

Student Ideas Competition: Environmental Health Equity

The Brief:

The Pittsburgh Platform in collaboration with Chalmers University and Carnegie Mellon University launches an Ideas Competition for students within in the fields of architecture and urban planning to submit proposals on how to ensure environmental health equity. Students must form interdisciplinary teams together with students within economics, social science, environmental and public health, or other relevant fields.

This call for ideas aims to push the envelope on how to establish environmental health equity and bring environmental health equity into the center of debate on city planning. For too long poor communities have been situated in unhealthier and more hazardous living environments than more wealthy communities. The current Covid-19 pandemic is both revealing and worsening existing health inequities and bring to light new ones. Recent studies show for instance that there is a direct relation between air quality and Covid-19 as well as a direct link between Covid-19 cases and poorer communities as well as the black population.

Pandemics or other kind of crises are likely to be the new normal as loss of biodiversity, climate change, and wildlife encroachment become even more intense. While Covid-19 has accentuated the fault lines regarding environmental health inequities, it is also important to realize that environmental health inequities were already present, for instance in relation to a lack of access to green areas with significant impact on health through reduced physical activity. These pressures, along with the litany of legacy and current environmental pollution problems make the need for international dialogue, as well as global response to these inter-connected problems, even more critical.

In line with the UN Global Goals we believe everyone has an equal right to live in a healthy environment and with this open call for ideas, we aim to bring together the best student teams to formulate new innovative spatial solutions to ensure environmental health equity.

Think big, think beyond.

The Description:

We invite multidisciplinary student teams of 3 – 5 students with a minimum of 3 disciplines and led by architecture and urban planning students to participate in the open student competition to formulate new innovative solutions to establish Environmental Health Equity. We believe Environmental Health Equity is essential for our common future and requires new ways of thinking to improve and develop the built environment in more equitable ways focusing on health.

We would like to challenge you to present out of the box solutions that push the envelope while striking a balance between originality, innovation, and achievability. The proposals are required to focus on the design of urban form (i.e. the physical characteristics that make up built-up areas) and/or institutions (i.e. formal and informal rules and norms in society) and urban form), from redesigning homes to shared public space. We are interested in new ideas how solutions such as tax reforms benefiting the most exposed communities, new technologies and social models can inform spatial design.

The proposal needs to be supported by factual data and evidence to make your case and convince us of the impact your idea might have.

The Facts:

Announcement: October 22, 2020

Submission: December 4, 2020

Winners announced: December 18, 2020

Language: English

Location: Concept

Prizes: a total price money of \$ 5000

Type: student ideas competition

Proposals to be submitted on December 4th at noon (ET) to:

competition@pghplatform.org

Questions to be send to:

competition@pghplatform.org

The Format:

This competition is a student ideas competition. The proposal is required to be submitted in pdf format and can not exceed the limitations set for text and visualizations as well as a 5MB maximum file size.

The proposal is anonymous and should have a clear title and short abbreviation on all pages and is required to include:

- **One pdf A4/letter page with the title, names of participants and contact information (this page will be removed before review by the jury)**

And one separate pdf with:

- **One A4/letter page with a title with subtitle that describes the submission concept and a < 500-word description of the participants definition of environmental health equity and how the proposed concept reaches this**
- **One A4/letter page with illustration(s) to explain and strengthen the concept**
- **One A4/letter page that includes a < 250-word description of the team**

The Criteria:

An international jury will select 5 winning teams following the criteria:

- **Originality and vision**
- **Implementation of the strategy into spatial design**
- **Quality of the evidence-based design**
- **Integration of the disciplines represented in the team**

The Jury:

Rahel Belatchew Founder and Chief Architect Belatchew

Meta Berghauer Pont Associate Professor, Architecture and Civil Engineering, Urban Design and Planning, Spatial Morphology Research Group at Chalmers University, Sweden

Erica Cochran Hameen Assistant Professor CMU, USA

Åsa Gren – Researcher at the Beijer Institute of Ecological Economics, The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm, Sweden

Rebecca Kiernan Principal Resilience Planner City of Pittsburgh, Department of City Planning

Justin Garrett Moore – AICP, NOMA, Transdisciplinary designer and urbanist, New York, USA

Esther Obonyo Global Building Network Director at Penn State University

Chairman:

Sander Schuur Architect, Creative Director and Founding Partner of sthlmnyc

The Prices:

There is a total price money of \$ 5 000 to be divided by three price winners. The competition will list two honorable mentions.

The winning competition submissions will be published on the competition's website.

The winning proposals and honorable mentions can, when relevant and agreed upon, be further developed in the spring studios at CMU and Chalmers.

For more information please visit: pittsburghplatform.org/competition

The Partners:

We are proud and thankful to partner with:

THE HEINZ ENDOWMENTS

HOWARD HEINZ ENDOWMENT
VIRA I. HEINZ ENDOWMENT

The Heinz Endowments

The Heinz Endowments seeks to help our region thrive as a whole and just community, and through that work to model solutions to major national and global challenges. Based in Pittsburgh, we concentrate on advancing a sustainable future for our community and planet, successful learning outcomes for young people and their families, and a culture of engaged creativity for all our citizens.



Chalmers [SMoG]

The Spatial Morphology Group is engaged in urban research within the fields of urban morphology, space syntax and design theory. The focus is on the city's form and spatial structure and its impact on human behaviour but also on urban processes such as segregation, local markets and ecosystems.

Carnegie Mellon University

Carnegie Mellon University

The School of Architecture provides deep immersion in the discipline of architecture, intensified by the broader Carnegie Mellon culture of interdisciplinary innovation and creative inquiry.



The collaborators:

We are proud and thankful to collaborate with:

