

Young Architects Forum, Meeting 7/23:

What is Architecture Explorations?

Carnegie Mellon University's School of Architecture outreach program, **Architecture Explorations (AE)**, is a collection of architecture-based extracurricular and academic enrichment programs for students in kindergarten through high school. The mission of Architecture Explorations is to provide an architectural foundation for children and youth, which:

- imparts a knowledge and appreciation of the built environment,
- encourages creative expression and critical thought,
- and inspires civic responsibility.

What is the EQUIP Backpacks in-school architecture program?

Through our new **EQUIP Backpacks** in-school program, teachers can sign up for free workshops, where an architecture professional visits their classroom and teaches the projects contained in each backpack. Backpacks are themed based on architecture concepts core to the design process that align with academic standards for 3rd – 5th grade and are fun and engaging for students. Concepts found in all backpacks include: design thinking, historic perspective, spatial intelligence, and communication.

Why This Program, Why Here, Why Now?

- Atlanta's Discovering Architecture program gained recognition and raises the question, why not Pittsburgh? We have a top arch university, international architecture firms, and a public school system with dedication to STEAM education
- STEAM education movement, also in Pitt/PPS, and architecture reflects all aspects of STEAM
- A study from CMU shows students learn better with hands-on AND digital learning – more towards the use of objects in connection to technology (need both)
- Samantha Carter will be completing degree in education technology and applied learning science, able to utilize her skills to the advantage of the program. Show some course titles and the information she will be learning
- The AIA focusing on advocacy of the profession – working very hard to market the profession, realizing the need to connect with communities and create outreach opportunities #IMadeThat

How can you become involved?

To assist us in our pursuit of funding, we need letters of support or at least names of architects who would be interested in participating. The time commitment would only be 20 hours over about 9-10 weeks – 8 weeks visiting the class once a week, and some time to prep/meet/debrief with the teacher before and after the program. We will also provide Leadership and Service IDP hours for young architects.

Contact Samantha Carter, scarter@andrew.cmu.edu, or sign up with her tonight.