

Explore Buffalo Walking Tours: On-Site Learning **Buffalo Teacher and Resource Center Course**

Presented by Rich Pyszczek, Paige Melin, & Explore Buffalo Docents

Thursdays; April 26 – May 31, 2018



Sponsored By:



Niagara Frontier Council for the Social Studies



Course Description:

If you love the City of Buffalo, are excited about the idea of learning more about our City's fascinating history and would love to share your passion for Buffalo with your students, then this course is for you! Explore Buffalo is a volunteer-driven nonprofit dedicated to sharing Buffalo's history, architecture, and neighborhoods with learners of all ages. Through walking tours and lectures led by our specially-trained docents, you'll learn about everything from Buffalo's beginnings as a small village to our rapid rise to one of the most prominent cities in the country to the incredible renaissance happening today. You'll also learn a variety of strategies for bringing your newfound information into your classroom and curriculum. Join us on this journey through Buffalo's history!

Course Objectives

- Participants will be able to identify & describe important events in Buffalo's history
- Participants will be able to identify & discuss architectural & engineering highlights in the City of Buffalo.
- Participants will create IDMs for their classrooms, drawing from information & resources gained from the course.
- Participants will collect information about resources available to them to enhance students' learning about local, regional, & state history.

Course Outline:

Thursday, April 26: Course Objectives & Early WNY History

Time: 4:30 – 7 pm

Location: Explore Buffalo Learning Center, First Presbyterian Church

- Intros & Overview of Course
- Presentation: Explore Buffalo 101
- Presentation: Before Buffalo: The English, French, & Native Americans

Session Description:

Learn about all the work Explore Buffalo is doing in our community to promote our city and educate residents, visitors, and students about our incredible heritage. Then, we'll discuss the Niagara Frontier during the period of 1600 to 1800, just as the Buffalo Creek settlement was forming. The "Before Buffalo" presentation will cover how the region was inhabited by Native American tribes who represented a buffer zone between the strong Huron Confederacy to the west and the Iroquois Confederacy to the east, and will also describe how the French, and later British, were the first of the Europeans to enter the region.

Thursday, May 3: Buffalo's History & Architecture

Time: 4:30 – 7 pm

Location: Conference Room (2nd floor), Central Library

- Presentation: Top 10 Architectural Features
- IDM Brainstorming
- Tour: Best of Buffalo

Session Description:

This session will provide an overview of Buffalo's history and some of the most important architectural features everyone should know. The buildings included on the "Best of Buffalo" overview tour help to tell the story of Buffalo's rapid rise to prominence, from the opening of the Erie Canal to the 1901 Pan-American Exposition. Buildings seen on this tour were designed by both nationally and locally significant architects, including Louis Sullivan, Richard Upjohn, Louise Bethune, and EB Green. This is an exterior-only tour (we will not be entering any buildings).

Thursday, May 10: Buffalo's Waterfront and Architecture

Time: 4:30 - 7 pm

Location: Frank Lloyd Wright Fontana Boathouse

- Tour: FLW Fontana Boathouse
- Presentation: Connecting Buffalo's History to NYS SS Frameworks
- IDM Work

Session Description:

This session will take place in the breathtaking Fontana Boathouse. Originally designed by Wright in 1905 for the University of Wisconsin, the Boathouse was never built until its construction in 2007 in Buffalo along the shore of the Black Rock Channel. This was one of Wright's favorite designs, as evidenced by his inclusion of the Boathouse in his now-famous Wasmuth Portfolio. Today the boathouse is being used for its original purpose as an active rowing facility, providing a unique opportunity to see one of Wright's designs being used as originally intended. On the tour, you'll learn about why it was never constructed in Wisconsin, and how it came to be built in Buffalo. The tour includes both the exterior and interior of the Boathouse, providing an in-depth look at a masterpiece of Prairie Style design. While on the tour, enjoy the spectacular views of Lake Erie, the Niagara River, and the Canadian shore from the Boathouse. This session will also include some tips and ideas for incorporating Buffalo's history into your social studies curriculum.

Thursday, May 17: The Erie Canal and Waterfront Revival

Time: 4:30 - 7 pm

Location: Explore Buffalo Learning Center

- IDM Work & Discussion about available resources for source material
- Tour: Riverfront Renaissance

Session Description:

In this session, we will talk about some of the resources available for anyone who wants to enrich and deepen their knowledge about Buffalo. We'll also learn about how Buffalo grew from the water's edge, as the Erie Canal and later the railroads brought unprecedented commerce and industry to the city. The "Riverfront Renaissance" walking tour will explore some of the oldest neighborhoods of Buffalo, many of which have gone through numerous transitions and are in the midst of yet another change as the city returns its focus to the water. The redevelopment of Canalside and new waterfront attractions are featured in this tour, along with the history of the opening of the Erie Canal and development of the grain elevator and other waterfront industry.

Thursday, May 24: Buffalo's Neighborhoods

Time: 4:30 - 7 pm

Location: Silo City

- Tour: Silo City
- IDM Work

Session Description:

We'll get into the heart of Buffalo's industrial era in this session in the Old First Ward. The First Ward is the neighborhood adjacent to the Buffalo River, located in the shadows of the grain elevators that employed many of the neighborhood's residents. On the tour, you will learn about how the growth and development of the neighborhood was closely tied to the rise of the grain trade at Buffalo's harbor. A neighborhood with a proudly Irish heritage, the First Ward has been the birthplace and home to some of Buffalo's most famous citizens, including Michael Shea, Jimmy Slattery, and Fingy Connors.

Thursday, May 31: Course Project Wrap-up and Project Presentations

Time: 4:30 – 7 pm

Location: Explore Buffalo Learning Center

- Workshop: Architecture & Use Workshop
- Course Review
- Finalize Course Projects or C3 IDMs

Session Description:

At this final session, we'll have fun working through the design process and putting our architectural knowledge to work during the "Architecture and Use" workshop, where you will create a prototype of a new building out of LEGOs! You'll also have time to finalize your IDMs to make sure they're ready for implementation in your classroom.

Special Thanks to



For all of their support and valuable resources with this project.