



CityVision



Established in 1993, *CityVision* is the Museum's flagship Outreach Program serving young people from low-income communities in the District of Columbia. *CityVision* is a design and urban planning course in which students apply the process of design to solve real problems in D.C. neighborhoods. Through the process of design education, students develop key personal and academic skills, create and present a final project, and learn how to initiate and promote change in their communities. **In June 2004, Mayor Anthony Williams described *CityVision* as "one of the boldest, most innovative programs to help tap young talent" in Washington, D.C.**

The Museum holds two sessions of *CityVision* each year, serving approximately 70 middle and junior high school students from D.C. Public Schools. During the program, *CityVision* participants:

- understand the principles that underlie the creation of the built environment;
- acquire the language to describe and interpret that environment;
- use design to solve problems; and
- learn how to initiate and promote change in local communities.

Over the course of a semester of *CityVision*, students:

- learn the basic concepts and skills of design and urban planning;
- research the history of select District of Columbia neighborhoods and conduct fieldwork to document the existing community, taking digital photographs and interviewing residents about the community's needs and challenges;
- analyze collected data and devise several possible design solutions to address an identified community need. In teams, students present their proposals to a jury of volunteer design professionals and select a single design solution;
- create floor plans, elevations, site maps, neighborhood maps, models, of their proposed building; and
- present and defend their design solutions to the same jury panel, community members, and the public at large in a formal program at the National Building Museum.

Past *CityVision* students have proposed a number of creative solutions to benefit residents of local neighborhoods. Students have designed a library and community center for the residents of the H Street/Benning Road community, an affordable apartment building in the H Street/Capitol Hill neighborhood, and a grocery store and recreation center for youth and families on Pennsylvania Avenue in the Capitol Hill neighborhood.

To sponsor this program, please contact the National Building Museum's Development Office at 202.272.2448.

