ABOUT

As stewards of Detroit’s UNESCO City of Design designation, Design Core Detroit debuted the first edition of the Detroit City of Design Competition during Detroit Month of Design in September 2019.

The Detroit City of Design Competition is 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 was to design and test creative, innovative design solutions that make it easier for all Detroiter to move freely, safely, and efficiently around their communities.

Each winning team received $20,000 for the design and implementation of the prototype. Delayed for a year due to COVID, the works were finally installed in the community in Summer 2021.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERS

Design Core Partnered with three Detroit neighborhoods to identify sites where the works would be installed for testing with local residents:

HOPE VILLAGE REVITALIZATION
GRANDMONT ROSEDALE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
SOUTHWEST DETROIT BUSINESS ASSOCIATION
JURY

An international jury was invited to review and nominate three winners based on creative merit, appropriateness of solution for location, feasibility and value for cost. The jury included:

ANDRE CLEMONS
WW Consumer Goods & Retail Industry Solution Technical Senior Manager, Dassault Systemes

BEVERLY FREDRICK
Community Representative, Grandmont Rosedale Development Corporation

CAITLIN MALLOY-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

DR. ERWIN VIRAY
Head of Pillar for Architecture and Sustainable Design at the Singapore University of Technology and Design

SUBMISSIONS

37 design teams submitted from 6 countries including:
TURIN, ITALY
MONTREAL, CANADA
SAINT-ETIENNE, FRANCE
GRAZ, AUSTRIA
BILBAO, SPAIN
DETROIT, MICHIGAN, USA
DEBUT AT BEACON PARK + CITY CYPhER

Design Core partnered with Beacon Park Foundation to debut the three installations at Beacon Park during the Detroit Month of Design. This allowed for the public to engage with the installations and draw traffic to a park located near downtown. More than 20 delegates from the UNESCO Creative Cities Network also visited the prototypes in Detroit during their annual meeting.

Detroit Month of Design culminated with City Cypher, a celebration of the three neighborhoods featured in the competition. The event featured entertainment from the three neighborhoods that included, music, spoken word, dance, food trucks and more.

Free shuttles were provided to and from the neighborhoods to the park, making it accessible for neighborhood residents to get downtown.

Prototypes were on view from September 22-October 13, 2019.
WINNERS

GARDEN NOVELLA BY OTHERWORK - SOUTHWEST DETROIT

ABOUT: Garden Novella is a platform to express cultural, collective, and individual identity, weaving together stories from Southwest Detroit residents. These vessels serve as a welcoming gateway guiding visitors through a series of stories. Sun powered lanterns, hanging gardens, seating, and the sounds of stories create an interactive place and connections to the cultural network, relating virtual space to geography.

HOW IT WORKS: Walk through each passage and listen to the stories that activate along the way. These stories express the double consciousness of a bilingual immigrant community and connect generations to repair damage done by repatriation.

USER FEEDBACK:
“The installation is real pretty, vibrant like the community”
“It looks great here and I can see it being updated with new stories; like a community member storyboard”
“I appreciate how it runs on solar power”
CYCLERATE BY SMITHGROUP - HOPE VILLAGE

ABOUT: Cyclerate aims to help enhance public safety through unity, lighting, communication, and play. The installation encourages the community to team up to provide the combined physical effort needed to illuminate the structure.

HOW IT WORKS: Engage in a friendly competition to identify who can produce the greatest power output on the cycles. Expect to be surprised by the power produced through real-time statistics.

USER FEEDBACK:
“Great exercises for you arms”
“It’s funny and educational”
“I like the lights and surprise”
ABOUT: 3Rooms consists of three spaces intimately linked to the world of the house, conveying a sense of belonging and celebrating the beauty of living together. The spaces include "Le Jardin", (The Garden) where the community is invited to participate in agriculture, "Le Boudoir" for readers or anyone who wants a rest in the shade of fruit trees, and "The Hut" that for anyone looking to be a little more playful. Each module lights up in the evening with a soft glow, like a fireplace, in the middle of the neighborhood.

HOW IT WORKS: 3Rooms is a safe cocoon for improvised gatherings. The community is invited to participate in agriculture, rest in the shade, read a book or bring their kids to play.

USER FEEDBACK:
'I like the concept of public art, flowers and a place to lay and read.'

'Brings vibrancy and a fun concept to community'

'Close to home'