

# DESIGN FOR

August 17, 2020

## PRESS RELEASE

### Winners Announced for Newburgh: Design For Play Ideas Competition

The Urban Design Initiative Design For Six Feet is pleased to announce the winners of its ideas competition Newburgh: Design For Play. We had an incredible response to the competition and received over 70 proposals for how to transform Newburgh's streets so that children, young and old, can safely play, learn, socialize and have fun this summer, and beyond. Ideas ranged in scale from individual play elements to systems that would transform entire blocks. Respondents were asked to develop ideas for installations in public space that respect the need for social distancing, while also providing activities for children outdoors. As debates around the re-opening of schools intensify across the country the need to consider physical and mental well-being of children becomes all the more important.

Three winning design teams were chosen by a diverse Jury for their creative response to this challenge. Each team will receive a stipend to develop their idea further. The goal is to implement each design in Newburgh in the next several weeks and find community partners, who can adopt the installations. The Newburgh Armory Unity Center is excited to host one or more of the designs and will work with Design For Six Feet to exhibit all entries. Design For Six Feet is reaching out to additional groups and organizations to host the designs and collaborate in their execution.

## WINNING DESIGNS

**Imagination Pavilion.** Submitted by Starr Whitehouse Landscape Architects and Planners

Imagination Pavilion is a kit of parts to assemble a friendly urban space for creativity. A canopy of umbrellas shades a flexible theater and play space for the child's mind – storytime by day, shadow puppetry by night. The design team welcomes the chance to partner with Newburgh's performing arts educators, librarians, elementary school teachers, and others to develop this concept and discover the programs that will activate Imagination Pavilion.

*"I love this one. I felt that Imagination Pavilion is something that I would want to look at on the street. It's large enough to be impactful within the urban landscape. It would just be beautiful and a nice place to sit." says jury member Gena Wirth of SCAPE Studio and trustee of the Awesome Newburgh Foundation.*

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**makerBoards.** Submitted by downupNY, a Vassar student-led design team

MakerBoards are a series of mobile windows that invite kids and families to co-create while mitigating exposure. From dry-erase art creations, to musical compositions, to something as simple as a game of checkers, makerBoards are a return to imaginative and cooperative play for Newburgh residents of all ages.

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*"I thought this can go in a lot of directions. You can imagine people getting really creative with the form, and coming up with new ideas for different makerboards." says Jury member Leslie Davol, Cofounder of Street Lab, a New York City-based non-profit that provides play and learn experiences for public spaces in New York City. "It defines space and is interactive just walking up to it."*

**PLAY + PAINT.** Submitted by Anoushaé Eirabie, Yaxin Jiang

PAINT & PLAY brings a new meaning to collaborative street art that can be enjoyed anywhere and at any time! It allows the residents of Newburgh to contribute by decorating folded elements that stack and combine into growing sculptures.

*Jury member Russ Vernon of the Newburgh Armory Unity Center was impressed with this project. "It really allows people to express themselves in many different ways. You could see how it could grow in many different shapes and forms. The whole community would want to come back everyday to see how its been added to and what the new art is."*

For additional images of these proposals please visit [www.designforsixfeet.org](http://www.designforsixfeet.org). Images of all 70 submissions will be posted on the website within the next week and will be shared via instagram @designforsixfeet.

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**PARTNERS** This competition was a community effort co-organized by Design For Six Feet, the Awesome Newburgh Foundation, the City of Newburgh, Columbia GSAPP Hudson Valley Initiative, Dept of Small Interventions, The Fullerton Center, and the Newburgh Armory Unity Center. We would like to thank the Williams Legacy Foundation and the J.M. Kaplan Fund for providing key financial support to make this competition possible — and get Newburgh playing again!

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**JURY** A special thank you to our jurors Ali Church (Director of Planning and Development, City of Newburgh), Leslie Davol (Street Lab), Jerome Haferd (Brandt : Haferd and Columbia GSAPP), Ian Haley (Williams Legacy Foundation), Naomi Hersson-Ringskog (Awesome Newburgh Foundation and Dept of Small Interventions), Russ Vernon and Jim McGee (Newburgh Armory Unity Center), and Gena Wirth (Awesome Newburgh Foundation and SCAPE Studio).

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