



## ***Architecture by the Book* Educational Program**

**Launched in 2024 – Lesson Sponsorship Still Available!**

### **What is *Architecture by the Book*?**

Architecture by the Book is a built environment education program (BEEP) that introduces children to architecture and design concepts through book readings, presentations, and hands-on activities. The program is designed to engage local AIA architects as volunteers to share their profession in classrooms or community settings. The program was developed as a pilot by AIA Central Valley and is now powered by the California Architectural Foundation (CAF), in collaboration with AIA California architecture firms and a grant from the AIA College of Fellows.

### **How does the program work?**

Each lesson identifies a book that introduces a specific architect or an architectural concept, a free downloadable presentation that expands on the topic, and a suggested simple, hands-on activity using everyday materials. The lessons are designed to take around 90 minutes but may be modified as needed. The key element is the volunteer architect who leads the session, serving as a role model / mentor to the attendees.

### **Who can participate?**

Members, firms, emerging professionals, architecture students are welcome to lead lessons. The program is a great way for architects at all career stages to give back to the community, and it's especially suited for those with busy schedules, as it provides a micro-volunteering opportunity.

### **How do the lessons help children learn about the profession?**

The lessons are interactive, combining storytelling with hands-on activities that make architectural concepts more tangible and fun for children. They are designed to inspire creativity, critical thinking, and spark interest in the built environment.

### **What makes *Architecture by the Book* special?**

The program is designed to inspire children (and their communities) to discover and grow an appreciation and interest in architecture and aims to reach underrepresented schools and communities. Many lessons highlight architects from diverse backgrounds, promoting inclusivity in the architectural profession.

### **Why should I (or my firm) participate?**

*Architecture by the Book* provides a meaningful way for architects to inspire the next generation and raise awareness about the importance and value of architecture. It also aligns with many firms' community outreach goals and promotes diversity in the profession.

## How do I get involved as an AIA member or firm?

### To sponsor an Architecture by the Book Lesson:

1. Fill out the interest form on the CAF website. Bottom of page:  
[https://calarchfoundation.org/about\\_archbythebook/](https://calarchfoundation.org/about_archbythebook/)
2. Choose a book to use for your lesson from a provided list or select one of your own (focused on architecture or an architect).
3. Prepare a PowerPoint presentation using the downloadable template CAF provides. This is a great activity for emerging professionals or interns to tackle!
4. Support the program with a \$500 donation to cover development and management expenses:  
[https://form-renderer-app.donorperfect.io/give/caf\\_beep\\_donations](https://form-renderer-app.donorperfect.io/give/caf_beep_donations)
5. Commit to leading at least two lessons in your community and promote your involvement on social media to spread awareness.

### To volunteer to lead an existing lesson:

- Sign up on the CAF website “Add an Architect” volunteer list (scroll to the bottom for the form):  
<https://calarchfoundation.org/architecture-by-the-book/volunteers/>
- Select a lesson from the CAF website: [https://calarchfoundation.org/archbythebook\\_lessons/](https://calarchfoundation.org/archbythebook_lessons/)
- Purchase the children’s book focused on architecture as a leave-behind.
- Download the presentation.
- Reach out to a local classroom, community group or work with your local AIA component to schedule a 90-minute lesson.
- Work with the teacher, community leader or Executive Director to schedule a lesson. Make sure to share your experience and photos—and request a release form in advance from CAF.

### **Is training or experience required to volunteer?**

No formal training is needed! Bring yourself and your experience and passion to augment the existing lesson card / activity provided. The program is intended to be a flexible starting point and a resource to remove barriers for architects to get involved and serve as a representative of their profession—even for those new to volunteering.

### **Can I donate to the program without volunteering?**

Yes! If you’re unable to volunteer but want to support the program, you can make a donation to help fund program development, marketing, and management: [https://form-renderer-app.donorperfect.io/give/caf\\_beep\\_donations](https://form-renderer-app.donorperfect.io/give/caf_beep_donations)

### **Where can I find more information?**

Please visit the CAF website for more details, including how to sign up, donate, or access lesson materials: <https://calarchfoundation.org/help-children-discover-architecture-one-page-at-a-time/>