



Colleen Schmidt

Colleen was an intern with YPA in 2008 and 2009. She currently works as a Talent Assistant for the Washington, DC, law firm of Vinson & Elkins LLP.



A lot of the knowledge I have gained from my experience came from participating in many of the events YPA held. During my first event at Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater location, not only was I able to learn about the architect himself and his unique outlook, but I also learned a lot about art, history, American architecture, as well as preservation. After listening to our tour guide and hearing about the amount time and money that was put into this masterpiece, it made me develop an appreciation that I had never had before.



I remember one time, I was speaking to Dan and he was telling me all about the Homestead area, specifically where the Waterfront is now. I couldn't believe what all had occurred at that exact location where the Lowe's theatre and Starbucks now sits. With our society, many people believe new is always better. I feel that we have to reach out to these individuals and help them see how important it is to save what we have and to preserve it.



Our history tells us where we came from, what people before us have fought for, and how they have contributed to what we see today. I really stand behind YPA's slogan "Give Life to History," because it tells us exactly what we need to do. If we don't reach out and preserve our communities, they will slowly, or even quickly, begin to wither away.

YPA has not only helped me learn more about history and preserving our communities, but it also encouraged me to reach out to others. I think by recruiting more people and becoming activists, we can work better as a whole and maybe even make history ourselves. After all we are the future and anything is possible.

