



THE DIG STUDIO URBAN GREENING CHALLENGE

ABOUT THE COMPETITION

Streets are host to a broad spectrum of community life, with open air retailers, restaurants, street corner concerts, pop-up parks, and a diverse range of mobility options. Urban streets have become increasingly essential during the COVID-19 pandemic as businesses need to spill out for commerce and circulation. Within these spaces, we must also integrate urban greening and biodiversity in meaningful ways to support human health and resiliency. Through creative interventions and partnerships, urban greening and biodiversity programs can become a 'cohesive system' along our corridors, streetscapes, and adjacent private development to make our urban centers more livable, enjoyable, healthy and resilient.

The Dig Studio Urban Challenge (DSUC) is intended to encourage the exploration of what urban greening might look like at the urban street scale, if money, policy, and regulations were not a limiting factor. Within the arid climates of Colorado and Arizona, what opportunities exist for greening our streets, storefronts and rooftops that we are not capitalizing upon? How can our streets be adapted to today's unique physical distancing environment to accommodate business, entertainment, and socialization within a street greening framework?

DSUC encourages students to explore contemporary urban challenges, so that we might introduce new ideas on how to make our communities more resilient, healthy, green, and economically viable. Dig Studio seeks to advance the practice of landscape architecture through the exploration of ideas to improve our communities.

ELIGIBILITY

The Dig Studio Urban Challenge is open to graduate and undergraduate students currently pursuing landscape architecture degrees in an accredited university program at University of Colorado Denver, Colorado State University, University of Arizona, or Arizona State University, as well as recent graduates (within the last year) with a degree in landscape architecture from any of these universities. Students must provide proof of active enrollment status: scanned copy of their student ID and current course schedule. Recent graduates must provide a scanned copy of their diploma.

GUIDELINES

DSUC participants are challenged to envision an urban street either in Colorado or Arizona, or designed as if it were, that supports greening, physical distancing, human health, community building, and biodiversity. Entry guidelines include:

- I. Find a business or non-profit with an urban street frontage that you can work with or use as a framework for your design. How can you help them to increase indoor / outdoor commerce so that customers are encouraged to patronize and spend time at that business while feeling safe doing so?



II. Provide solutions that are contextually appropriate within spaces that promote safe social interaction and commerce. Designs should be appropriate to the climate, to surrounding historic and cultural context, and to the residents, visitors and workers who use the space. They should be scalable and appropriate for a business, public sector, or non-profit to implement.

III. Increase greening and biodiversity within the street right of way, on the building and roof tops employing any variety of green infrastructure, urban tree canopy, vertical gardens, urban agriculture, and green roofs.

IV. Enhance resiliency of the street right of way by mitigating heat island effect, stormwater cleansing and mitigation, promoting health, supporting biodiversity, and providing food.

V. Site the installation within a mid-scale urban environment (no more than six stories), situated on a street with no more than two travel lanes plus parking, within an active urban environment.

VI. Submissions need not align with currently adopted policies, guidelines, or regulatory documents, but should be within the realm that innovative developers and forward-thinking communities would consider adopting.

VII. Individuals or teams may submit. Team prize will be split among team members.

DELIVERABLES

Use clear, concise language to convey ideas, key points, and design solutions. Photographs, diagrams, renderings, collages or other visualizations are encouraged to help explain the concept, respecting the guidelines previously described. Please label drawings.

Deliverables should include at a minimum a street section, perspective, site plan, and written narrative describing how the solution meets the competition guidelines.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

A REAL SOLUTION

The design must relate to an actual place, according to the guidelines stated above. Include at least one image of the existing conditions.

SUPPORTS SOCIAL INTERACTION AND COMMERCE

The design provides creative ideas about how green streets can support and encourage business operations and commerce during our physical distancing era.



SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCY

The design maximizes positive impacts to the well-being of humans and the natural environment, with creative ideas to help with pandemic issues and challenges. The overall design strategy promotes health and resiliency.

CREATIVITY

The design solution is creative, putting forward new ideas not yet mainstream within the public realm, and yet are within the range of ideas that could be explored for widespread adoption.

AWARDS

1ST PLACE – US\$1,000

The top prize includes two US\$1,000 cash prizes: One CO student winner, and one AZ student winner.

COMPETITION SCHEDULE

Competition Announcement:	May 2020
Applications Due:	June 15, 2020
Design Submission Deadline:	July 31, 2020
Winners Announcement:	August 21, 2020

Note: Dig Studio must receive at least **20 completed entries** to run this competition. If participation does not meet this goal, we will relaunch the competition during the Fall 2020 semester. So apply today and invite your friends to participate!

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Invited participants must return applications to design@digstudio.com by June 15, 2020. A Sharefile link will be sent upon receipt of valid applications, and competition materials must be uploaded to your Sharefile link no later than July 31, 2020 (23:00 GMT).

Written questions will be accepted until June 23, 2020, and a Q&A response will be issued to all entrants by June 30.

Guidelines for the submission:

Formatting:

- Competitors are invited students from Universities in Colorado and Arizona.



- File must be saved as a PDF and named as follows: “2020_(your name)_(design concept name).pdf”
- File must not exceed four (4) single-sided, 11-inch x 17-inch, landscape-oriented pages.
- File size must not exceed 50MB

Mandatory Content:

- Title of design concept.
- Description of design concept (400-word maximum).
- Supporting images to include diagrams, plans, sections, and/or perspectives.
- No personal identification or university information is to be included within the competition entry.
- In a separate PDF, include photocopies of all student IDs (or other proof of school registration).

JURY

DSUC will be judged by a CO panel and an AZ panel, which may be comprised of the Dig Studio Principal team, developers, architects, engineers, City representatives, Downtown Denver Partnership, and representatives from CU / CSU / ASU / UofA. The jury will select three finalists, and one winning entry from CO, and one winning entry from AZ.

Awards will be determined at the discretion of the Jury and Dig Studio.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

The winning entries may become public knowledge, and Dig Studio reserves rights to share information provided in competition entries for uses including but not limited to publication, promotion, or conveying ideas. In any instance competition materials are shared in such a manner, students will be credited for their work. Dig Studio will not represent any competition entry as work completed by the firm. Upon application, the student(s) agree(s) to these terms of use.

Dig Studio intends to submit the winning entries for publication, recognizing the winning student(s) for the work. The student agrees that competition entries may be published and that their name will be associated with any materials shared with the media.

Dig Studio does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, ethnicity, or sexual orientation.