



Children build with their imaginations

Library event in honor of architect Burnham

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The Simmons Library was one of many projects that architect Daniel Burnham designed during his career that changed the look of the Chicago area.

The children that have participated in the Kenosha Public Library's programs to honor Burnham may not achieve that kind of artistic influence, but their egg carton spaceships and foam castles served as an outlet for their own creativity.

The Kenosha Public Library hosted its third and fourth sessions of "Build It with Burnham" at the Southwest and Northside branches on Wednesday. Two previous sessions were hosted at Simmons and Uptown libraries last month.

The events are in honor of the 100th anniversary of the Burnham Plan, the architect's strategy to bring regional highways, lakefront improvements and civic and culture-based buildings to Chicago and the surrounding area. Burnham had previously been responsible for construction related to the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893. In between the fair and his larger plan, he helped design the Simmons Library in Kenosha, which opened in 1900.

Wednesday's morning session drew about 20 children to the Southwest Library to create their own innovative designs using materials the library had on hand and those that participants brought with them.

Children in attendance were able to create their own grand plans, though with a



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Jill Walker, right, and her twin daughters Katelyn, left, and Kylie, 3, construct a princess castle during the "Build It with Burnham" event at the Southwest Library on Wednesday. The event, remembering the 100th anniversary of Daniel Burnham's design plan for Chicago, provided area children with materials to make their own creations. Burnham designed the Simmons Library in Kenosha.



Brandon Shultis, 8, constructs a throwing game.

different focus than Burnham's plans.

Katelyn and Kylie Walker, 3½-year-old twin girls from



Jack Lunt, 7, makes sound effects as he flies his version of Darth Vader's TIE Fighter.

Kenosha, were intent on putting their own touches on a castle fit for a princess. The stately structure featured foam cup towers, a moat made of bright blue paper and marshmallows standing in for stones.

Jill Walker, the twins' mother, said she typically makes Wednesday trips to Southwest Library

with her daughters and this Wednesday presented an additional opportunity.

"These girls just love to build," Jill Walker said.

Edie Dudek was overseeing 3-year-old Brandon Stewart's glue and pipe-cleaner based project. Dudek said the event was a good way for kids to express themselves.

"I think it's a neat thing for children to have this experience and explore their

'I THINK IT'S A neat thing for children to have this experience and explore their own things.'

Edie Dudek
on the Kenosha Public Library's 'Build it with Burnham' program

own things," Dudek said.

Jack Lunt, a 7-year-old Kenosha boy, looked to a galaxy far, far away for his inspiration. Using a paper towel roll and egg cartons, among other building materials, Lunt fashioned a replica of a TIE fighter, the ship used by Darth Vader in "Star Wars."

"I like building things," Jack said, in between simulated flights of his homemade ship.

Kim Lunt, Jack's mother, said her son's imagination was the motivating factor to taking part in Wednesday's event.

"He loves creating things and building things," Lunt said. "We gathered some recycling materials and we were here a half-hour early."

The Burnham programs aimed at children have wrapped up, but the library still is planning book discussions and movie readings related to the architect.