



For Immediate Release

Contact:

AIA CT Communications
communications@aiact.org
203-865-2195

The Connecticut Chapter of the American Institute of Architects Announces Upcoming Hip Hop Architecture Camp in Hartford

(New Haven, CT; July 19, 2023) From August 21- 25th, the Connecticut Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA Connecticut) will host The Hip Hop Architecture Camp™ in Hartford in partnership with the University of Hartford's Department of Architecture.

The Hip Hop Architecture Camp™ was founded in 2016 by Michael Ford, an architect born and raised in the city of Detroit. Ford received his Master of Architecture degree from the University of Detroit Mercy (UDM), where he completed his graduate thesis titled "Hip Hop Inspired Architecture and Design." He is a co-founder of The Urban Arts Collective, where he created and conducts The Hip Hop Architecture Camp™ with the mission to increase the number of minorities in architecture and urban planning.

Designed to inspire and encourage underrepresented youth, the week-long camp explores concepts of architecture and urban planning by way of hip hop culture. Students will try their hand at 3D modeling, design, lighting, materials, and textures, all culminating in a music video at the end of the week.

"Through Hip Hop Architecture Camp, our goal is to bridge the gap between underrepresented youth and the architectural profession. By fostering a welcoming and inclusive space, we empower teens to explore their passion for design, unlocking their potential to become the architects, urban planners, and designers of tomorrow," said Gina Calabro, Executive Director/CEO of AIA Connecticut.

Hartford is one of only four cities where Hip Hop Architecture Camp will travel to this summer; students in Atlanta, Memphis, and Dallas are partaking in the camp throughout July.

"We invite educators, parents, community leaders, and all advocates of youth empowerment to support and engage with this initiative," said Calabro.

Hip Hop Architecture Camp will take place at University of Hartford from 8:30am-12:30pm, August 21 – August 25, 2023. This free camp is open to 6th-12th graders. Interested students can apply online at www.hiphoparchitecture.com/hartford23. Space is limited to 40 students. Those who are accepted will be notified on Saturday, August 5th.

Media is welcome during the camp days. If you are interested in joining us, please contact communications@aiact.org for a press pass.

About AIA Connecticut:

AIA Connecticut, a statewide chapter of the American Institute of Architects, serves the architectural profession, encourages design excellence, and works to improve society through a concern for the quality of the built and natural environments. Members commit themselves to the highest standards of practice and a code of ethics that addresses responsibilities to the public, clients, the building industry, and the art and science of architecture.

AIA Connecticut serves as a resource to architects and the public. Its membership of over 1,500 is comprised of architects, associates working towards licensure, students, and professionals in affiliated fields.

For more information, visit AIA Connecticut's website at www.aiact.org