

2016-17
CONNECT:
FREE PLAY

A POST-SECONDARY
DESIGN COMPETITION

PRESENTED BY



Design Exchange, in partnership with the Government of Ontario, announces the fifth annual Connect Post-Secondary Design Competition.

This provincial, post-secondary design competition seeks to explore design that is accessible to the greatest number of people, to the largest extent possible, regardless of their age or ability, across all design disciplines.

**EXPLORE
DESIGN
THAT IS
ACCESSIBLE
TO THE
GREATEST
NUMBER OF
PEOPLE**

THE CONCEPT

This year, students studying in all design disciplines are invited to submit proposals that demonstrate how existing public spaces in Ontario can be re-designed to be accessible to the greatest number of individuals.

As a starting point, students should consider the requirements of:

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act

The accessibility standard for the Design of Public Spaces.

Universal Design Principles

These mandatory requirements impact areas such as **exterior sidewalks and walkways, outdoor public eating areas and play spaces, accessible parking, waiting areas and service counters.** Students must consider how to design a positive experience for the greatest number of people possible.

ELIGIBILITY

Participation is open to all currently enrolled students studying design (industrial, architecture, graphic, digital, interior, landscape) at the undergraduate and graduate levels in Ontario in a college or university program.

All submitted projects must have been completed during the student's 2016-17 course of study in an Ontario, undergraduate or graduate design program.

Projects may be completed independently or as course work, and **group and individual projects are eligible for entry.**



**ENTRIES
MUST BE
RECEIVED BY
MIDNIGHT
ON WED,
APR 12,
2017.**

Late entries will not be accepted.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- A completed competition registration form, available at **dx.org/connect**
- A one-page concept statement that includes:
 - Entrant name, mailing address, school, and program
 - Summary of the design concept, its objectives, and description of how the project addresses the competition theme (no less than 150 words, no more than 500 words)
- A minimum of three (3) or maximum of five (5) full-colour sketches or renderings of the proposal submitted as a single PDF at 72 dpi

Design Exchange will only accept digital submissions sent to connect@dx.org.

Any questions should be directed to the Competition Coordinator at: **connect@dx.org or 416.216.2137.**

EVALUATION

A panel of experts from the design community, selected by Design Exchange, will review all valid entries. Jurors will select the best projects based on the following key criteria:

IMPACT

The project is designed in a way that is usable by the greatest number of people, to the largest extent possible, regardless of their age or ability.

CREATIVITY

Unique and innovative design concept.

PRESENTATION

Well-executed renderings and clearly identified project documents.

UNDERSTANDING

Clear and concise project statement.

REALIZATION

The goals of universal design are addressed and the project can be implemented.

The jury's decision is final.

PRIZES

Winning projects will be awarded monetary prizes of up to \$1,500

Certificates of Accomplishment will be presented to all winning and honourable mentions

Winning and honourable mention projects will be featured in the Connect: Free Play Post-Secondary Design Competition Exhibition in May 2017 at Design Exchange

Winning and honourable mention projects will be featured on DX.ORG

Winning and honourable mention projects will be included in the Connect: Free Play Post-Secondary Design Competition online resource

An opportunity to be a featured DX Design Educator, developing an accessibility-related design workshop drawing from the winning proposal to be offered as a DX Education program.

DATES TO REMEMBER

APR
12

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

To be considered by the jury, all student registration forms and entries must be submitted before April 12, 2017.

APR
29

JURY SESSION

A jury of design professionals will judge entries based on evaluation guidelines.

MAY
11

CONNECT OPENING

Winners for each category will be emailed. Due to the high volume of entries, Design Exchange is unable to contact entrants who have not won.

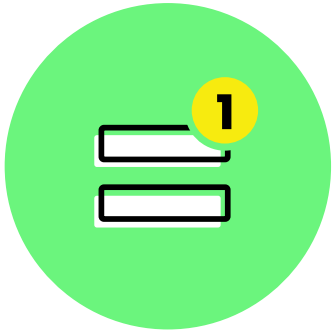
QUESTIONS?

Contact connect@dx.org

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

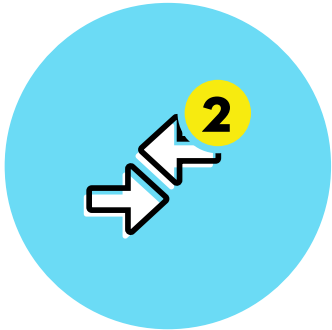
THE 7 UNIVERSAL

DESIGN PRINCIPLES



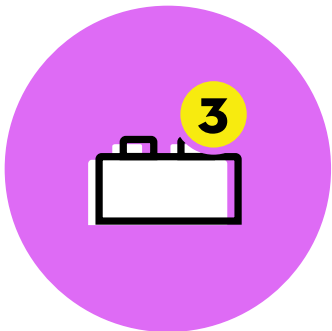
EQUITABLE USE

The design is useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities.



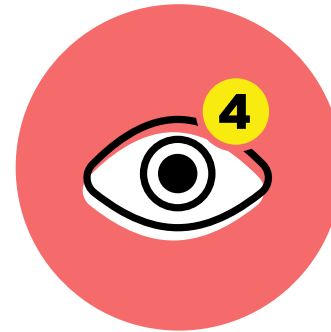
FLEXIBILITY IN USE

The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.



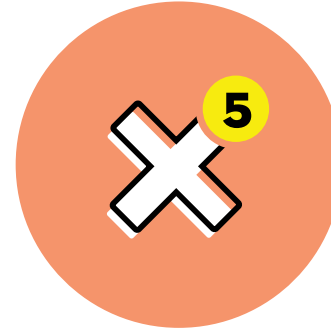
SIMPLE AND INTUITIVE USE

Use of the design is easy to understand, regardless of the user's experience, knowledge, language skills, or current concentration level.



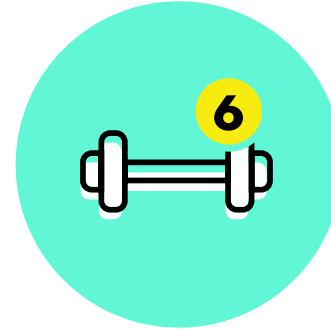
PERCEPTIBLE INFORMATION

The design communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or the user's sensory abilities.



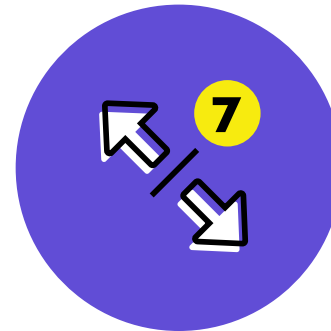
TOLERANCE FOR ERROR

The design minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions.



LOW PHYSICAL EFFORT

The design can be used efficiently and comfortably with minimal fatigue.



SIZE AND SPACE

Appropriate size and space is provided for approach, reach, manipulation, and use regardless of user's body size, posture, or mobility.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY/PRIORITY RIGHTS/RIGHTS OF PUBLICATION

By entering the competition, the entrant: (i) agrees that the Government of Ontario and Design Exchange will have the right to use and/or publish in any medium and for any purpose, without compensation, the submitted design, (ii) certifies and warrants that the submitted design is the entrant's own original work and that the design, including its eventual publication by the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario, and/or Design Exchange, does not and will not infringe any right of any third party, including intellectual property rights and rights of privacy and (iii) agrees that the Government of Ontario and Design Exchange may use either during or at any time following the competition, but in relation to the competition, the name, educational institution and photograph of the entrant without restriction or compensation. Design Exchange and the Government of Ontario reserve the right to suspend, modify, terminate or cancel the Connect: EnAbling Change Post-Secondary Design Competition at any time.

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