

City by Design

This lesson was created as a supplement to the *City by Design* program at the National Building Museum. It is designed to be used in your classroom independently, or as an activity before or after a school program at the Museum. For more information about and to register for the National Building Museum's school programs, visit <http://www.nbm.org/schools-educators/school-visit/>.

The *City by Design* program introduces kindergarten through sixth grade students to city planning. It encourages young people to explore the complexity of cities and helps them understand the impact of people's everyday decisions on the places where they live, work, and play.

National Building Museum

Created by an act of Congress in 1980, the National Building Museum explores, celebrates, and illuminates achievements in architecture, design, engineering, construction, and planning. Since opening its doors in 1985, the Museum has become a vital forum for exchanging ideas and information about such topical issues as managing suburban growth, designing and building sustainable communities, and revitalizing urban centers. A private, nonprofit institution, the Museum creates and presents engaging exhibitions and education programs, including innovative curricula for school children.

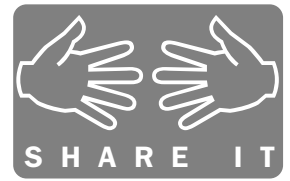
Over the past two decades, the Museum has created and refined an extensive array of youth programming. Each year, approximately 50,000 young people and their families participate in hands-on learning experiences at the Museum: 2-hour-long school programs for grades K–9; major daylong festivals; drop-in family workshops; programs helping Cub and Girl Scouts earn activity badges; and three innovative outreach programs, lasting between 30 and 60 hours, for secondary school students. The Museum's youth programming has won the Washington, D.C., Mayor's Arts Award for Outstanding Contributions to Arts Education and garnered recognition from the National Endowment for the Arts.



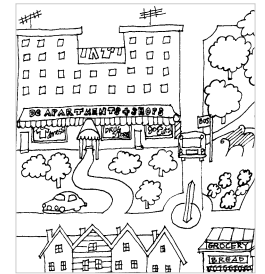
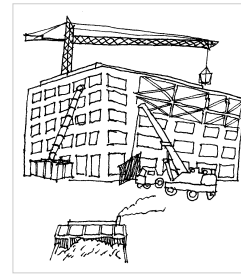
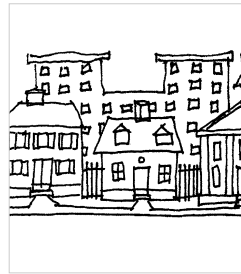
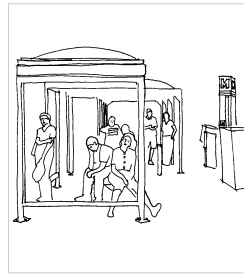
NATIONAL BUILDING MUSEUM
401 F Street, NW Washington, DC 20001
202.272.2448/www.NBM.org
Red Line Metro, Judiciary Square

Family Field Trips:

Exploring Your Community



Families: Your children are learning about community planning in school and at the National Building Museum. Encourage them to explore their own community and have them teach *you* about city planning.



1

Ask your child about the building s/he built at the National Building Museum. Have him/her explain what happens in the building and why it looks the way it does.

2

When you and your child travel around your neighborhood, look around. What do you see? What other ways could you travel down the same street? Could Metro or a bus take you where you need to go? Are there sidewalks for people to walk on? Is there a place to bike? Is driving enjoyable, or is there too much traffic?

3

Walk around your neighborhood. What do the buildings look like? Are they tall or short, big or small, old or new? How many buildings are there, and what are their purposes? Are there also parks or places to enjoy nature?

4

Take a construction inventory of your community. What types of buildings, bridges, and/or parks are being built? What was there before the construction began—other buildings or an empty lot? Are the new places good for your community?

5

Help construct a HUGE city at one of the Museum's annual day-long family festivals—Festival of the Building Arts and Festival of Origami Architecture. Check the Museum's Web site or call for information.

Visit the National Building Museum, where families can discover the world we build for ourselves!



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Programs for Schools, Families, and Scouts, Outreach Programs, Interactive Carts, Exhibitions, Birthday Parties, and Interactive Web site