

DELANCEY, GRAND & ESSEX STREETS CHARRETTE
FLASH COMPETITION BRIEFIntroductionAbout

Van Alen Spring Festival, *FLOW! Getting Around the Changing City*, is hosting a one-night competition, Friday, June 22nd, on the Delancey, Grand & Essex Streets intersection. This one-night competition offers an opportunity for interdisciplinary teams to come together and imagine creative design solutions for moving people and traffic through our streets, sidewalks, bridges, and subways.

Background

The Lower East Side neighborhood surrounding Delancey, Grand and Essex Streets is preparing for the completion of Essex Crossing and the impending L train shutdown in 2019. Essex Crossing is an unprecedented mixed-use development spread over 1.9 million square feet in part of the **Seward Park Urban Renewal Area** (SPURA). The L train shutdown will bring a proposed 70 shuttle buses per hour over the Williamsburg Bridge onto Delancey Street. The neighborhood is also experiencing continual traffic congestion on Grand Street from the FDR drive to Essex Street due to changes in traffic patterns.

Van Alen's one-night charrette invites mixed teams--of designers, students, engineers, artists, and other professionals of all kinds--to create inventive design solutions for moving people and traffic through the busy streets of Delancey, Grand, and Essex where pedestrians, cars, bikes, buses, and subways vie for space to and from the Williamsburg Bridge. Proposals should be playful and imaginative while offering physical design elements that could conceivably be adopted by local community groups and implemented by a municipal agency.

Following an intensive, hands-on, three-hour building workshop session for the design teams, community members are invited to attend the presentation of design proposals and vote for their favorite idea. A jury of design, transportation and advocacy experts will judge the entries and announce a winner at the conclusion of the event.

We're seeking multidisciplinary teams from diverse fields including sociology, architecture, landscape architecture, graphic design, visual art, urban planning, and more.

How does the competition work?

You and your team will identify an implementable solution to moving people, bikes, and traffic along the Delancey/Grand/Essex Street corridor during the following timeline:

Friday, June 22nd:

- 5:30pm to 8:30pm, each team will work through a set of questions about their proposal and create a model/rendering to present before a jury and public audience. Model supplies and a pizza dinner will be provided; teams must bring their own computer(s) for research and necessary image creation.
- 8:30pm – 9:00pm: teams will give a 5-minute presentation to the judges.
- 9:00 – 9:30pm: the jury will ask the presenters questions about their proposals
- 9:30 – 10:00pm: as the jury privately determines the best proposal, attendees will be invited to discuss ideas with the competition teams.
- 10:00pm: the winner will be announced. The selected team will receive a \$500 stipend and work closely with Van Alen to refine their proposal and prepare it for presentation to policymakers at a future date.

Questions to consider while you think through potential solutions

- How can an overhaul of the existing New York City street design accommodate increases in vehicular, pedestrian, and other new modes of transportation (bikes, scooters, skateboards, et al.) and provide safety for all?
- How can we make these improvements strategically, with maximum impact, and within realistic budgets?
- How would you change the traffic patterns going onto the Williamsburg Bridge?
- How does your proposal address the traffic congestion on the streets surrounding the entrance to the Williamsburg Bridge on Delancey Street? How will it address the additional bus traffic and

pedestrian spill over on Delancey Street during the 18 months the city is proposing to send shuttle buses over the Williamsburg Bridge?

- How can technology facilitate more efficient—or less stressful—traffic flow and pedestrian safety in this corridor?
- How could your proposal be funded?
- How can ideas be presented to the public and government agencies in an exciting yet serious way?
- Could the proposal be replicated in other areas of the city where there are other hubs of Bridge traffic congestion?

Evaluation Criteria

Jurors will evaluate proposals based on the following criteria:

- Proposes a feasible solution and unconventional strategies that resourcefully address efficiency, equity, and quality of life for the LES neighborhood within a set budget.
- Clearly communicates key existing conditions of the chosen site, the people the proposal addresses, the infrastructural need, the urban context, and how the proposal will achieve its stated goals.
- Demonstrates interdisciplinary thinking and collaboration among team members from different fields of expertise.
- Presents ideas that are comprehensible for a wide audience, increases understanding of cities, and is deeply compelling for official agencies.
- Connects to and builds on existing initiatives from research entities and government agencies.

How to Apply

Choose a team leader to submit your 150-word concept, names, and affiliations of team members by midnight EST on Wednesday, June 13th to rschatell@vanalen.org. On Friday, June 15th, a selection of five to seven finalist teams will be invited to participate in the charrette on Friday, June 22nd at 5:30pm at New Design High School, 350 Grand Street, Manhattan.

If you have questions, please contact Robin Schatell, Curator of Programs at Van Alen Institute, rschatell@vanalen.org. For more information on Flow

Eligibility

To participate, you must be part of a multidisciplinary team of two to four members; individuals may not participate alone. 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 varied disciplines, for instance: digital programmers, community organizers and activists, wayfinding designers, landscape designers, and economic development experts.

Teams may include both professionals and students.

All members of the team must be New York City based and present day-of for the competition at New Design High School in New York City on Friday, June 22nd.

Entering the Competition

Entry fee: There is no entry fee for entering the Delancey, Grand & Essex Streets Charrette.

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

Submission of concepts: Teams must submit a maximum 150-word concept and accompanying image by midnight EDT on Wednesday, June 13th. Finalists will be notified on Friday, June 15th.

Your entry must include:

- A brief concept description (maximum 150-words) of your proposal. Clearly state your proposed solution(s). The name(s), contact information, title, and affiliation of the team members.
- All entries must be in English. You may include photographs, diagrams, drawings, renderings, collages or other visualizations to represent your solution(s). Any accompanying text with the image must be in a font size legible when printed at A4 paper size. Each file must be no larger than 5MB.
- Concept descriptions must be emailed to rschatell@vanalen.org by midnight EDT on Wednesday, June 13th, 2018. 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 rights. 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 archival, advertising, promotion, exhibition, print publication and internet communication purposes. 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. Unless Van Alen agrees otherwise, or one month has passed since the last day of the deliberations of the judging panel, entrants shall not publish entries, or promote their participation in the competition, until Van Alen has had the first opportunity to make publication, in its sole discretion.

About

Van Alen Institute is a nonprofit design organization in New York City that brings more than 124 years of experience organizing design competitions, cross-disciplinary research projects, 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 Delancey, Grand & Essex Streets Charrette is part of the Van Alen Spring Festival, *FLOW! Getting Around the Changing City*, and presented in partnership with New Design High School.

This program is made possible through our Program Leadership Council, co-chaired by Andy Bernheimer (Bernheimer Architecture), Katherine Chia (Desai Chia Architecture), Sara Grant (Murphy Burnham and Buttrick

Architects), Stephan Jaklitsch (Jaklitsch/Gardner Architects), and Joel Sanders (Joel Sanders Architect).

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