



The background of the entire page is a soft, painterly illustration. It depicts a city at night, with buildings and streets glowing with warm lights. Several hot air balloons of various colors and patterns are floating in the sky above the city. The overall tone is dreamy and inspirational.

# THE OPPORTUNITY

Our success as a firm is directly related to our team's diverse viewpoints and experiences. That's why we established XPLORE, a travel opportunity that will expose you to new places and ideas and stimulate your curiosity. This is your opportunity to investigate, learn, and grow. Above all, it's a chance to go beyond your daily routine, enrich yourself, and inspire the rest of us.

There are three basic components to a winning XPLORE entry:

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose for your travels is the most important component of your proposal. You're welcome to research any topic for your XPLORE trip—from a journey of personal growth, to one with social or even global implications. You should clearly describe what you hope to learn and accomplish, and how your travels will enrich you and our team.

## **DESTINATION**

XPLORE is not just a vacation or sightseeing adventure. It's a purpose-driven journey of discovery. Top candidates will clearly elaborate how their destination is intertwined with their purpose. Trips may be international, domestic or even intergalactic; as long as your destination reinforces your purpose.

## **DOCUMENTATION**

How will you document your experience? Your proposal should clearly articulate how you plan on documenting your expedition in order to share it with us when you return. This can be via videos, blog posts, journals, etc., as long as you fully convey your experience from start to finish.



# REGISTRATION

All participants must register on the XPLORE webpage: [xplore.ruhnaucclarke.com](http://xplore.ruhnaucclarke.com). We will send you a unique registration number, which you will use to submit your XPLORE proposal. This registration number helps us keep submissions anonymous, transparent, and fair.

## SUBMISSION FORMAT

Please submit:

1. One [1] submission in any format that best conveys your concept. This will be used for final judging. The only limitations on materials are that they cannot be hazardous, flammable, breakable, or illegal in any way. It must be sized in a way to facilitate portability in a vehicle if necessary.
2. One [1] digital copy of your submission which will be sent to judges in advance for preliminary evaluations. This should include digital photographs of your main submission if not in a digital format. This is the file you will upload through the link provided to you.
3. Each submission must clearly identify your registration number. You may not include any other identifying information, such as images of yourself or your voice through audio.

## SUBMISSIONS

Submissions will be collected in the following locations:

**Riverside Office: Gallery Space**

**Carlsbad Office: Main Conference Room\***

Digital: Dropbox upload through link provided

You will receive a confirmation email indicating that you have successfully uploaded your files.

\* The XPLORE Committee will make arrangements to transport any physical submissions from Carlsbad to the judging location.

### ELIGIBILITY

All employees who have been with us for at least three months by the submission deadline are eligible to participate.

Everyone is encouraged to participate, whether you're in a technical, non-technical, or administrative role. No employee with a particular skill set or work experience will have an advantage. A strong sense of adventure is the best trait you can have. We are also providing access to presentation templates for your use.

Principals and XPLORE committee members are ineligible to participate. Previous winners are ineligible to participate for two cycles after their journey.

### THE JURY

The XPLORE winners will be selected by an impartial jury. They will review submissions for originality, content, clarity, thoughtfulness, and a clear understanding of your project goals.

The jury will consist of a small group of experts and community leaders who are among our list of talented clients, consultants and peers. Jurors will be announced after a winner is selected.

### THE PRIZE

Ruhnau Clarke Architects will contribute:

**A lump sum of \$5,000** to cover travel and research expenses such as transportation, accommodations, books, maps, and other necessary resources. You will cover any expenses above the prize amount. Although you won't need to submit all your expenses, you'll need to submit major travel receipts—such as hotel accommodations and airfare—once you return. We will not compensate souvenirs or other non-essentials.

**An extra forty hours of Paid Time Off (PTO).** The total duration of the research trip is up to you. The only requirement is that you make your trip before the next competition cycle in August 2025.

### THE RETURN

Winners will share their explorations with the firm in any format that best presents the trip, goals, and findings. Presentations will be made in person at your office location and may also be recorded for distribution within and beyond our firm.

For this reason, each winning participant must consider the documentation and communication of their journey to be an integral part of the proposal.

Remember, you're not just documenting the travel, you're documenting the exploration. We encourage you to consider any and all forms of media, including film, installations, sketches, written journal, an on-line blog, etc.



## SCHEDULE

Preliminary Review Sessions : **Friday, April 05, 2024 - Friday, April 12, 2024**

Registration Opens : **Friday, April 5, 2024**

Secondary Review Sessions : **Monday, May 13, 2024 - Monday, May 20, 2024**

Registration Closes : **Friday, May 31, 2024 by 5 PM PST**

Big Idea + Review Sessions : **Friday, June 7, 2024 - Friday, June 28, 2024**

All participants are highly encouraged to submit their Big idea to the XPLORE Committee. The details of your journey don't need to be finalized, it should just be a brief synopsis of what you plan to explore. This will help the Committee provide the best possible guidance to all participants.

Development Review Sessions : **Friday, July 12, 2024 - Friday, August 9, 2024**

Final Submissions : **Friday, October 25, 2024 by 5 PM PST**

Judging : **TBD**

Winner Announced : **TBD** (December Holiday Party 2024)

## XPLORE COMMITTEE

The **XPLORE** Committee is available to help you develop your proposal and answer any questions you may have, but you are not limited to the assistance of this group. Feel free to reach out to any resources at your disposal. This year we will be providing you with 5 presentation templates so don't let any fears of graphics deter you. Also, if you are using reference materials for your idea, cite your sources as you see necessary. We kindly ask that these proposals are developed outside of work hours, however, you can use company resources to help you develop the proposal. The goal is to create the best submission possible!

Your 2024 XPLORE Committee includes:

Christopher Bohigian | Dennise De La Rosa