THE PACKAGE | Deployable Communities Design Charrette

Dates:

October 11, 2019 @ 6 PM – Charrette Kick-Off Panel Discussion | Participants Attend

October 12, 2019 @ 8 AM – Charrette Day | Participants May Employ Ideas from Panel Discussion

Panel Discussion + Charrette Location: Sawyer Yards Arts District @ Love Dance Studio. | 2206 Edwards St, Suite B, Houston, TX 77007. Free parking + food and beverage provided.

Challenge: Teams are challenged to find design solutions that will provide alternate living options to current homeless encampments.

*No Fee to Participate. Registration Deadline 10.10.19

Design Charrette Guidelines:

1. Participation is not limited to pre-formed groups. Individuals wishing to participate will be grouped with attending participants.
2. Participants are expected to attend the kickoff panel discussion to learn more about the current state of homelessness in Houston as well as information regarding the advocacy of affordable housing as a parallel to homelessness.
3. The intent is to develop the spaces so as to give people choice over preferring to live in existing encampments.
4. Design must provide a central element (defined as the nucleus) that ties their proposed corresponding support spaces together. Physical or philosophical.
5. Design must be mobile in nature; team is expected to describe how structures may be transported from one place to another.
6. Utilize materials that are robust in nature. Note: primary framing members are to be imagined as steel due to robustness and light-weight transport considerations.
7. Teams should propose a design program overviewing the different components / attributes of their conceptual Deployable Communities (i.e. teams may suggest things such as classrooms, etc.).
8. Sketch pads and markers will be provided to teams for their use, but please bring your laptops or preferred media to develop designs.
9. Teams should use their allocated time efficiently. On charrette day, teams will have from 8 am to 2 pm to brainstorm and package their final designs to be presented to a panel of judges. The charrette will finish promptly at 2 pm with presentations to judges by 3 pm. Designs are to be presented through either physical sketches or digitally. Power sources will be available and the use of personal laptops is encouraged.
10. Audio/Visual will be provided for the jury presentation portion.
11. A reception announcing the judge’s results and commentary will be from from 5 pm to 8 pm on October 12, 2019. Design teams are should plan to attend this.
Site:

Initial meetings for the development of the Deployable Communities design charrette originally looked at an area of Houston where one of the largest homeless encampments exists (see Figure 1). The intersection of Commerce Street and Chartres, adjacent to the homeless encampment, also includes a large vacant lot that may be used by the participating teams to site their designs. However, teams are welcomed to provide site propositions in any area of greater Houston.

Figure 1. Suggested Site

Site Address is adjacent to 2001 Commerce St.; Houston, 77003
Deployable COMMUNITIES

The AIA Houston Associate Network & The American Institute of Steel Construction invite individuals & teams to participate in a design charrette Oct 11–12, 2019 focused on designing quality modular and mobile communities that can be deployed to combat homelessness and to respond to natural disasters. Visit www.aiahouston.org events calendar to sign up.
Understanding the value of interpersonal relationships within the fabric of our cities helps us plan for more vibrant, safe, and healthy environments. Also critical is to understand the socio-economic impact that comes along with development, as most of our cities are experiencing high levels of growth. While this may be marked improvement for some, others may be experiencing displacement and, more specifically, homelessness. It is understood that several social factors contribute to this; however, it is undeniable that there is a role that can be played by design. We can accept this as an urban crisis and begin contribution and remediation through a perceptive design approach. AISC and AIA Houston Associate Network are introducing the Deployable Communities Design Charrette that will facilitate solutions generated through Houston’s design community.
Inspiration

Nucleus. The center of everything. As humans, we are social beings and communal in nature. Drawing inferences from the floating communities of the Amazon River, which is only one of many floating communities throughout the world, one can appreciate the human desire to join forces, build a nucleus, and help contend with otherwise challenging environments. The center of the nucleus fosters a safety net through the allowance of cooperation, interaction, and communal awareness. In our design approach, we are able to take this organic way of dealing with adversity and further define it in a methodical blueprint for ready-made communities that may be responsibly deployed to core areas of our cities where our homeless populations exist.

Chong Kneas, Tonle Sap, Cambodia
How?

Working with local leadership, religious groups, and government authorities having jurisdiction is critical to the success of deployable communities. The design charrette presents the challenge of how best to derive modular and mobile communities, as well as developing corresponding support programs to be entirely contained within these deployable communities. Working with the stakeholders described above to develop the programs may result in better outcomes. The communities should include basic support facilities such as restrooms and sleeping quarters necessary to accommodate large groups of people and remain deployed in their identified locations for long durations. Participating design teams are challenged to develop an appropriate program from information that is collected through the charrette process and tell the story of how their designs would be implemented in the real world.
Material

The deployable communities are intended to travel from one location to another on an as-needed basis and after one community graduates. Steel structures are seen as robust, viable, and as a resilient option for this, further propelled by the modular and transportable nature it affords. Emphasis can also be given to how this material may react to, or work with, external forces, such as flooding or contending with catastrophic events through the exploration of hybrid compositions. The mobile nature of these communities is intended to have a net-positive effect in regards to the cost-to-impact ratio give the potential for broad reach and re-usability.
Outcome

The idea is that the required resources, such as policing, education, and healthcare, will replace the pseudo-permanent encampments that lack basic support services and thus contribute to crime, sanitation, and health issues. The in-place communities will foster "pride of being" and relationship-building with the residents to the point of appreciative improvement allowing opportunities that create a pathway to work-home economic independence. The communal presence will also help identify those in need of more focused mental health services.

In turn, local government will divert resources that are otherwise associated with cleaning, responding to crime incidents, and mitigating health concerns attributed to a lack of basic services in homeless encampments.
MEET OUR SPEAKERS
Joy Horak-Brown, President and CEO
New Hope Housing, Inc.

As New Hope Housing’s founding president and chief executive officer, Joy is responsible for real estate development, property management, social service programming, fundraising, marketing, public relations and administration. New Hope is a 26-year nonprofit developer of life-stabilizing, affordable, permanent Housing + Services for people coping to survive on limited incomes.

With Joy’s leadership, New Hope Housing has grown from an organization that operated 40 units of apartment housing to one with ~1,200 units at eight properties around Houston. New Hope currently has more than $65MM in real estate under development at two properties. The organization recently opened its first affordable housing property for homeless and at-risk families and its first mixed-use development located on a light rail line.

Committed to cost-efficient, sustainable design, New Hope Housing has developed five LEED certified apartment communities, four of which are LEED Platinum and one is LEED Gold. New Hope is proud to have built Texas’ first green affordable multifamily housing development, which opened in 2010 and established the organization’s green model.

Since inception, New Hope Housing has assisted almost 9,000 people, and has raised ~$160MM in layered, debt-free financing for capital expansions, organization operating funds and resident services. Guided by Joy’s experience and management, New Hope has received numerous prestigious local, national and international awards honoring the organization’s innovative and transformative approach to community change.
Ernesto Luis Maldonado, AIA - GSMA

Ernesto Luis Maldonado is a founding partner of GSMA. As principal of the firm, he has been responsible for both residential and institutional projects, with a specialty in the coordination and integration of buildings and gardens.

After receiving his Masters in Architecture from Rice University, Ernesto worked for firms in Houston and Boston on projects ranging from corporate and multi-family residential to institutional architecture and planning. Ernesto is actively involved in the Houston community, working with Houston-area professional and community groups to solve housing, commercial, and master planning challenges.
Marc Eichenbaum, City of Houston

Marc Eichenbaum serves as the Special Assistant to the Mayor for Homeless Initiatives. Marc is a licensed attorney who specializes in public policy, strategic communications and governmental affairs.

First appointed by Houston Mayor Annise Parker, and subsequently by Mayor Sylvester Turner, Marc manages the City’s involvement in The Way Home, Houston’s nationally recognized homeless housing initiative. Since 2012, The Way Home has housed more than 17,000 homeless individuals, effectively ending veteran homelessness and reducing overall homelessness by 55%. Marc recently created the city’s innovative Public Intoxication Team and handles a variety of behavioral health issues for the Mayor.

Previously, Marc oversaw external affairs for the City’s Housing and Community Development Department – serving as the Department’s spokesperson while overseeing community and legislative relations. In addition to successfully advocating for the passage of over 200 pieces of local legislation, Marc worked on a variety of transformative community revitalization and economic development initiatives that created thousands of jobs and affordable homes.

Marc received a dual B.A. in Government and American Studies from The University of Texas at Austin and a J.D. from South Texas College of Law. He serves on the boards of the Holocaust Museum Houston and Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, as well as leadership committees for the Alley Theatre, Discovery Green, and the Jewish Federation of Houston. From the Texas Senate to the Houston Grand Opera, Marc has received numerous awards and frequently speaks at events across the country.
John Boyles - Magnificat Houses, Inc.

John Boyles has served as Executive Director of Magnificat Houses, Inc., since 2017, leading all operations, finance and development efforts and updating MHI’s strategic vision as the non-profit entered its 50th year of service to the homeless, the hungry, and the mentally ill. Boyles previously served as Director of Business Development and Marketing for Artisan Field, Inc., a major corporate marketing and branding firm. He co-founded the ongoing non-profit enterprise, Saint Basil Coffee, an organic fair trade coffee distributor supporting world Catholic missions, preceded by extensive experience directing international mission projects.

Sparked by volunteering at MHI’s soup kitchen Loaves & Fishes when he was just 13, Boyles has dedicated most of his life to faith and service, including 18 years of diverse pastoral counseling and ministry leadership in parishes within the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. He holds bachelor’s and master degrees from St. Thomas University.
MEET OUR JURY
Filo Castore, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP
Jacobs - Division Vice President, Director of Client Engagement

Filo has more than 20 years of experience in the Houston region, strategically leading teams through complex endeavors, and shaping thriving businesses based on building and cultivating relationships with clients, developers, landlords, designers, engineers, contractors, consultants, and community leaders. As part of the Jacobs Global Built Environment practice, he focuses on growing the Corporate Commercial portfolio by establishing long-lasting relationships with new clients and nurturing existing ones in the Houston and Texas regions.

Filo is part of a connected network of strategists, planners, architects, interior designers, engineers, managers and constructors that provide strategic leadership, design innovation, and project execution, spanning the globe, with over $1.5B in revenue and includes 5,000+ professional staff. Jacobs supports government, commercial, institutional, and industrial clients across diverse markets and services.

Jacobs’ talented experts create exceptional spaces across the world through the creative blending of human need, environmental stewardship, value creation, science, and innovation. Jacobs’ professionals believe that built environments should reflect the context, history, cultures, communities, and the natural environment while incorporating advances in technology. The Built Environment practice has been an integral part of Jacobs core business for over seven decades. Jacobs is ranked No. 1 on Fortune magazine’s 2019 World's Most Admired Companies list in the AEC category.
Pete Dean, P.E.
Pinnacle Structural Engineers, Senior Vice President

Pete Dean is a Senior Vice President at Pinnacle Structural Engineers. As a licensed structural engineer, Pete manages complex building projects across a variety of sectors, including multifamily, affordable housing, and community. Pete is engineer of record on projects that have won Houston Business Journal Landmark awards in three of the last four years, including New Hope Housing’s Harrisburg property.

After graduating from the University of Texas at Austin, Pete took his first engineering position at an architecture/engineering company outside of Philadelphia, PA, close to where he grew up. After moving back to Texas, Pete made the move to his current place of employment in 2011, where he was promoted to principal in early 2019.

Pete is also a recently appointed adjunct professor at the University of Houston, teaching structural engineering concepts to architecture students. When he is not working, Pete is spending time with his wife and two kids, exploring his neighborhood and enjoying Hermann Park and the surrounding museums.
Lenny Enderle  
*Vaughn Construction, Production Manager*

Lenny began his career in the field as a rodman. He joined *Vaughn Construction* in 1990. After 14 years as field engineer and superintendent working on large concrete frame projects, he moved into the office as an estimator. He has been involved with some of the largest and most high-profile projects built by Vaughn. He is especially skilled in planning for concrete frame construction including determination of required formwork, pour sequences, and lifting requirements. He is recognized in the industry as an expert in concrete structures and the use of high fly ash mix designs. As production manager, Lenny is responsible for the entire production of multiple projects, coordinating all activities related to the actual construction performance of projects from inception to final completion. The production department monitors and coordinates with any labor, material procurement or subcontracts necessary for the successful completion of the work. His responsibility includes maintaining customer satisfaction through the job. He spends his time in the field company-wide. His focus is on the execution of self-performed work. He is an asset to our field forces to find the proper way to achieve a difficult task.
Scott Austin Key
Every Shelter, Chief Executive Officer

Scott is the CEO of Every Shelter, a human-centered design non-profit focused on designing, making, and distributing better relief goods to refugees living in camp settings and low-resource urban environments. His work started as a graduate student with the creation of Emergency Floor, a modular, insulated flooring tile designed to get the nearly 12 million refugees living directly in the dirt in camp settings clean, warm floors. Their flooring work is ongoing, based primarily in the Middle East with Syrian refugees and have ongoing projects in Western Africa.

Scott holds a Bachelor of Science in Construction Management from John Brown University and a Masters of Architecture from Rice University. He worked for 5 years as the Director of Product Design for METALAB Studio in Houston, Texas.

Find out more at www.everyshelter.org