

L TRAIN SHUTDOWN CHARRETTE COMPETITION BRIEF

Introduction

About

As neighborhoods along the L train brace for an interruption in service of unprecedented scale, this fast-paced competition asks interdisciplinary teams to propose implementable interventions that look beyond shuttle buses and private cars.

Part of the Van Alen Spring Festival, *Disruption?*, the L Train Shutdown Charrette invites teams to “disrupt” the complex process of public transportation improvement. This one-day charrette offers an opportunity for fresh thinking, allowing for interdisciplinary teams to imagine systemic design solutions for hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers during an extended period of reduced subway service.

Following a workshop period among teams, community members are invited to attend the presentation of proposals and ask questions. A jury of planning experts will judge the entries and announce a winner at the conclusion of the event. The winning team will share a \$1,000 prize.

Questions to get you started

- How can infrastructure interventions be designed to move large numbers of passengers when the train is shut down?
- How can technology facilitate more efficient—or less stressful—transportation during the shutdown?
- How does your proposal address an 18-month service shutdown versus a 3-year, 75% reduction in service?
- How will your proposal be funded?
- How can ideas be presented to the public and government agencies in an exciting yet serious way?

How does the competition work?

You and your team will identify an implementable solution to moving populations along the L train impacted by the shutdown in service. Teams must contain at least one professional working in architecture, urban planning, or infrastructure engineering. To generate the greatest diversity of ideas, we encourage teams to also feature a range of disciplines, which could include digital programmers, community organizers and activists, wayfinding designers, landscape designers, and economic development experts.

Submit your 150-word concept and names and affiliations of team members by midnight EDT on June 9. On June 10, a selection of five-seven finalist teams will be invited to participate in the charrette on Sunday, June 12, 12:30pm at Van Alen Institute.

Between 12:30pm and 4:00pm, teams will work through a set of prompts, refining a proposal to be presented in a format that will be revealed at the beginning of the workshop. Materials and lunch will be provided.

Between 4:00pm and 5:30pm, teams will present their proposals and answer questions before a jury and open audience.

Between 5:30pm – 6:15pm, as the jury privately determines the best proposal, attendees are invited to enjoy a drink and discuss ideas with the competition teams.

At 6:15pm, the winning team will be announced. The team will be awarded a \$1,000 cash prize and work closely with Van Alen to further refine their proposal.

Evaluation Criteria

Jurors will evaluate proposals based on the following criteria:

- It proposes a feasible solution and unconventional strategies that resourcefully address efficiency, equity, and quality of life during interrupted L train service, within a set budget.
- It clearly communicates key existing conditions of the L train route, the people the proposal addresses, the infrastructural need, the urban context, and how the proposal will achieve its stated goals.
- It demonstrates interdisciplinary thinking and collaboration among team members from different fields of expertise.
- It presents ideas that are understandable to a wide audience and increases their understanding of cities, and is compelling for official agencies.
- It connects to and builds on existing initiatives from research entities and government agencies.

All information required can be found on vanalen.org. If you have questions, please contact Steven Thomson, Van Alen Institute at sthomson@vanalen.org.

Eligibility

To participate, you must be part of a multidisciplinary team of up to four members; individuals may not participate alone. Your team must include at least one professional from architecture, urban planning, or infrastructure

engineering. This competition is open to both professionals and students. All members of the team must be available to be present at Van Alen Institute in New York City on Sunday, June 12.

Entering the Competition

Entry fee: There is no entry fee for entering L Train Shutdown Charrette.

Number of entries: Individuals may participate on only one team. Each team is permitted to enter only one submission.

Submission of concepts: Teams must submit a maximum 150-word concept by midnight EDT on June 9. Finalists will be notified on June 10.

Your entry must include a written concept description of your proposal. Clearly state your proposed solution(s), the name(s), contact information, title, and affiliation of the team members. Accompanying illustrations of your concept are not accepted; however, team members have the option to upload an accompanying portfolio of past work.

All entries must be in English. Proposals must be uploaded using the submission link on vanalen.org by midnight EDT on June 9, 2016. Entrants will receive a confirmation that the files have been uploaded and should retain this confirmation for reference. Failure to comply with any of these submission requirements will result in immediate disqualification.

Legal

Further details on charrette proposal requirements and presentation formats will be provided to the finalist teams.

Publication restrictions: Entrants may not refer to projects that have already been implemented or that have been designed on the basis of any agreement entered into by the entrant or entrants with a public, public/private or fully private body with the intention of actual development of the project in question. Similarly, entries may not refer to projects published before the last day of the deliberations of the judging panel.

Infringement of copyright and other intellectual property: All work submitted for the competition must be the entrant's original work. It is the entrant's sole responsibility to ensure that the work submitted does not infringe upon the intellectual property rights of any third party, including, but not limited to copyright, trademark and design right. Van Alen shall not be responsible for entrant's infringement of any third party intellectual property rights, regardless of whether said infringement was known or should have been known by entrant.

Use of submitted works: Entrant agrees that Van Alen is granted the non-exclusive reproduction rights to all entries for Van Alen's advertising, promotion, exhibition, print publication and internet purposes directly relating to the competition. Van Alen shall have no responsibility for any unauthorized use of the entrant's works by any third party, including but not limited to the sponsors.

About

Van Alen Institute brings more than 120 years of experience organizing design competitions, as well as developing cross-disciplinary research and provocative public programs. Van Alen Institute collaborates with communities, scholars, policymakers, and professionals on local and global initiatives that rigorously investigate the most pressing social, cultural and ecological challenges of tomorrow.

The L Train Shutdown Charrette is presented in concert with the Van Alen Spring Festival, *Disruption?*. This series is made possible through our Program Leadership Council, co-chaired by Andy Bernheimer (Bernheimer Architecture), Katherine Chia (Desai Chia Architecture), Koray Duman (Buro Koray Duman), Mark Gardner (Jaklitsch/Gardner Architects), Sara Grant (Murphy Burnham and Buttrick Architects), Stephan Jaklitsch (Jaklitsch/Gardner Architects), Hauke Jungjohann (Thornton Tomasetti), Amy Lau (Amy Lau Design), Joel Sanders (Joel Sanders Architect), and Susanna Sirefman (Dovetail Design Strategists).

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