

- Measure the height and width of doorways, hallways, windows, etc. Discuss if the doorways and hallways are, in fact, wide enough for those who use them!
- Walk around the outside of the school: draw the shape and footprint of the building; locate the parking lot and playground. Choose twelve words to describe your school. Develop a master vocabulary list and use the words in spelling lessons.

## Getting to Know Your Family Heritage and Neighborhood

- Have students bring in some old family photos or items to create a museum of family mementos. Talk about the importance of saving objects or artifacts: they help people learn about places or events long since passed. Read **Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge** by Mem Fox. (You may borrow the book from PHLF.)
- Have students find out how long their parents (or families) have lived in the Pittsburgh area. Use a timeline to show when family members came to the Pittsburgh area and write down why they came.
- Invite someone from your neighborhood (or from a local museum) to come into the classroom and talk about the history of your neighborhood.
- Talk about the idea of change: how a neighborhood or city changes with the passage of time. Read (or involve students in acting out) the story of **The Little House** by Virginia Lee Burton. (You may borrow the book from PHLF.)
- Purchase a 12-page booklet from PHLF titled **Your House** that helps students identify—and draw—the details of the place where they live.
- Ask PHLF's education staff to organize a **walking tour and mapping exercise of the neighborhood near your school**, if your school is located in an urban area or near a Main Street. We'll "jump" the age of your neighborhood with your students—ask us what we mean by that—and we'll "jump" the age of your students. (They'll strengthen their math skills in the process.)

## Getting to Know Pittsburgh

- Borrow the **Portable Pittsburgh Artifact Kit** from PHLF for use in your classroom.
- Introduce the idea of Pittsburgh as a hometown, and borrow **six laminated views** of Pittsburgh from PHLF showing how the city has changed during 250-plus years.
- Contact PHLF for a set of **Downtown Landmarks: Math Facts**. Students use facts about 10 landmarks to solve story problems, organize information on a graph and timeline, and estimate and measure distances.
- Visit the Senator John Heinz History Center or Fort Pitt Museum. For information on tours and programs, please contact 412-454-6000; [www.heinzhistorycenter.org](http://www.heinzhistorycenter.org).
- Visit the Fort Pitt Block House of 1764, the oldest building in the city: 412-471-1764; [www.fortpittblockhouse.com](http://www.fortpittblockhouse.com). The Daughters of the American Revolution have owned the Block House since 1894.

## Learning About Architectural Landmarks, Exploring Pittsburgh, and Investigating Careers

- Contact PHLF for a set of **Landmark Survivors** posters illustrating the lives of various landmarks: the Fort Pitt Block House, the Smithfield Street Bridge, the buildings along Fort Pitt Boulevard, the Allegheny County Courthouse, Clayton, and Station Square.
- Create your own poster about an architectural landmark in your neighborhood. Which old buildings are worth saving? How could they be adapted to better serve the community? Or, invite PHLF staff to lead your class in **making a city or neighborhood mural** out of construction paper.
- Visit [www.spotlightonmainstreet.com](http://www.spotlightonmainstreet.com) to learn about East Carson Street on Pittsburgh's South Side. The website includes audio clips, games and activities, student artwork, and tips on planning community-based education programs.
- Explore **Station Square** and discover the story of the place during a self-guided **Scavenger Hunt**.
- Tour Pittsburgh by scheduling a **Downtown Dragons, Bridges & River Shores, Strip District, or Transportation** walking tour. Ride the Monongahela or Duquesne inclines up Mt. Washington for a view of the city from 400 feet above. Back at school, have students make a **paper-bag building** of their favorite Pittsburgh landmark.
- Following your Downtown Dragons walking tour, retrace your steps by visiting our interactive website: [www.phlf.org/dragons/](http://www.phlf.org/dragons/).
- Call PHLF to receive a **Kennywood fact sheet, timeline, a set of photographic "detail" sheets, and a 16-page booklet of worksheets**. Kennywood is a National Historic Landmark. You can download these materials by visiting [www.kennywood.com](http://www.kennywood.com).
- Schedule a **"Poetry and Art"** program with PHLF. Tour Carnegie Mellon University with PHLF and sketch and compose poems about architectural details. Then, we'll publish a booklet of your students' poetry and art. (Appropriate for middle and high school students, too.)
- Invite PHLF staff to present its **career awareness program** to your students. In the award-winning program, **"People Who Work to Improve Our Communities,"** PHLF introduces students to 16 professions through colorful posters and tools of the trade and provides information on your school and community. (Appropriate for middle school students, too.)

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

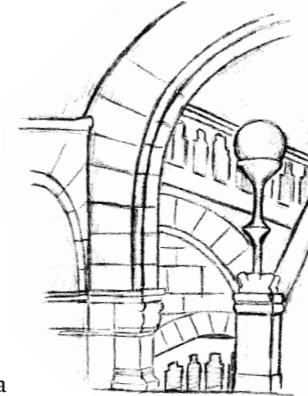
### Art and Building Activities and Architectural Design Challenges

- Challenge students to design a classroom, cafeteria, or school. Or they could **build a geodesic dome, a bridge, or a building;** or create a **Pittsburgh city mural**, or a **pop-up engineering design**.

- Call PHLF to receive a 28-page booklet containing the information you need to involve your students in an Architectural Design Challenge. ***Architectural Design Challenges: Connecting Architecture and Urban Design to Classroom Learning*** includes a series of worksheets based on the design process, model-making tips from students, and a photo album of models from design challenges sponsored by PHLF. (Appropriate for high school students, too.)

## Exploring Pittsburgh

- Tour Pittsburgh's most impressive buildings during a **Grant Street Walk**. Discuss downtown living and urban revitalization during a tour of the **Cultural District** or **Market Square area**. Cross the rivers on our **Bridges & River Shores** tour. Discover a whole world within a few blocks during our **Strip District Stroll**. (Have your students read *Macaroni Boy*, by Katherine Ayres, and we'll connect the **Strip Stroll** to the book.) On the North Side we've developed tours of **Allegheny West, the Mexican War Streets**, and even of the **Pittsburgh Children's Museum and Allegheny Center**. On the **South Side** explore **East Carson Street**, a "Great American Main Street"; **climb city steps**; or tour the **Mt. Washington** neighborhood along Shiloh Street. View the city from the 36th floor of the Cathedral of Learning during a tour of **Oakland**; visit **Carnegie Mellon University** to see Douglas Cooper's amazing 200-foot mural of Pittsburgh; or tour "Little Italy" in **Bloomfield**. Name the place you want to go and we'll tell you if we can take you there.
- Have students write about their tour experience or challenge them to design a new building for a vacant city lot. What kinds of buildings would they like to add to downtown Pittsburgh? What does our city need?
- Schedule a bus tour to "Woodville Plantation," the Neville House of c. 1775 in Collier Township. The National Historic Landmark has survived centuries of change and is the Pittsburgh area's principal link with 18th-century life and the American Revolutionary War. [www.woodvilleplantation.org](http://www.woodvilleplantation.org).
- Tour Clayton, the home of industrialist Henry Clay Frick, in Point Breeze. Contact 412-371-0600; [www.thefrickpittsburgh.org](http://www.thefrickpittsburgh.org). The Frick Art & Historical Center also includes a Car and Carriage Museum, Art Museum, and more.
- Visit the great glass-roofed Hall of Architecture in the Carnegie Museum of Art in Oakland. Contact 412-622-3131; [www.cmoa.org](http://www.cmoa.org).



## Respecting Different Cultures and Ethnic Traditions

- Arrange a **bus tour** with PHLF of **ethnic neighborhoods and historic religious buildings** in the Pittsburgh area. Have students write about the various ethnic traditions and note how they are similar to or different from their own. One excellent church to visit is St. Nicholas Croatian Church in Millvale: the hardships of immigration, World War, and life in industrial America are shown in dramatic murals.
- Visit the Nationality Rooms at the University of Pittsburgh. The 30 classrooms depict heritages of Africa, America, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East. Contact 412-624-6000; [www.nationalityrooms.pitt.edu](http://www.nationalityrooms.pitt.edu).

## HIGH SCHOOL

### Applying for a Scholarship

- PHLF offers a **Scholarship Program** for college-bound students. Call 412-471-5808, ext. 536 for an application or visit [www.phlf.org](http://www.phlf.org) to download an application. Click on "Education" and "Landmarks Scholarship."

### Participating in Classes and Tours

- Allegheny County school students interested in pursuing a career in architecture are encouraged to apply to the **Architectural Apprenticeship Program** offered by PHLF through the Gifted and Talented Resource Center of the Allegheny Intermediate Unit. The class meets five days each fall.
- Participate in **Urban Survival**, a downtown walking tour and discussion offered by PHLF addressing key principles in creating healthy, sustainable cities.
- **Tour anywhere in the Pittsburgh region with PHLF** and learn about the work of community development groups, green-building concepts, and sustainable design. We can tour skyscrapers, historic landmarks, private homes, and more. Contact Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area for tours of the Carrie Blast Furnaces: 412-464-4020; [www.riversofsteel.com](http://www.riversofsteel.com).
- Visit the Carnegie Museum of Art's Heinz Architectural Center in Oakland: 412-622-3131; [www.cmoa.org/heinzarchitecturalcenter/](http://www.cmoa.org/heinzarchitecturalcenter/).

Fees are charged for all tours, for "Portable Pittsburgh," for "People Who Work to Improve Our Communities," for Poetry and Art programs, and for Architectural Design Challenges, among other programs. Books and printed materials may be borrowed at no charge if you or your school is a member of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. Join today!

**Note: It's best to book school tours and educational programs six months in advance.**

## Is Your School a Member of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation?

### If not, join and save

- 50% on all school tours
- 50% on the Portable Pittsburgh Artifact Kit
- 50% on the Career Awareness Program, "People Who Work to Improve Our Communities"
- 10% on all publications

### And receive

- free copies (while supplies last) of Pittsburgh posters, postcards, and timelines
- a free subscription to the annual *PHLF News*, featuring our work in education and historic preservation, and to our monthly E-newsletter
- free access to PHLF's reference libraries of architectural and historical books, magazines, photographs, slides, and transportation material
- invitations to preservation seminars, lectures, and special events
- free admission to all programs and workshops at the Landmarks Preservation Resource Center in Wilkinsburg, PA

**The annual membership fee for schools and nonprofits is \$35.00.**

**The annual membership fee for school districts is \$50.00.**

**Call Mary Lu at 412-471-5808 ext. 527 for a membership application, or visit [www.phlf.org](http://www.phlf.org) and click on "Membership."**

### Acknowledgments

PHLF thanks the Cindy & Murry Gerber Foundation and McSwigan Family Foundation for contributing to its place-based educational programs that help young people develop a sense of well-being and of community awareness as they explore and learn about the Pittsburgh region's significant history, architecture, and unique character.

## PITTSBURGH HISTORY & LANDMARKS FOUNDATION

*Founded in 1964 and recognized as one of the nation's most innovative and effective nonprofit historic preservation organizations, the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation (PHLF) works to:*

- identify and save historically significant places;
- renew historic neighborhoods, towns, and urban areas;
- preserve historic farms and historic designed landscapes; and
- educate people about the Pittsburgh region's rich architectural heritage.

PHLF works within a 250-mile radius of Pittsburgh, PA; it includes a nonprofit subsidiary, *Landmarks Community Capital Corporation* (LCCC) and a for-profit subsidiary, *Landmarks Development Corporation* (LDC).

*Each year PHLF staff and docents work with more than 10,000 people—teachers, students, adults, and visitors—through tours, architectural design challenges, professional development courses, poetry and art projects, and hands-on workshops and presentations. Our educational programs help fulfill academic standards and engage students in hands-on, interdisciplinary projects based on real-life problems.*

*The History Channel, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies, Preservation Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, and Pittsburgh City Council are among those who have recognized PHLF for its innovative educational programs promoting student achievement, pride, and character development and encouraging community involvement.*

*We welcome your comments and suggestions and look forward to working with you.*



### PITTSBURGH HISTORY & LANDMARKS FOUNDATION

*Renewing Communities; Building Pride*

100 West Station Square Drive, Suite 450

Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1134

[www.phlf.org](http://www.phlf.org)

412-471-5808 ext. 537 or ext. 536

[karen@phlf.org](mailto:karen@phlf.org) or [louise@phlf.org](mailto:louise@phlf.org)

Copyright © 2015 Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

**PH** PITTSBURGH HISTORY & LANDMARKS FOUNDATION  
*Renewing Communities; Building Pride*  
[www.phlf.org](http://www.phlf.org)

## Introducing Landmarks

### Getting Real: Connecting Classroom Curricula to the Built Environment

**In this brochure we outline a strategy for integrating a study of the built environment into your school curricula, using some of the educational resources offered by the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation and others.**

This progression of programs—from your school, to the concepts of family, neighborhood and city—corresponds with the natural development and growing awareness of elementary and secondary school students.

Using the built environment to reinforce academic skills and to fulfill standards helps make learning relevant to school students and connects them to their community.

227-47 Fort Pitt Boulevard, Pittsburgh, PA

*Photo by Clyde Hare*



**The educational resources offered by PHLF are highlighted in bold.** Contact each organization listed here for complete information regarding their programs.

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

### Becoming Aware of the Built Environment

- Borrow the book **Alphabet City**, by Stephen T. Johnson, from PHLF. Have your students point out the alphabet letters hidden in the author's paintings of the built environment.
- Challenge students to look for alphabet letters that are part of the fabric of buildings or the landscape as they travel to and from school. Have each student draw a picture of the letter he/she finds; staple all the drawings together to create an alphabet book.
- Invite a PHLF staff member to come to your school to show **poster-size images of Pittsburgh** from the 18th century to the present. Discuss how cities grow and change, just as people do. Discuss how cities—and people—have distinctive features that give them character. Learn how the three goals of architecture relate to people, too.
- Construct a building out of people and use the **body-building exercises** from PHLF's **Introducing Architecture** booklet to help students feel the forces of compression and tension that affect built things.
- Borrow a **huge vinyl floor map** (12 ft. x 16 ft.) from PHLF. The map shows downtown Pittsburgh's streets and lots. Construct buildings and parks and place them on the map.

### Getting to Know Your School

- Encourage students to get to know their school by touring the building; counting the number of floors, windows, doors, steps; sketching the unusual details and patterns; and researching the building's history. Have students create a series of trivia announcements based on these school facts for daily broadcast over the public address system.
- Use a stop watch to time how long it takes to get from one place in the school to another. Draw maps recording the times.
- Have students draw their classroom, or a detail in their classroom. How would they redesign the room? How would you, the teacher, redesign your classroom?

