

CONNECT: ENABLING CHANGE

POST-SECONDARY DESIGN COMPETITION 2014-15

COMPETITION BRIEF

Design Exchange, in partnership with the Government of Ontario, announces the fourth annual *CONNECT: EnAbling Change Post-Secondary Design Competition*, a province-wide, post-secondary competition that 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.

Students are asked to submit projects that illustrate the idea of design for all: **In that the design of products and environments is usable by all people to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation.**

The competition is open to all design disciplines, but in 2014-15, emphasis is on accessibility in design for web and digital platforms. As of January 1, 2014, all Ontario organizations with over 50 employees are required to comply with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 (WCAG) when creating new websites or web content. Students studying interactive design are encouraged to submit work to the competition.

ELIGIBILITY

Participation is open to all currently enrolled college and university students studying design at the undergraduate and graduate levels in Ontario. All submitted projects must have been completed during the student's course of study in an Ontario, undergraduate or graduate design program. Group and individual projects are eligible. Projects may be completed independently or as coursework.

WHY PARTICIPATE?

- Winning projects will be celebrated with prizes of up to \$2,000
- Certificates of Accomplishment will be presented to all winning and honourable mention entries
- Winning and honourable mention projects will be featured in the *CONNECT: EnAbling Change Post-Secondary Design Competition* exhibition in May 2015 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: EnAbling Change Post-Secondary Design Competition* publication

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Complete the online registration form available at dx.org/connect, then submit the items listed below by the deadline: Wednesday, April 1, 2015.

Any questions should be directed to the competition coordinator at 416-216-2138 (toll free 1-855-216-2138) or connect@dx.org.

WHAT TO SUBMIT

- A completed online entry form, available at dx.org/connect
- A one-page concept statement
- The concept statement should summarize the design concept and its objectives as well as describe how the project addresses the competition theme. If submitting digitally, the concept statement should be included as a separate file from the presentation boards.
- A maximum of 3 presentation boards – measuring no more than 24" x 18" (61 cm x 45 cm) in size.
- Physical submissions should be mounted on foam core and should include the student's name(s) and name of the institution on the back of the boards in the bottom right-hand corner. This information should not appear on the front of the boards.
- Digital submissions must be in PDF format at 72 dpi (see below for digital submission process)

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Design entries must be received by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, April 1, 2015. Late entries will not be accepted.

WHERE TO SUBMIT

DIGITAL SUBMISSIONS:

Entries may be sent by email or file transfer service (i.e. WeTransfer, DropBox, etc.) to connect@dx.org. **Please complete the online entry form at dx.org/connect prior to sending your entry.**

MAIL:

CONNECT: EnAbling Change
Post-Secondary Design Competition
Design Exchange
234 Bay Street P.O. Box 18 TD Centre
Toronto, ON M5K 1B2

IN PERSON:

Design Exchange
234 Bay Street (front desk)
Toronto, ON M5K 1B2
MON – FRI 9 a.m. to 5 p.m, SAT – SUN 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

If submitting by mail or in person, please complete the online entry form at dx.org/connect, print a copy and attach it to your entry.

Design Exchange is unable to verify or acknowledge the receipt of entries. If this is a concern, we suggest that the entry be mailed or shipped using a traceable delivery method. Entries will not be returned. Design Exchange and the Government of Ontario are not responsible for lost or damaged entries. For more information contact the competition coordinator at 416-216-2138 (toll free 1-855-216-2138) or connect@dx.org.

JUDGING

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

- 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
- Creative, unique and innovative design
- Well-executed renderings and clearly laid out project boards
- Clear and concise project statement
- The judges may refer to the goals of Universal Design during the judging process (available in the Resources section of the *CONNECT: EnAbling Change* website)

If design entries do not meet appropriate standards, the jury reserves the right not to award prizes. The jury's decision is final. *CONNECT: EnAbling Change Post-Secondary Design Competition* winners will be announced at a reception at Design Exchange in May 2015.

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, Ministry of Community and Social Services 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.

PRESENTED BY:

