

# ENGAGED AWARENESS

| advancing public awareness of how architecture enriches life



*Michigan Architectural Foundation's Public Awareness Grants support programs that stimulate interest in architecture and enrich our experiences.*

One of the most engaging ways to learn more about architecture is through programs that educate us, enrich our experiences, and stimulate our imaginations. That's the premise behind the [Michigan Architectural Foundation's \(MAF\) Public Awareness Grant program](#).

MAF provides public awareness grants for quality projects, programs, and activities that align with MAF's mission to advance awareness of architecture. Grants have helped fund films, lectures, events, workshops, and educational programs, connecting people with architecture in creative ways.

"Many of the programs that receive grant funds provide responses to challenges our grantees face: getting children to problem solve through creativity, providing dynamic learning opportunities, or encouraging awareness of architecture so people become more involved, and invested, in their communities," said Damian Farrell, FAIA, MAF Public Awareness Grant committee chair.

One of the programs supported by MAF Public Awareness Grants is [Project Pipeline Architecture Camp](#). The National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA) created Project Pipeline to help increase the number of minority students pursuing careers in architecture. Architect Bryan Cook brought the camps to Michigan, and the program has been so successful here that it has been awarded MAF Public Awareness Grants for multiple years running.

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*"When we see children excited by learning, adults who look at architecture in a different light, and programs that are contributing to future of our communities, MAF is achieving its mission to advance awareness of how architecture makes our lives better:"*

Another MAF Public Awareness grantee is Washtenaw County's [Community Action Network](#) (CAN) Art & Design program, which consisted of hands-on environmental science workshops where students designed and built solar light structures and wind energy projects, and learned about social and climate issues affecting their schools and communities.

An MAF Public Awareness Grant supported [Flint's Flat Lot Design Competition](#), which invited participants to design a temporary

structure to host public events, and use contemporary architecture to re-imagine a public parking lot. The competition drew interest and entrants from the community and around the world.

Want to learn more about architecture in [Flint](#), [Ann Arbor](#), [Port Huron](#), and other Michigan communities? MAF Public Awareness Grants helped fund free, map-style guides to local architecture. Did you catch the films on Finnish [architect Eero Saarinen](#), or [Charlevoix's Mushroom Houses](#)? MAF grants

supported both, as well as an exhibit on the Modernist work of architect (and Marquette native) John Lautner; an exhibit and lecture on Kalamazoo's history; and more.

According to Farrell, "When we see children excited by learning about architecture, adults who look at architecture differently, and programs that are contributing the future of our communities, MAF is achieving its mission of increasing awareness of how architecture enriches our lives."



Find out how you can help MAF support programming that promotes awareness of architecture's impact on our lives. \_\_\_\_\_