

CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE CENTER

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Chicago Architecture Center offers online summer programs for at-home exploration and quality learning in STEM subjects

Seven unique, five-day camps for kids ages 8 to 14 run June 29 through August 7 while CAC Teen Design Challenge engages youth ages 13 to 18

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

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CHICAGO – The [Chicago Architecture Center](#) (CAC) announces seven Summer Camp options for 2020, continuing months of remotely accessible support for young people, families and caregivers, through the ongoing public health crisis and temporary closure of schools. In addition, the **CAC Teen Design Challenge** is a **FREE**, ideas-based opportunity for youth ages 13 to 18 to respond to current events and real-world issues in Chicago communities. Cash prizes range from \$100–\$500.

CAC Summer Camps last five days each, are led by CAC Education staff, and combine real-time engagement with toolkits for self-guided work on a flexible schedule. Three camps are designed for kids ages 8 to 10: **Architecture Camp 1.0** on two sets of dates, and **Design Your Neighborhood 1.0**. Four camps are designed for kids ages 11 to 14: **Architecture Camp 2.0**, **Design Your Neighborhood 2.0**, **Parks and Green Spaces**, and **Girls Build! Tiny Homes**.

CAC Summer Camps build self-confidence, promote visual-spatial thinking, provide opportunities to communicate ideas using a wide variety of media, and inspire creative problem-solving and teamwork. Campers will be encouraged to see the built environment in a new light, to discover how design ideas become built realities, and to understand how architecture can promote equity and bring people together.

Each CAC Summer Camp proceeds over five consecutive days, Monday through Friday. Campers meet live daily with their camp leader and fellow campers via [Zoom](#) to get to know each other, share their work, and receive instruction and motivation for their at-home projects. Parents and caregivers receive step-by-step instructions to guide their support for campers. At the end of each weeklong program, campers share their final projects in a celebratory

showcase online. CAC Education staff are available for additional support as needed, with contact information and availability shared as part of each registration.

To ensure a quality experience, each CAC Summer Camp is limited to 30 participants. Registration remains open until 12 days prior to the start of each camp and includes all necessary materials and resources, such as books and art supplies. Materials are available for touchless pick-up at the CAC, [located at 111 East Wacker Drive in Chicago](#), and can be shipped for an additional fee to any address in the United States.

CAC Summer Camp registrations are \$225 per camp, discounted at \$180 per camp for [CAC members](#) at the Friends and Family level and above. Visit [architecture.org/camp-info](#) to learn more and to register today. Questions are welcome via email at [education@architecture.org](#).

CAC Education Summer Programs: 2020 Schedule

[Architecture Camp 1.0](#)

For campers ages 8 to 10

Monday, June 29 through Friday, July 3, 2020

Deadline to register: 5pm Central Time on Wednesday, June 17

Monday, July 6 through Friday, July 10, 2020

Deadline to register: 5pm Central Time on Wednesday, June 24

Ready to think like an architect? Join fellow campers and CAC Education staff for this weeklong, online opportunity to learn the basics of architecture. Architecture Camp 1.0 includes an introduction to sketching and model-building through guided activities, lessons and virtual walking tours. Each Architecture 1.0 camper receives a Certificate of Completion.

[Architecture Camp 2.0](#)

For campers ages 11 to 14

Monday, June 29 through Friday, July 3

Deadline to register: 5pm Central Time on Wednesday, June 17

How do you take something old and make it new again? Architecture 2.0 campers will use iconic Chicago buildings as case studies to reimagine an underutilized space in their neighborhood or an existing building for a new purpose, through guided activities, lessons. Each Architecture 2.0 camper receives a Certificate of Completion.

[Parks and Playgrounds](#)

For campers ages 11 to 14

Monday, July 6 through Friday, July 10

Deadline to register: 5pm Central Time on Wednesday, June 24

Redesign a green space at this virtual camp. Through guided lessons, hands-on activities and explorations of their own neighborhoods, Parks and Playgrounds campers will learn about landscape architecture and the importance of public space. Each Parks and Playgrounds camper receives a Certificate of Completion.

CAC Teen Design Challenge

FREE for Chicago-area youth ages 13 to 18

Open to entries at 9am Central Time on Monday, June 22

Remote support available Monday, July 13 through Friday, July 17 from 1–2pm Central Time

Deadline for entries: 5pm Central Time on Friday, July 31

The CAC Teen Design Challenge is open to students ages 13 to 18 from all Chicago neighborhoods and suburbs, who may enter as individuals or as teams of up to five people. The challenge invites students to respond to the City of Chicago's [INVEST South/West](#) initiative by designing a community amenity such as bike lanes, a park or public space, to improve the quality of life for residents in neighborhoods on Chicago's South and West Sides. Submissions must include a visual component—in two or three dimensions, using any materials and media—and a short essay defending their design.

Resources and a step-by-step guide will be available via [discoverdesign.org](#), an online platform of the CAC. July 13–17 from 1–2pm Central Time, CAC Education staff are available to provide feedback on projects in progress via [Zoom](#). A guest jury of ten professionals in architecture, construction, design and engineering (ACED) careers will review all submissions and select five finalists who will proceed to compete for cash prizes, ranging from \$100 for honorable mentions to \$500 for the top awardee. Winners will be announced in August 2020.

[Design Your Neighborhood 1.0](#)

For campers ages 8 to 10

Monday, July 20 through Friday, July 24

Deadline to register: 5pm Central Time on Wednesday, July 8

Explore what makes Chicago's neighborhoods unique and reimagine a corner of your own neighborhood at this virtual camp. Design Your Neighborhood 1.0 campers are encouraged to hone their observational skills and introduced to sketching and model-building. Each Design Your Neighborhood 1.0 camper receives a Certificate of Completion.

[Design Your Neighborhood 2.0](#)

For campers ages 11 to 14

Monday, July 20 through Friday, July 24

Deadline to register: 5pm Central Time on Wednesday, July 8

Discover Chicago history and collaborate with fellow campers to imagine, design and "build" a neighborhood in this weeklong, online introduction to urban planning. Design Your Neighborhood 2.0 campers attend virtual tours and talk with design experts about their planning decisions. Each Design Your Neighborhood 2.0 camper receives a Certificate of Completion.

[Girls Build! Tiny Homes](#)

For campers ages 11 to 14

Monday, August 3 through Friday, August 7

Deadline to register: 5pm Central Time on Wednesday, July 22

Learn how to think big and design little in this virtual, interactive camp for young people ages 11 to 14 who identify as girls. Girls Build! campers hear from experts what shapes their design decisions and use the latest tools in digital education and presentation to create a sustainable “tiny home” with a minimal carbon footprint to serve the residents of a Chicago neighborhood. Each Girls Build! Tiny Homes camper receives a Certificate of Completion as well as a copy of the acclaimed graphic novel [No Small Plans](#), launched in celebration of the CAC’s 50th anniversary and its “Meet Your City” initiative, aimed to foster civic engagement and developed in partnership with Chicago Public Schools and the Chicago Public Library.

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.

