

## NBAC: OUR MISSION

The National Building Arts Center (NBAC) is a leading institution facilitating conservation of the historic built environment and understanding of its material, design, and social histories through the development of a museum and study center.



*Unglazed terra cotta panels on display at NBAC*



*Our library in action*



*One of our 2023 summer lectures*

## MAJOR PROGRAM AREAS

**Artifact Collections:** The NBAC holds the largest collection of built environment artifacts in the United States, inclusive of a massive array of pieces of St. Louis collected since 1973, parts of the Anonymous Arts Recovery Society collection from New York City, and artifacts from Chicago, Philadelphia, and other US cities. The collections include several complete or near-complete building elevations. NBAC aims to be the leading lender of artifacts for exhibition and research on the historic built environment of the US.

**Archive and Library:** The NBAC maintains a large archive and library that offers an expansive body of knowledge around the US historic built environment, including architectural design, materials manufacturing and conservation, labor history, urban studies, geology, transportation, patenting and all aspects of building. The archive and library continues to support researchers ranging from authors working on book projects to university classes studying historic preservation.

**Curating and Educating:** The NBAC activates its collections through exhibitions crafted in partnership with other institutions, publications around building materials and the built environment, lectures focused on social and material histories of the built environment, collaborations with artists and others making creative work based on our collections, and consultation to parties engaged in architectural conservation and salvage.



Check out our upcoming events

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# FROM COLLECTING TO CURATING

FUND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

NATIONAL  
BUILDING  
ARTS  
CENTER

**In the last two years, the National Building Arts Center (NBAC) has made a big leap -- from collecting to curating.**

Long the steward of the largest collection of built environment artifacts in the nation, NBAC has become an active force in historic preservation in the United States.

We opened *Urban Archaeology: Lost Buildings of St. Louis*, our first major exhibition showcasing our wide range of collections, at the Pulitzer Arts Foundation. Our library and archives – the nation’s most complete building materials and design research collection -- are abuzz with visits from researchers, authors, students and filmmakers. We have opened up our historic campus through docent-led tours, an annual lecture series, and an art gallery.

**In short, NBAC is becoming the museum that its founder, the late Larry Giles, dreamed of making happen.**

With professional staff, an energized board of directors, active volunteers, crucial partnerships and more diverse funding, NBAC has hit a stride. But we need to sustain this new energy so that NBAC reaches its full capacity. That is where you can play a big role.

**In the future, we dream of adding a permanent exhibition at our campus.** We’re following up *Urban Archaeology* with further collaborative exhibitions around the country, launching publications on the building materials in our collection, and building our availability as a national facilitator of research on the historic built environment of the US.

These short-term goals will get us closer to transforming our historic steel foundry campus into a permanent museum--the big dream ahead. However every step of the way ahead is an active one. We are no longer sitting on great collections. We are sharing them with the world.

**WILL YOU JOIN US?**

With your support, NBAC will continue to build on its recent momentum to becoming the nation’s hub for built environment research and stewardship. We welcome giving at all levels, and also have naming opportunities for spaces at our campus available. Please contact us for more details.

- Benefactor / \$5000 or more**
- Conservator / \$2000**
- Builder / \$1000**
- Sustainer / \$500**
- Sponsor / \$250**
- Supporter / \$100**

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*A family visits the Urban Archaeology exhibition*