical exercises](#) and [poetry-writing](#) prompts themed on skyscrapers.

Three new video series

The CAC offers families three video series. New episodes are released weekly via *CAC@Home*. [Architecture Essentials](#) expands design know-how and problem-solving skills through activities and interactive challenges for ages 7 to 12. [Neighborhood Strollers](#) videos are brief introductions to design fundamentals and architectural history through easy neighborhood walks for ages 3 to 6. During [Storytime with the CAC](#), read along with CAC Education staff as they share some of their favorite architecture and design books for young ones. Select CAC For the Family episodes are offered in both English and Spanish.

Newhouse Architecture + Design Competition

The deadline for entries to the [38th annual Newhouse Architecture + Design Competition](#), themed on sustainable living solutions, has been extended to May 1 and will conclude with an online exhibition and live announcement of winners. Named after the late Illinois Senator Richard Newhouse, the CAC’s unique and long-running competition [inspires teens to understand why design matters by researching, representing and redesigning the built environment](#) to solve challenges both personal and place-based.

Girls Build! Live

The CAC’s popular Girls Build! classes inspire middle-school girls to pursue STEM careers in architecture, construction, engineering and design. Girls Build! continues remotely through Girls Build! Live: interactive sessions for current Girls Build! students as well as program alumni. Beginning Sunday, April 19 these students meet for 60 minutes weekly via Zoom to explore architecture and design, and to discuss how women can reshape STEM fields.

A selection of upcoming *CAC@Home* and CAC For the Family events follows; all start times listed are Central Time. Titles including links connect to archival videos on [the CAC’s YouTube channel](#) and are approved for imbedding on any website.

CAC For the Family: Calendar of Events: April 2020

[Storytime with the CAC: "What Do You Do With An Idea?"](#)

Premiered Thursday, April 2

FREE

Read along with CAC Director of Interpretation Adam Rubin as we flip the pages through "What Do You Do With An Idea?" by Kobi Yamada, with illustrations by May Besom.

[Architecture Essentials: "Strong Shapes"](#)

Premiered Thursday, April 9

FREE

"Architecture Essentials" expands design know-how and problem-solving skills through activities and interactive challenges for ages 7 to 12. This episode's theme is "Strong Shapes."

[Neighborhood Strollers: Brick](#)

Premiered Thursday, April 9

FREE

Have you ever wondered what buildings are made of? Join CAC Manager of School and Family Programs Rebecca Boland as she takes a closer look at a commonly overlooked material, brick. For our Neighborhood Strollers series, CAC Education staff (and their young ones) present brief introductions to design fundamentals and architectural history through easy neighborhood walks.

[Neighborhood Strollers: Adaptive Use](#)

Premiered Thursday, April 16

FREE

"Adaptive use" is what we call a structure originally built for one purpose that plays a different role today. Check out this example from CAC Director of Interpretation Adam Rubin's neighborhood and let us know what adaptive use buildings *you* see! For our Neighborhood Strollers series, CAC Education staff (and their young ones) present brief introductions to design fundamentals and architectural history through easy neighborhood walks.

[Storytime with the CAC: "Sofia Valdez, Future Prez"](#)

Premiered Thursday, April 17

FREE

Read along with CAC Senior Manager of Education and Experience Angela Esposito as we flip the pages through “Sofia Valdez, Future Prez” by Andrea Beaty, with illustrations by David Roberts.

Girls Build! Live

Meets weekly on Sundays beginning April 19 via [Zoom](#)

Open by invitation only to Girls Build! students and program alumni

The CAC’s popular Girls Build! classes inspire middle-school girls to pursue STEM careers in architecture, construction, engineering and design. Girls Build! continues remotely through Girls Build! Live: interactive sessions for current Girls Build! students as well as program alumni. Beginning Sunday, April 19 these students meet for 60 minutes weekly via Zoom to explore architecture and design, and to discuss how women can reshape STEM fields.

[Architecture Essentials: Materials](#)

Premieres in the April 23 issue of [CAC@Home](#)

FREE

All buildings are made out of materials chosen not just for the way they look but for structural and safety reasons, too. This episode of Architecture Essentials is all about a special kind of material called terra cotta. Often seen as part of the outside “skin” of a building, architects used terra cotta to help fireproof some of Chicago’s earliest skyscrapers. A brownish-orange color in its natural state, terra cotta is also commonly used to make pots for flowers and plants.

[Neighborhood Strollers: Victorian Housing: Part 1](#)

Premieres in the April 23 issue of [CAC@Home](#)

FREE

This week’s episode features architectural styles that were popular during Queen Victoria’s reign. Check out examples from CAC Manager of School and Family Programs Rebecca Boland’s neighborhood. For our Neighborhood Strollers series, CAC Education staff (and their young ones) present brief introductions to design fundamentals and architectural history through easy neighborhood walks.

[Storytime with the CAC: “Iggy Peck, Architect” by Andrea Beaty](#)

[Storytime with the CAC: “Pedro Perfecto, Arquitecto” by Andrea Beaty](#)

Premieres on Facebook Live at 12:30pm CDT on Friday, April 24

Available afterward via [CAC@Home](#) and [the CAC’s YouTube channel](#)

This episode offered in English and Spanish

FREE

Read along in English and Spanish with CAC Interim Education Coordinator Mizael Robledo as we flip the pages through “Iggy Peck, Architect” and “Pedro Perfecto, Arquitecto” by Andrea Beaty, with illustrations by David Roberts.

Architecture Essentials: Historic Skyscrapers

Premieres in the April 30 issue of [CAC@Home](#)
FREE

“Architecture Essentials” expands design know-how and problem-solving skills through activities and interactive challenges for ages 7 to 12. This week’s theme is “Building Historic Skyscrapers.”

Neighborhood Strollers: The Two-Flat

Premieres in the April 30 issue of [CAC@Home](#)
FREE

For our Neighborhood Strollers series, CAC Education staff (and their young ones) present brief introductions to design fundamentals and architectural history through easy neighborhood walks. The theme this week is “Housing Types: The Two-Flat.”

CAC For the Family: Calendar of Events: May 2020

Storytime with the CAC: “Mighty, Mighty Construction Site”

Premieres on Facebook Live at 12:30pm CDT on Friday, May 1
Available afterward via [CAC@Home](#) and [the CAC’s YouTube channel](#)
FREE

Read along with CAC Manager of School and Family Programs Rebecca Boland as we flip the pages through “Mighty, Mighty Construction Site” by Sherri Duskey Rinker, with illustrations by Tom Lichtenheld.

CAC For the Family: Architecture Essentials

Premieres in the May 7 issue of [CAC@Home](#)
FREE

“Architecture Essentials” expands design know-how and problem-solving skills through activities and interactive challenges for ages 7 to 12.

Neighborhood Strollers: Victorian Housing: Part 2

Premieres in the May 7 issue of [CAC@Home](#)
FREE

Last week we learned about housing types of the Victorian era. This week, CAC Manager of School and Family Programs Rebecca Boland shares Part 2 of this neighborhood exploration! For our Neighborhood Strollers series, CAC Education staff (and their young ones) present brief introductions to design fundamentals and architectural history through easy neighborhood walks.

Storytime with the CAC: “Katy and the Big Snow”

Premieres on Facebook Live at 12:30pm CDT on Friday, May 8

Available afterward via *CAC@Home* and [the CAC’s YouTube channel](#)

FREE

Read along with CAC Education Facilitator Paige Tobin as we flip through “Katy and the Big Snow” by Virginia Lee Burton. A related hands-on activity follows the reading.

CAC For the Family: Architecture Essentials

Premieres in the May 14 issue of [CAC@Home](#)

FREE

“Architecture Essentials” expands design know-how and problem-solving skills through activities and interactive challenges for ages 7 to 12.

Neighborhood Strollers: Shapes in Architecture

Premieres in the May 14 issue of [CAC@Home](#)

FREE

For our Neighborhood Strollers series, CAC Education staff (and their young ones) present brief introductions to design fundamentals and architectural history through easy neighborhood walks. The theme this week is “Shapes in Architecture.”

Storytime with the CAC: “The Three Little Pigs: An Architectural Tale”

Premieres on Facebook Live at 12:30pm CDT on Friday, May 15

Available afterward via *CAC@Home* and [the CAC’s YouTube channel](#)

FREE

Read along with CAC Senior Manager of Education and Experience Angela Esposito as we flip through “The Three Little Pigs: An Architectural Tale” by Steven Guarnaccia. In this quirky, design-centered retelling of “The Three Little Pigs,” the pigs and their homes are nods to three famous architects—Frank Gehry, Philip Johnson and Frank Lloyd Wright—and their signature homes.

CAC For the Family: Architecture Essentials

Premieres in the May 21 issue of [CAC@Home](#)

FREE

“Architecture Essentials” expands design know-how and problem-solving skills through activities and interactive challenges for ages 7 to 12.

Neighborhood Strollers: Georgian Revival

Premieres in the May 21 issue of [CAC@Home](#)

FREE

For our Neighborhood Strollers series, CAC Education staff (and their young ones) present brief introductions to design fundamentals and architectural history through easy neighborhood walks. The theme this week is “Housing Types: The Georgian Revival.”

Storytime with the CAC: “Islandborn” by Junot Díaz

Storytime with the CAC: “Lola” by Junot Díaz

Premieres on Facebook Live at 12:30pm CDT on Friday, May 22

Available afterward via [CAC@Home](#) and [the CAC’s YouTube channel](#)

FREE

Read along in English and Spanish with CAC Education staff as we flip the pages through “Islandborn” and “Lola” by Pulitzer Prize–winning Dominican-American author Junot Díaz. Each “Storytime with the CAC” reading comes paired with a recommended activity related to the story.

CAC For the Family: Architecture Essentials

Premieres in the May 28 issue of [CAC@Home](#)

FREE

“Architecture Essentials” expands design know-how and problem-solving skills through activities and interactive challenges for ages 7 to 12.

Neighborhood Strollers: Mixed-Use High Rises

Premieres in the May 28 issue of [CAC@Home](#)

FREE

For our Neighborhood Strollers series, CAC Education staff (and their young ones) present brief introductions to design fundamentals and architectural history through easy neighborhood walks. The theme this week is “Looking Up: Mixed-Use High Rises.”

Storytime with the CAC: "Maybe Something Beautiful," F. Isabel Campoy and Theresa Howell
Storytime with the CAC: "Quizás Algo Hermoso" by F. Isabel Campoy and Theresa Howell
Premieres on Facebook Live at 12:30pm CDT on Friday, May 29
Available afterward via [CAC@Home](#) and [the CAC's YouTube channel](#)
FREE

Read along in English and Spanish with CAC Education staff as we flip the pages through "Maybe Something Beautiful" and "Quizás Algo Hermoso" by F. Isabel Campoy and Theresa Howell with illustrations by Rafael López. Each "Storytime with the CAC" reading comes paired with a recommended activity related to the story.

CAC For the Family: Calendar of Events: June 2020

CAC For the Family: Architecture Essentials
Premieres in the June 4 issue of [CAC@Home](#)
FREE

"Architecture Essentials" expands design know-how and problem-solving skills through activities and interactive challenges for ages 7 to 12.

CAC For the Family: Neighborhood Strollers
Premieres in the June 4 issue of [CAC@Home](#)
FREE

For our Neighborhood Strollers series, CAC Education staff (and their young ones) present brief introductions to design fundamentals and architectural history through easy neighborhood walks.

Storytime with the CAC: "Apt. 3" by Ezra Jack Keats
Premieres on Facebook Live at 12:30pm CDT on Friday, June 5
Available afterward via [CAC@Home](#) and [the CAC's YouTube channel](#)
FREE

Read along with CAC Education staff as we flip the pages of "Apt. 3," written and illustrated by Ezra Jack Keats. Each reading comes paired with a recommended activity related to the story.

While the CAC Call Center remains closed to support employee safety, voicemails at 312-922-3432 are monitored daily. The CAC responds within 24 hours to all inquiries sent via email to tickets@architecture.org, boxoffice@architecture.org and info@architecture.org. Visit bit.ly/CACUPDATES for the latest information regarding the cancellation and postponement of CAC activities and programs to best support efforts to limit the transmission of COVID-19.

Visit architecture.org/join to become a member today starting at just \$80 per year and architecture.org/donate to make a tax-deductible contribution to the Chicago Architecture Center—where the stories of the city begin.

About the Chicago Architecture Center

The Chicago Architecture Center (CAC) is a nonprofit organization founded in 1966, dedicated to inspiring people to discover why design matters. A national leader in architecture and design education, the CAC offers field-leading tours, programs, exhibitions and more that are part of a dynamic journey of lifelong learning.

Opened to the public in 2018, its riverfront location is in the heart of the city, where Michigan Avenue meets the Chicago River, featuring nearly 10,000 square feet of exhibition space filled with super-sized models—and views—of iconic skyscrapers built over the course of more than a century. Exhibitions focus on Chicago’s diverse neighborhoods, housing types, leading architects and future projects, and include the largest scale model of the city, with more than 4,250 miniature buildings, interactive touchscreens and a cinematic backdrop animating key moments in its history. Highly knowledgeable, enthusiastic CAC docents guide visitors and residents through more than 75 walking tours with more than 7,000 annual departures, plus the Chicago Architecture Foundation Center River Cruise aboard Chicago’s First Lady.

Through partnerships with schools and youth-serving organizations, the CAC reaches approximately 30,000 K–12 students annually, while teacher workshops provide educators with tools and resources they need to advance STEM curricula in their classrooms. Committed to increasing access for populations historically under-represented in ACED (architecture, construction, engineering and design) professions, the CAC offers many of its education programs—and all of its programs for teens—at no cost to participants. CAC programs for adults and members include talks with acclaimed authors and practicing architects, in-depth presentations on issues and trends in urbanism, and classes unlocking a wide range of subjects with connections to the built environment.

Proceeds from programs, tours and the CAC Design Store, as well as from grants, sponsorships and donations, support its educational mission. Visit architecture.org to learn more and follow @chiarchitecture and #chiarchitecture on social media.

