

2019 Detroit City of Design Competition

An International Multidisciplinary Design Competition

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Deadline April 14, 2019

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Design Core Detroit is pleased to announce the first edition of the Detroit City of Design Competition, an international multidisciplinary competition for designers in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network to prototype design solutions for Detroit neighborhoods that address safety and walkability. Supported by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the goal of the competition is to design and test creative, innovative design solutions that make it easier for all Detroiters to move freely, safely, and efficiently around their communities.

PURPOSE OF THE COMPETITION

As the first and only UNESCO City of Design in the United States, Detroit is eager to showcase its local design talent and leverage its global connections to bring innovative design solutions to Detroit neighborhoods. When completed, the competition will result in the installation of three unique temporary pilot installations in three Detroit neighborhoods that address safety and mobility/walkability issues through design. Debuting in a central location to an audience of 40,000+ in September during Detroit's Month of Design, the three installations will ultimately be moved to Grandmont Rosedale, Hope Village, and Southwest Detroit to test over a 3-6 month period. The competition will fund three unique pilot installations with a budget of \$20,000.00 USD that includes \$15,000 for materials and and \$5,000 stipend for each installation.

This competition aligns with the UNESCO Design Cities' [General Principles for Design Competitions](#).

GOALS

Winning designs should:

- Utilize off-grid lighting solutions to address safety and walkability in neighborhoods
- Pilot concepts that have potential to scale and/or operate as a larger system
- Demonstrate quality design and innovation through the development of beautiful and functional concepts that improve lighting and increases safety and foot traffic in participating neighborhoods
- Encourage inclusive design solutions that are welcoming to a diverse spectrum of users including those with temporarily or permanent disabilities

Winning designs may:

- Incorporate seating or other furniture components, address health through fitness, games, or other interactive elements
- Utilize sustainable materials or incorporate blue/green or other environmental infrastructure

THE CHALLENGE

The inaugural Detroit City of Design competition will focus on public safety, walkability, and mobility in Detroit neighborhoods. While Detroit may be the Motor City, many residents, whether due to age, finances, or physical ability, or personal choice, rely on walking, biking and other non-automotive forms of transportation to move through their communities. While the City of Detroit has made [tremendous strides to improve public lighting infrastructure](#) and overall crime rates are declining, safety remains a concern and [pedestrian fatalities are on the rise](#) across the nation.

There is tremendous potential to strengthen Detroit's commercial corridors by addressing safety, and walkability through design. The Detroit City of Design competition seeks to pilot ideas for temporary installations that improve public safety and walkability for residents in Grandmont Rosedale, Southwest Detroit, and Hope Village.

Site # 1 Grandmont Rosedale

Community partner: [Grandmont Rosedale Development Corporation](#)

About

Grandmont Rosedale includes five neighborhoods: Minock Park, Rosedale Park, North Rosedale Park, Grandmont, and Grandmont #1. There are about 15,000 residents, 5600 homes and 500 businesses in Grandmont Rosedale. While each of the neighborhoods is distinct, residents and business owners of Grandmont Rosedale share a number of concerns and objectives such as stable property values, safety, building a viable small business community, beautification, and engaging the community. Taking direction from Grandmont Rosedale residents and business owners, GRDC works on a number of initiatives specifically related to these shared areas of concern. In fact, these areas of concern were identified by residents in a community planning process and are encompassed in GRDC's "Quality of Life" Plan which guides our programmatic activities. Formally these areas are: Stabilization, Community Security, Commercial Revitalization, Beautification and Placemaking, and Community Engagement.

Challenges affecting public safety and walkability:

- Lack of security on commercial corridor
- Difficulty crossing Grand River – street is wide and has few pedestrian crossings
- Litter and enforcement of commercial property codes
- Residents and business owners are most affected.

Ideal Outcome

Our community is slated for streetscape improvements in 2019 on the Grand River corridor through MDOT and city planning. An ideal outcome would be to add more placemaking elements as we continue cultivating the corridor into a multimodal, accessible destination for visitors and shoppers.

Site (Description, Map, Images)

More info will be added at a later date.



Site # 2 Southwest Detroit

Community partner: [Southwest Detroit Business Association](#)

About

Southwest Detroit includes Mexicantown and W. Vernor & Springwells, two of the City's most popular, walkable business districts, which are known as the most culturally, racially, and economically diverse areas of Detroit. The Association is a coalition of businesses and community interests committed to facilitating the continuation and enhancement of a stable, economically healthy Southwest Detroit. We establish collaborative relationships by engaging community stakeholders, residents and business owners in the revitalization process of our Mexicantown and W. Vernor & Springwells Business Districts. We support our communities

vision for a strong, vibrant neighborhood, and together we're developing a place where more and more people are choosing to live, work, and shop.

Challenges affecting public safety and walkability:

- Lack of wayfinding signage
- Lack of extra lighting
- Lack of ownership values by certain groups (not feeling included in the creative process)
- The business community and its customers as well as residents are the most affected groups

Ideal Outcome

- To encourage the creation of more diverse public art installations
- To transform temporary pilot installation into permanent ones
- Provide the space for people to interact and feel they belong
- Encourage private investment

Site (Description, Map, Images)

More info will be added at a later date.



Site # 3 Hope Village

Community partner: [Focus:HOPE](#)

About

Hope Village is a neighborhood located in central Detroit and western Highland Park. Hope Village was near the epicenter of the 1967 Detroit Civil Insurrection. Since that time, the neighborhood experienced both “white flight” and the precipitous economic decline of Detroit and the auto industry. There are currently approximately 75 businesses in HV and, based on U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 4,098 residents (95% African American). Of these residents, 827 are children under the age of 18 (20.1% of the population); 75% of these children live in single parent families.

Challenges affecting public safety and walkability:

A community strategic plan was created by Hope Village residents and outlines the following as challenges needing to be addressed:

- Extracurricular activities have been cut both in and out of school, limiting the availability of safe places where children can be children and have diverse opportunities that allow them to grow into successful adults.
- HVPN children need to feel safe. Their African American heritage and history needs to be celebrated.
- Great opportunities for a fresh/local food system exist in the HVPN, but work to link parents and families to the system is needed.

Ideal Outcome

The ideal outcome is for residents to be meaningfully engaged in the selection and implementation of the pilot. This would result in an installation that residents are proud of and feel a connection to.

Site (Description, Map, Images)

More info will be added at a later date.

EXAMPLES OF LIGHT-BASED DESIGN SOLUTIONS

Solar-powered bollards



Photo credit: Outsider

This [solution](#) incorporates solar power to protect pedestrians with beautiful, free-standing, and eco-friendly bollards

Musical swings



Photo credit: Daily tous les jours

Originally designed as a fun way to pass time while waiting for the bus in Montreal, this [solution](#) is mobile (pictured here in Detroit in 2016), musical, and encourages physical activity.

HopOn500 and BDLOVE lamp



Photo credit: Artform



Photo credit: BD Barcelona

These [solutions both](#) use LEDs to create simple and colorful shapes that can be used for play or just people-watching

Porto Light



Photo credit: Designboom

While vacant or dilapidated spaces can be a danger to the community, this [solution](#) adapts to the surrounding environment, filling the void with light and beauty and encouraging more visitors to the space.

TYPE OF COMPETITION

This competition is

- a multidisciplinary design competition for temporary (3-6 months) design installations to be installed in three neighborhoods in Detroit;
- open to designers from all [31 UNESCO Cities of Design](#);
- a project competition leading to the implementation of three semi-permanent design installations

PROCESS

All eligible competitors are invited to submit a proposal: a preliminary spatial-planning concept that conveys their vision of the project and its mission, in accordance with the competition objectives. Submissions must show the installation in at least one of the three neighborhood sites but should be designed to be scalable and may potentially be selected for another location. The installation should be considered a prototype that will debut alongside the other winners in a central location before moving to its neighborhood home.

The jury will then review the proposals and may ask applicants additional questions via email. At the conclusion of this stage, the jury will vote to recommend three winners - one winner per site. All three winners must agree to and comply with terms to receive their stipend and award.

The three final works created by the winners will debut in a central location in Detroit for Month of Design September 2019 and will be promoted heavily as part of the Month of Design marketing campaign. Winners will be invited to present their works in Detroit during September. Design Core will work with the community partners to install the works in the three participating neighborhoods by the end of 2019 for testing and feedback in 2020.

ELIGIBILITY

Any individual, team or firm from Detroit and the other 30 UNESCO Design Cities is invited to apply. At least one professional designer must be a part of the team. Design Core encourages the formation of multidisciplinary teams.

JURY

The jury is the same for both stages. It includes the following:

Maria Arquero de Alarcon

*Associate Professor of Architecture and Urbanism. Director, Master of Urban Design. A. Alfred Taubman of Architecture and Urban Planning
Partner, MAde-Studio*

Andre Clemons

WW Consumer Goods & Retail Industry Solution Technical Senior Manager, Dassault Systems

Beverly Frederick

Community Representative, Grandmont Rosedale Development Corporation

Aniela Kuzon

Global Lead, City of Tomorrow Challenge, Ford

Caitlin Marcon

Deputy Director, Complete Streets Program, City of Detroit Department of Public Works

Justin Snowden

Smart Mobility Strategist, City of Detroit Office of Mobility and Innovation

Julie Rice

Community Representative, Focus:HOPE

Myrna Segura

Community Representative, Southwest Detroit

COMPENSATION

Applicants

There is no compensation for submitting a proposal.

Winners

The three winning designer(s) will each receive \$15,000.00 USD for materials and a \$5,000.00 USD Stipend.

Winners from outside of Detroit will receive an additional stipend (up to \$2,000) to cover coach airfare and 3 nights accommodations to debut their installation in Detroit.

DESIGN STANDARDS

Sidewalk Obstruction

Installations may not obstruct a public sidewalk. At least 6' of clear sidewalk must be available for pedestrians or wheelchair users to pass by the installations.

Visibility Requirements

To ensure the safety of people using the installation, it should be possible to see into the installation from outside and out of the installation from inside.

Material/Durability

In general, use durable materials that resist vandalism, harsh weather conditions, wear and tear, and use standard-sized modular components wherever possible to facilitate easy replacement.

Size

Each installation should be a full-size model and is limited a maximum footprint of 12'x'12'.

ADA Standards**Opening Sizes**

Minimum 32". Generally, left open by Detroit Public Works Department, which easily satisfies this requirement and also makes the installation easier to keep clean.

Capacity Requirements

Minimum 30" x 48" clear space for a wheelchair, with a clear path to the entrance.

HOW TO APPLY

Interested competitors must apply [here](#) (prior registration is required to do so). The documents will be available from February 19 through midnight, April 14.

DEADLINE

April 14, 2019 (midnight)

QUESTIONS

For questions contact competitions@designcore.org by March 14, 2019. All questions submitted by March 14, 2019 will have answers posted publicly by March 21, 2019.