



THURGOOD MARSHALL HISTORIC CORRIDOR URBAN DESIGN WORKSHOP



with support from



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INTRODUCTION

The Thurgood Marshall Historic Corridor Urban Design Workshop is an interdisciplinary student workshop and charrette series advancing community health, well-being, and inclusive growth through design. AIA Baltimore is leading this initiative in collaboration with Bmore NOMA and Beloved Community Services Corporation. This effort is focused on revitalizing the historic Division Street corridor. This one of Baltimore's most culturally and historically significant African American communities.



By using design as a means of preservation and regeneration, the workshop strengthens community wellness and reconnects the area's rich heritage with its vision for a vibrant, equitable future.



Conducted in conjunction with Beloved Community Services Corporation's redevelopment of Thurgood Marshall's former elementary school into the Thurgood Marshall Amenity Center, the program honors the legacy of Justice Marshall and other civil rights leaders whose advocacy helped shape the neighborhood.



INTRODUCTION

(CONT.)

OBJECTIVES

Through interdisciplinary collaboration and community engagement, participants will explore design strategies that promote mental, physical, and community wellness while advancing inclusion, affordability, and cultural continuity. By linking academic research with professional mentorship and civic participation, the workshop prepares emerging designers to lead with empathy and equity, building capacity within the profession to create healthy, resilient, and just communities.



IMPACT

The workshop empowers designers across all career stages to meaningfully address heritage, identity, and social justice in the built environment. This initiative inspires pride and investment in West Baltimore, fostering intergenerational well-being while providing a replicable model for design engagement that celebrates history, promotes healing, and supports inclusive urban revitalization.

EXPECTED AUDIENCE/BENEFICIARIES

The expected audience and beneficiaries of the Thurgood Marshall Historic Corridor Urban Design Workshop include residents, community leaders, and organizations along Baltimore's historic Division Street corridor. This initiative particularly benefits the local African American community by promoting inclusive development, cultural preservation, and neighborhood revitalization. Students, designers, and civic partners also gain valuable experience collaborating on equitable and community-driven urban design solutions.



METHODOLOGY

PHASES

The workshop's methodology is grounded in three complementary phases:

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

Students will conduct a comprehensive study of the corridor, examining its physical conditions, architectural character, and social context. Special attention will be given to historically significant structures such as PS 103 (Justice Thurgood Marshall's elementary school). Participants will also review prior master planning and redevelopment proposals to understand past efforts and current opportunities.

COLLABORATIVE DESIGN

Using findings from the research phase, students will develop an urban design report that identifies potential nodes of intervention—sites where strategic investment in the built environment could generate broader community and economic impact. Students will then create a conceptual diagram for an architectural or placemaking intervention that embodies their analysis.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Central to the workshop is collaboration among students, design professionals, community organizations, and local residents. Structured charrettes and presentations will facilitate dialogue between these groups, ensuring that proposed interventions are informed by lived experience and local priorities. Mentorship by AIA Fellows and other professionals will provide professional guidance, reinforcing the connection between academic inquiry, professional practice, and civic service.

METHODOLOGY

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

DESIGN DELIVERABLES

Each student will produce a rigorously documented urban design report and conceptual proposal. These will form the basis of an exhibition and publication highlighting strategies for culturally grounded urban revitalization.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

The program will elevate public awareness of the Division Street corridor's historic significance and promote dialogue on equitable redevelopment in West Baltimore. The process will generate design ideas that local partners can use to inform future initiatives.

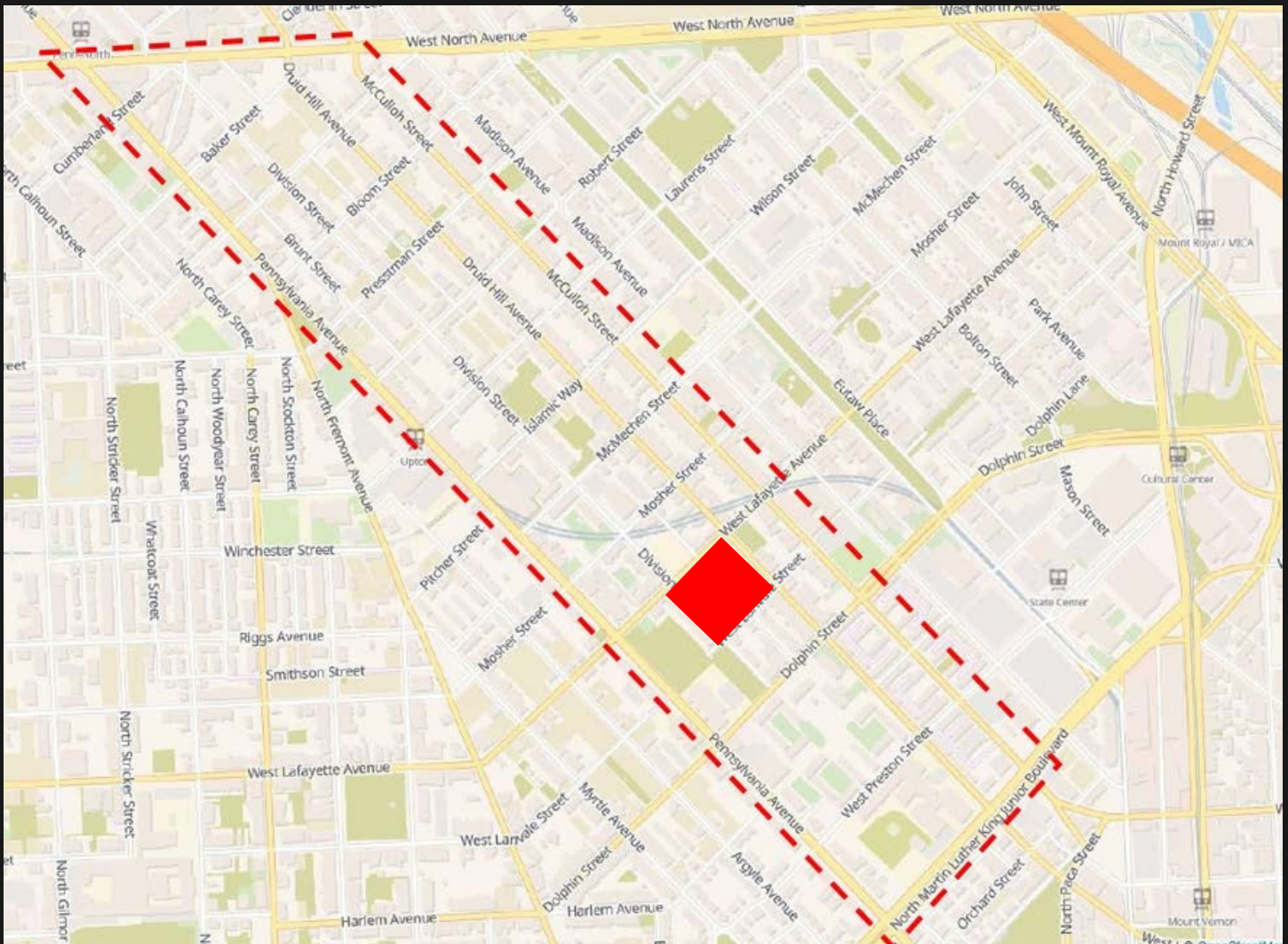
EDUCATIONAL IMPACT

Participants will gain firsthand experience in community-based design, preservation, and interdisciplinary collaboration—skills essential to the next generation of architects and planners.

PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT

The workshop will strengthen ties between academic institutions, practicing architects, and civic leaders, demonstrating how the profession can play an active role in social and cultural restoration.

SITE



The Thurgood Marshall Historic Corridor consists of the larger corridor outlined in dashed line. The corridor consists of Pennsylvania Avenue, Division Street, Druid Hill Avenue, and McCulloh Street. The Freedom Square concept consists of the four-block square of the 1300 block of Division Street, 1300 block of Druid Hill Ave, West Lafayette Avenue, and West Lanvale Street.

LOGISTICS

PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS

Participants will be asked to participate in the entire program, which includes attending all the sessions and completing both the urban design and architecture sequences. Participants will consist of undergraduate students in the first or second year of their program and/or students without architecture undergraduate degrees who are entering year one of an architectural Masters program. This is not a rigid requirement; however, the goal of the workshop is to provide an opportunity for students who are at the beginning of their collegiate careers to gain experience and to work with professionals in the architecture and urban design fields.

The workshop will be open to students from all higher education institutions; however, the community-centric and participatory nature of the project makes it more feasible for students who attend school in the greater Baltimore/Washington DC area. Participants will be selected based on merit. The applications will consist of current portfolio, resume, references, and an interest statement. Participants will be compensated via stipend.

The participant deliverable will consist of a presentation format slide deck that will be given to the project coordinator and presented during a final presentation.

IMPORTANT DATES

Applications Due: Friday, September 4, 2026

Application Evaluation Period: Friday, September 4, 2026 – Sunday, September 6, 2026

Participant Decision Announcement: Monday, September 7, 2026

Participant Alternate Selection Period (if necessary): Monday, Sept. 7, 2026 – Monday, Sept. 14, 2026

Final Participant Selection: Monday, September 14, 2026

COMPENSATION

Participants will be compensated the amount of \$750.00 at the completion of the workshop.

SCHEDULE

INTRODUCTORY SESSION/TOUR ///

Friday, Sept. 18, 2026 - 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Orient participants to the historical, cultural, and spatial context of Freedom Square and the Thurgood Marshall Historic Corridor. Introduce the workshop's objectives, methods, and expectations while fostering a shared understanding of the community's heritage and built environment.

CHARETTE 1: MAIN CORRIDOR STUDY ///

Saturday, Sept. 19, 2026 12:00 PM-3:00 PM

Identify key opportunities for design intervention along the Main Corridor. Translate historical and contextual research into preliminary design strategies that address community needs and inform future site-specific work.

CHARETTE 2: MARSHALL HISTORIC SITES ///

Saturday, Sept. 26, 2026 12:00 PM-3:00 PM

Develop design concepts that celebrate and preserve the Thurgood Marshall Historic Sites and Freedom Square. Explore how design can strengthen cultural identity, accessibility, and the public realm through community collaboration.

CHARETTE 3: COMMUNITY ASSETS (MATH TRAIL & COMMUNITY KIOSKS) ///

Saturday, October 3, 2026 12:00 PM-3:00 PM

Design interactive community assets such as the Math Trail and kiosks that promote education, visibility, and neighborhood identity through public space and storytelling.

CHARETTE 4: DESIGN CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT ///

Saturday, October 17, 2026 12:00 PM-3:00 PM

Synthesize ideas from earlier sessions into cohesive design narratives and conceptual frameworks. Develop diagrams and parti studies that convey clear intent and community impact.

CHARETTE 5: PRESENTATION DESIGN & INFORMAL REVIEW ///

Saturday, October 24, 2026 12:00 PM-3:00 PM

Refine presentation materials and receive mentor and peer feedback to strengthen design clarity, storytelling, and visual communication ahead of the final review.

FINAL PRESENTATION ///

Saturday, November 7, 2026 12:00 PM-3:00 PM

Showcase completed urban design and architectural proposals to peers, mentors, and community stakeholders. Encourage dialogue on design intent, community impact, and lessons learned while highlighting design's role in West Baltimore's revitalization.

IMPORTANT INFO

SELECTION CRITERIA

Participants will be selected based on merit, with particular emphasis on their potential for growth and engagement. As this workshop is designed for students in the early stages of their collegiate careers, evaluators will place strong value on a demonstrated positive attitude, curiosity, and willingness to learn. All applications will be carefully reviewed by a selection committee using a comprehensive rubric that assesses each component of the submission.

Applicants are required to submit three key materials: a work sample, a resume, and a 250-word essay. The work sample should showcase a curated selection of the applicant's best and most relevant work, highlighting their skills, creativity, and areas of interest. Submissions may include academic projects, personal work, or extracurricular endeavors, and should reflect both technical ability and thoughtful execution. The resume should provide a clear and concise overview of the applicant's academic background, relevant coursework, extracurricular involvement, leadership experiences, and any professional or volunteer activities. While professional experience is not required, applicants are encouraged to emphasize transferable skills and initiative. The 250-word essay should offer insight into the applicant's motivations, goals, and interest in the workshop. Strong essays will clearly articulate how participation aligns with the applicant's academic or career aspirations and demonstrate enthusiasm for learning and collaboration.

REQUIRED SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS

Please use demo versions of applications or versions that your educational institution provides. We will discuss low-cost or free options during charrette sessions

- Laptop or tablet with Internet connectivity
- Graphics Suite (ex. Adobe, Affinity)
- 3D Modeling/Architectural Graphics program
- Presentation Design Program (ex. Powerpoint)
- Printed material for charrette sessions

PROVIDED SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS

- Base figure-ground maps of study areas
- Study area context – demographics, history, current revitalization efforts
- Sketchbook
- Trace paper
- Drafting pens, markers, and pencils
- Refreshments

IMPORTANT INFO



REGISTRATION LINK



VOLUNTEER INTEREST LINK

**Please scan QR codes or click on links for more information*