

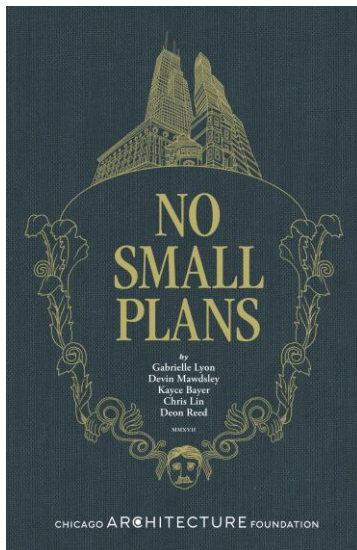
CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE FOUNDATION

Chicago Architecture Foundation Publishes *No Small Plans* Graphic Novel

Innovative book is centerpiece of "Meet Your City" civic education initiative

Chicago, IL (06.29.2017) — Chicago Architecture Foundation (CAF) is publishing a graphic novel, [No Small Plans](#), as the centerpiece of its three-year, citywide, civic education initiative, "Meet Your City." Beginning in September 2017, CAF will give the novel to 30,000 Chicago teens over the next three years and partner with Chicago Public Schools and Chicago Public Libraries to conduct design workshops and with students about what makes a good neighborhood.

"For 50 years, CAF's tours and public programs have shown Chicagoans and visitors how architecture and design enriches our lives," says CAF President and CEO Lynn Osmond. "As we look ahead to our next 50 years, CAF continues to deepen our educational programming, especially for youth, to illuminate how architecture and design can offer real solutions to our city's challenges and improve the lives of our residents."



No Small Plans, publishing on July 17, 2017, is inspired by the classic 1911 textbook, [Wacker's Manual](#), which for nearly three decades taught Chicago's young people about Daniel Burnham's 1909 Plan of Chicago. Since *Wacker's Manual*, there has not been a citywide document specifically intended to help young people understand their role as stewards for Chicago. *No Small Plans* illustrates what it looks like when young people steward the city they want, need and deserve.

No Small Plans follows the neighborhood adventures of young people in Chicago's past, present and future. It is filled with beautiful illustrations and divided into three chapters set in the years 1928, 2017 and 2211. Each chapter ends with a map and a short interlude about Burnham, to give readers insight into the creation of Burnham's 1909 Plan and urban planning challenges. Through the course of the novel young people explore seventeen Chicago neighborhoods and wrestle with questions such as "Who is the city for? What is the relationship between development and displacement? How do decisions get made? How do I get involved?"

In addition to the 144-page graphic novel, CAF's "Meet Your City" initiative includes an online reader's toolkit, educator professional development trainings, and workshops that challenge the students to explore the question, "What makes a good neighborhood?" The entire program allows young people the opportunity to become designers of their own neighborhoods. It challenges them to learn more about the structural needs of their neighbors and to understand how the culture and community engagement affects the built environment. In addition to distributing copies to Chicago teens, copies will be available in every Chicago Public School library and CAF has partnered with the Chicago Public Library system to train youth staff to run programs that enable young people to explore neighborhoods featured in the novel. *No Small Plans* supports mandated Illinois State Civics Education requirements, and the story is ideal for students in grades 6-10.

"*No Small Plans* illustrates what it looks like when young people get to know —_and take care of— their city. The story was inspired by teens in the Allstate Teen Academy @ CAF and teens worked with us throughout the process by helping select the team from Eyes of the Cat artists collective and to review early drafts. These adventures need to be shown. Low-income students, students of color and young people not planning to attend college have fewer civic education opportunities than their peers. In addition, low-income and less educated citizens — as well as recent immigrants and those less proficient in English — are often underrepresented in the political process and have far less voice. When young people have opportunities to consider questions like the ones the characters wrestle with in *No Small Plans* it makes a difference," says project director and CAF VP of Education and Experience Gabrielle Lyon.

CAF has received advisory support from Shawn Healy, McCormick Foundation; Ben Leitschuh, American Planning Association; Jeff McCarter, Free Spirit Media; Jessica Marshall, Chicago Public Schools; Nathan Mason, City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Events; Shelley Stern Grach, Microsoft; and Angel Ysaguirre, Illinois Humanities.

No Small Plans has been generously funded, in part, by donations from [The American Planning Association](#), [Microsoft](#), [Tawani Foundation](#) and [Land Economics Foundation](#). A month-long Kickstarter campaign raised \$65,000, triple the original goal, with donations from more than 1250 individuals from around the world. On June 15th, CAF hosted a community breakfast to discuss strategies to promote civic engagement and began the process of distributing examination copies to teachers throughout Chicago. In August, CAF will conduct a two-day institute for a pilot cohort of teachers and will publish a free online toolkit for teachers who will use *No Small Plans* in their classrooms. All these activities will culminate with

the launch of "Meet Your City" in Chicago Public Schools on the first day of the fall 2017 school term — Tuesday, September 5th.

The book is available at the CAF Store (224 South Michigan Avenue in Chicago) which is open 7 days a week, 9 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. The CAF Store includes the CAF Box Office where tickets are available for any of our 85 tours. Copies of *No Small Plans* are also available online at shop.architecture.org. Every copy sold enables CAF to give a copy away for free to a Chicago teen. Join the conversation: #NoSmallPlans.

About the Chicago Architecture Foundation

The Chicago Architecture Foundation (CAF) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to inspiring people to discover why design matters. As an education leader in architecture and design, CAF offers tours, programs, exhibitions, field trips, curricula and online tools that are part of a dynamic learning journey for all ages. Proceeds from CAF's tours and store, as well as grants, sponsorships and donations, support this educational mission. For more information, visit www.architecture.org.

About Eyes of the Cat Illustration

Eyes of the Cat is a newly formed illustration studio, founded by Devin Mawdsley, rooted in Chicago. Our work focuses primarily on sequential arts--original graphic novels, as well as illustrations/editorial cartoons and album/single art. For more information, visit www.eyesofthecatillustration.com.

Title: *No Small Plans*

Authors: Gabrielle Lyon, Devin Mawdsley, Kayce Bayer, Chris Lin, Deon Reed.

Price: \$19.95; Publisher and imprint: Chicago Architecture Foundation

Format: Perfect Bound Paperback; 6 5/8 x 10 1/8 inches; Number of pages: 141 pages.

13-digit ISBN: 978-0-9973615-1-3; Month and day of publication: July 17, 2017

Distribution arrangements: Distributed by CAF and sold through the CAF Store: shop.architecture.org

See our [Electronic Press Kit](#) for images and other background information about *No Small Plans*.

Media Contact: Dan O'Connell, Director of Communications and Public Affairs
312.322.1134, doconnell@architecture.org

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