

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS



INTERVENTION

A COMPETITION TO MAKE YOUR CITY FROM THE OUTSIDE IN

**VAN
ALEN
INSTITUTE**



Public Plaza in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada. Nick Stanley, Flickr

INTERVENTION

More and more people are taking to the streets to create flexible, short-term design interventions. From open streets to play-streets, chair bombing to guerilla gardening, citizen-led design interventions have filled the gap in addressing local urban planning challenges. Swift, flexible, often experimental, these short-term neighborhood level projects have shifted the paradigm of how we think about city-making, project development, and resource distribution. Many have gone from temporary to permanent -- ultimately advancing a community's long-term goals. What type of DIY urbanism would help solve an issue in your neighborhood and bring about permanent change?

For this year's 2018 Fall Festival one-day Flash Competition, City-Making from the Outside In: Intervention, Van Alen Institute takes cues from our recently launched Product Placed, a new series of design competitions aimed at helping cities effectively design and use civic products that improve urban life. We invite interdisciplinary teams to design playful, site specific, temporary design interventions from street-furniture to infrastructural changes that can be executed with local partners to make your neighborhood more livable. The winning team will be awarded \$1,000 and finalist teams will receive \$200 each.

***PROPOSAL DEADLINE AT 12 P.M. NOON, FRIDAY OCTOBER 26
SUBMIT TO COMPETITIONS@VANALEN.ORG***

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Identify an issue in your community to address through a small-scale temporary design solution. Your solution should be cheap, site-specific, scalable and implementable, fulfill a temporary need and have the design capacity to become permanent. **You must propose a local community group or organization with which to hypothetically partner in order to facilitate your design's implementation.** Include approaches, strategies, and methods for community engagement that could lead to the development of a permanent solution.

- A two-page PDF with a concept description (maximum 150 words) of your proposal and two images of your proposal in its site context. Clearly state your proposed solution(s). Include the names, contact information, title, and affiliation of the team members. Entries greater than two pages or with more than two images will not be considered.
- Your team must be multidisciplinary and should include at least one professional working in architecture, urban planning, landscape design, or infrastructure engineering. *A representative from your proposal's identified community-based group is not required but is encouraged.*
- To participate, you must be part of a team of two to four members; individuals may not participate alone.
- Each team is permitted only one submission.



Steve Rhods, Flickr

- All entries must be in English. Your images can be photographs, diagrams, drawings, renderings, collages, or other visualizations to represent your solution(s). Your two-page PDF file must be no larger than 5MB.
- Submit design proposals to competitions@vanalen.org with a team name and "2018 Flash" in the subject line by **12 p.m. noon, Friday, October 26, 2018**. Entrants will receive a confirmation that their proposals were received.
- 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 Saturday, November 3.

Failure to comply with any of these submission requirements will result in immediate disqualification.



Gerry Lauzon, Flickr

THOUGHTS AND QUESTIONS TO GET YOU STARTED

- How can small-scale interventions transform and improve quality of life?
- How can design bring attention to and address community needs?
- How can individuals on a local level help support a sense of community and identity?

Low-cost temporary design interventions like filling in a crumbling wall or pothole with colorful Lego pieces can bring attention to much-needed infrastructure repairs. Depaving an unused paved surface into greenspace can help relieve storm water run-off while also connecting people to nature. Building informal seating into sidewalk-shed scaffolding can activate a bleak underutilized streetscape and increase community space.

What does your community need, and how can you and your community help?

- How does your temporary design intervention address and improve a local planning challenge in your neighborhood?

- What type of materials do you need to pull off your temporary intervention?
- What local organization or community group would you partner with to facilitate a more effective and scalable design intervention?
- How would you involve your neighbors and build capacity for change within your community?
- How is your intervention funded?
- How can your intervention transition to permanence?



*Crowdus Park Pop-Up in Dallas, TX
Steve Rainwater, Flickr*

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- Clearly communicates key existing conditions of the chosen site, the people affected, the infrastructural or design need, the urban context, and how the proposal will capitalize on community resources and existing physical spaces.
- Responds resourcefully to a local neighborhood-planning issue or problem with a low-tech, feasible, and affordable solution.
- 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 community members, local organizations, or community-based groups.
- Demonstrates interdisciplinary thinking and collaboration among team members from different fields of expertise.



Billie Grace Ward, Flickr

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.



Walrarrrrr, Flickr

SCHEDULE: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3

- 12:00pm - 4:00pm:** Teams will further develop their proposals and create a model and PDF presentation, including images of the site they are focusing on, to present before a jury and public audience. Presentations will be shown on screen. Lunch will be provided; teams must bring their Michaels materials and their own computer(s) for research and necessary image creation.
- 4:00pm - 4:30pm:** Break and mingle.
- 4:30pm - 5:30pm:** Judges will be introduced and teams will have five minutes to present their model and proposal to a public audience. Judges will respond with questions and comments.
- 5:30pm - 6:00pm:** As the jury privately determines the winning proposal, attendees will be invited to discuss ideas with the competition teams.
- 6:00pm:** The winner will be announced. The selected team will receive a \$1,000 prize.



Jamie McCaffrey, Flickr



Pride Crosswalk, Washington D.C. Ted Eytan, Flickr

HOW THE COMPETITION WORKS:

On **October 29**, four finalist teams will be notified and invited to participate in a design-build charrette on **Saturday, November 3, 12 p.m.** at Van Alen Institute.

Teams will be asked to come to Van Alen between Oct. 30 and Nov. 2 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. to pick up a \$150 Michaels gift card to buy materials for the design-build to be held on Nov 3. **You are only allowed to build your model with materials purchased with the gift card.** Please arrive to the design-build with your materials and provide a receipt of your purchase. We will supply the scissors, glue, and tape.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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.

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 Intervention charrette is part of the Van Alen Fall Festival, *City-Making from the Outside In*.

This program is made possible through our Program Leadership Council, co-chaired by Andy Bernheimer (Bernheimer Architecture), Sara Grant (Murphy Burnham & Buttrick Architects), Matthew Moss (Think Construction), and Joel Sanders (Joel Sanders Architect).

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Mr & Mrs Apteryx australis, Flickr



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200,000 pink resin balls are strung across and down of Montreal's Gay Village during the summer when the street is pedestrianized. Eric Sehr, Wikipedia