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The Architecture and Design Exchange Reopens to the Public June 11

The AD EX opens with exhibition featuring Accessible Design.

Dallas, TX - June 9, 2021 – The Architecture and Design Exchange (AD EX) announces it is reopening its downtown location at 325 N. St. Paul Street to the public and resuming in-person programs beginning on Friday, June 11. The AD EX will be open to visitors from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday and from 10:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturdays.

The AD EX was closed to the public in March 2020 due to the COVID pandemic, but quickly pivoted to virtual versions of its public programs and exhibitions throughout the extended closure. The AD EX provided K-12 activities, creative inspirations, and virtual talks throughout this time.

In the Winter/Spring of 2021, the AD EX resumed limited in person public programs, including our walking tours of the Dallas Arts District and Main Street in downtown Dallas, and the Fair Park Tram Tours. We will continue to expand those offerings into the summer of 2021 while also maintaining popular virtual series like An Impromptu Discussion and AD EXchanges.

“We are very excited to reopen AD EX to the community and once again provide opportunities for the public to engage and learn about the impact that architecture and design have on our everyday lives,” said President of the Architecture and Design Foundation, Mattia Flabiano, AIA. “Over the past year, we have all had the chance to reflect on the quality of spaces we inhabit at home, at work, and outdoors during this pandemic. The AD EX is ready to take the lead on this recharged conversation about the power of design and its positive impact on our city.”

The initial exhibition at the AD EX features *Accessible Design Awareness*. A project by designer Amanda Collen and supported by a Professional Development Grant from her firm, DLR Group, the interactive exhibit allows the public to experience the challenges that our built environment creates for those who are disabled.

“The general public is often unaware of the challenges people with disabilities face when interacting with the built environment. My aim is to bring awareness to those obstacles through an interactive exhibit and to advocate for codes that make buildings and spaces equally accessible for all users,” said Amanda Collen. “I’m grateful to DLR Group for this

opportunity to explore more deeply the need for ADA codes and how those codes impact the daily lives of people experiencing mobility related disabilities.”

Accessible Design Awareness will run from Friday, June 11 through Tuesday, June 15.

Other in-person programs and exhibitions scheduled for the summer of 2021 include the Form Follows Fitness 5K on June 19; Sketching Kaleidoscope, an interactive exhibit featuring sketches of lesser known cultural and historical landmarks in Dallas, beginning in July; and K-12 Camps for Elementary School, Middle School, and High School students beginning on July 23. More information about these and other events are available at DallasADEX.org.

The mission of the AD EX is to lead the conversation about how architecture matters to you. There is no charge for admission for exhibitions and for many programs provided by the AD EX.

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About AD EX

The AD EX is home to the Dallas Chapter of The American Institute of Architects (AIA Dallas) and The Architecture and Design Foundation. It is the place where AD EX programming and AIA Dallas member events occur, as well as a variety of programming on architecture and design presented by other collaborating organizations. For more information, visit DallasADEX.org.

About AIA Dallas

AIA Dallas, the sixth largest chapter of The American Institute of Architects, empowers architects to excel and impact their practice, profession, and community. AIA Dallas has a membership base of more than 2,400 architect and industry members and 300 architectural firms. Member efforts support professional development, education, advocacy, thought-provoking programming, and seven signature events. For more information, visit www.aiadallas.org.

About The Architecture and Design Foundation

In existence for ten years as the Dallas Center for Architecture Foundation, The Architecture and Design Foundation works to encourage the conversation with the public about why architecture matters in our daily lives. It seeks to foster the public's understanding of the role architecture plays in enriching our city through the programs, exhibits, tours, and more that it presents, in addition to inspiring the next generations of architects and designers through student outreach and scholarships.