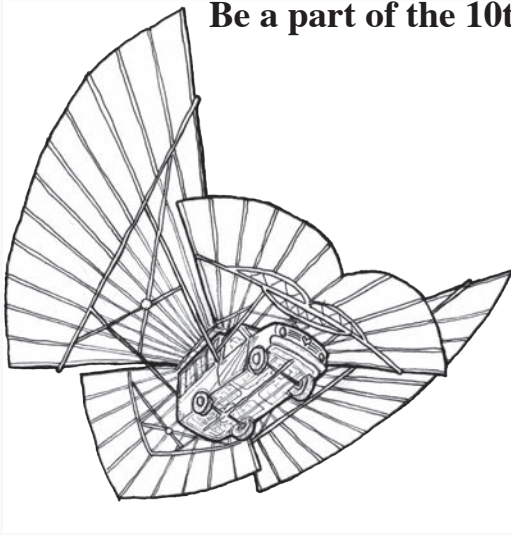


**Be a part of the 10th annual Village Building Convergence!**



## **VBC10 Request for Proposals**

**Due: January 29th, 2010**

This year's **Village Building Convergence (VBC)** theme is **INTERSECTION: Reclaiming the Crossroads**. We want to help you reclaim your own crossroads, to transform the spaces you live, work and play into beautiful meaningful places that will bring people closer and enrich our lives. We call this process "**placemaking**" and we've been helping people do it for 10 years and have built projects in neighborhoods all over Portland!

**This packet offers information about the event and how you and your neighborhood can be involved.**

Whether you are a member of an existing group (such as a school) seeking more community involvement in your project, or an individual who has chatted with your neighbors about building closer community ties, we can help you move forward. There is a statement of interest below, to read over and fill out as you see fit. You're not expected to have any concrete plans at this point, whether you're planning a specific structure or have no idea what to build in your neighborhood, **the placemaking process** is intended to assist your group throughout the process, providing assistance with design, facilitation, coordination, logistics, fund-raising and more.

## **Who We Are**

The non-profit organization, **City Repair**, is an organized group action that educates and inspires communities and individuals to creatively transform the places where they live. City Repair facilitates artistic and ecologically-oriented placemaking through projects that honor the interconnection of human communities and the natural world. The many projects of City Repair have been accomplished by a mostly volunteer staff and thousands of volunteer citizen activists.

The **Village Building Convergence** is the largest annual project of City Repair, and is now in it's tenth year! Each year, through a massive volunteer effort and diverse partnerships between neighborhoods, schools, government agencies, businesses, organizations and individuals, the VBC is a statement of our combined dedication to **create the world in which we want to be living**. At its root, the VBC is about actively **building our community**, and realizing the strength and beauty of our power when we work and play together. By building a physical and social village infrastructure we are realizing our common visions for a lively and sustainable urban community.

## Village Building Convergence 2010

INTERSECTION:  
Reclaiming the Crossroads

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL



## City Repair:

PO Box 42615, Portland OR 97242  
vbc@cityrepair.org (503) 235-8946

The **VBC** is a 10-day event from **Friday, May 28th – Sunday, June 6th, 2010** in which neighborhoods activate to build shared public places and eco-oriented projects that they have envisioned, designed, funded, and will maintain for themselves. VBC10 will include hands-on education in permaculture design and construction, ecological building, and public art! All projects are built through collaboration, community conversations and commitment of a neighborhood to strengthen itself. Projects are founded on developing strong local relationships, social capital and equity, placemaking, ecological design, supporting our local economy, and developing our city and bioregion as a network of interconnected **Village Centers**. Everyone is invited to attend evening events at a central location, to participate in workshops or listen to visionaries speak about various aspects of sustainable culture.

VBC will feature many projects located in or adjacent to the public right of way, and private projects that support community, in various neighborhoods. Private site projects will be structures or systems that are built by and available to the communities concerned with that site, and hopefully available to some extent to the larger community. These will include public squares and meeting houses, community kiosks and benches, solar-powered and artistic innovations, and many other new ideas. Each project is initiated and managed by neighborhood groups with support from the **VBC Placemaking Committee**. The Placemaking coordinators will help neighborhoods facilitate and coordinate the outreach/public involvement process, community decision-making and design workshops, and the permit process with the City.

## Potential Project Ideas:

- Benches •Sculptures •Multi-functional spaces •Alternative energies Murals •Art installations with recycled and reclaimed materials
- Depaving •Eco-roofs •Meditation area •Backyard sharing •Teahouses •Water catchment systems •Intersection repair •Cob structures
- Solar installations •Bioswales •Outdoor classrooms •Mosaic work •Permaculture gardens •Cob saunas •Community gardens
- Kiosks •Ecological building •Planterboxes •Creative solutions to issues your neighborhood is facing • Gathering spaces
- Straw-bale structures •Memorial •Park repair •Street painting •Community theater •Composting toilets
- Inter-organizational community collaborations in new parts of the city •Brownfield bioremediation...

## How It Works

•**The Placemaking Committee** will work with your community group throughout the spring, culminating in a design for your project, which will be implemented during VBC (late May). We will help neighborhoods facilitate and coordinate the outreach / public involvement process, community decision-making and design workshops, grantwriting, the permit process with the City, and partnership building. Though we will work very closely with you, all site groups are responsible for their projects from start to finish, which includes fundraising, building, publicizing, and ongoing maintenance of the project.

•**Include as many as possible of the people who might use your “place.”** Many successful neighborhood projects begin with a few inspired individuals. The key to any community project, however, is to shift that inspiration to a whole community and involve all of the stakeholders throughout the whole process. We realize that this initial statement of interest will be submitted by those first few inspired individuals, so please do your best to express your own interest and ideas as well as those which you think your neighborhood would appreciate.

•**We welcome folks who are new to placemaking.** As you read through the questions below, feel free to skip over the ones that are not relevant. Some groups start out further along in the process, and have already connected with possible funders, etc. Where ever you are in the process is fine.

**Village Building Convergence 2010**  
INTERSECTION:  
Reclaiming the Crossroads

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**



**City Repair:**  
PO Box 42615, Portland OR 97242  
vbc@cityrepair.org (503) 235-8946

## Save the Date

**Project Proposal Deadline – January 29th, 2010 (*call or email before this date*).**

Please email the proposal to [vbc@cityrepair.org](mailto:vbc@cityrepair.org), or drop it off at the City Repair Office (1131 SE Oak St.) by 5:00pm or mail to: PO Box 42615, Portland, OR 97242 (postmarked by January 29th 2010).

**Host your initial community potluck – *By the week of Jan 24 (more information below)*.**

**Vision Sharing – *Groups come together with VBC10 Organizers on February 4th 2010; 6:30 – 8:30pm at the City Repair Office***

**Weekly Site Meetings – *Convene February 9th- May 24th***

## **Village Building Convergence: May 28th - June 6th, 2010!!!**

In order to master the placemaking process, we strongly encourage sites to meet weekly from February through May. Please pick a consistent time (and ideally place) for these meetings, as consistency in meeting time makes it much more likely that others will remember to attend. We ask that you not meet on Thursday nights (more explanation below). We have an agenda for each week, Feb - May, that is designed to carry you successfully through the placemaking process, and result in just the right project for your site during VBC.

We will be holding training meetings most Thursday nights at our office at 1311 SE Oak St. If your site is lucky enough to have someone willing and able to go to two meetings a week, then we welcome their participation. We can give them all the information they need to bring back to your site's weekly meeting. As soon as you know someone from your site who may be interested, please let us know. We have an introductory packet we'd like to give them.

## **Organize a Neighborhood Potluck**

The whole point of the placemaking process is to strengthen the community that you live or work in. Holding an open potluck is an excellent way to start building community and casually converse about what might strengthen your community even more. We've noticed that community sites that begin the season with a friendly potluck are generally more successful in the long run. For neighborhood projects, this usually means inviting the folks living in roughly a 2-block radius. For churches or schools, you probably already have a good way to make announcements like this -- but we encourage you to reach out to all possible participants. We also have a 5-minute video available for you to share, but we suggest that the event be mostly socializing (with a sign up sheet, to gather names of people that would like to be involved in a project). If you want, we have invitations that you can use to invite everyone that might want to be included (please email us for an original of the quarter-sheet invitations). This is a very strongly recommended step, as the strength of your community is so closely tied to the success of your VBC project.

**Village Building Convergence 2010**

**INTERSECTION:**  
Reclaiming the Crossroads

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**



**City Repair:**

PO Box 42615, Portland OR 97242  
vbc@cityrepair.org (503) 235-8946

## VBC10 Declaration of Interest:

This questionnaire is for neighborhood groups or individuals interested in becoming a VBC10 project site. **Please respond to the following questions by January 29, 2010.** Email to: vbc@cityrepair.org, or Mail to: The City Repair Project, PO Box 42615, Portland, Oregon 97242.

1. What is your knowledge and involvement with City Repair projects?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Please list names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of your core group of leaders (at least 3 people). How do you think each of these individuals will be personally involved (potential role, time commitment, skills offered, etc.)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Describe your general vision for this project. How will your project benefit the neighborhood socially, ecologically, and economically?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Where is the potential site located? Describe the project site and immediate neighborhood. What are the unique qualities of this area (for example, a nearby park, school, traffic island, businesses or unusual street configuration)? Describe the current street life.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Do you have a sense of the costs and needs? How do you intend to fund your project? Do you have support of local businesses, sources of materials, or people skilled at fund raising in your group?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. To what extent are other neighbors already involved in this vision? Do you already have support from your neighborhood association? Please include any letters of support.



7. What is the demographic mixture among neighbors near the potential site (age, culture, ethnicity, economic or other diverse life experiences)? Describe the existing relationships in the neighborhood. Is there currently a sense of local culture? How do you see this being cultivated by this project?
8. What do you see as the biggest strengths among your community relevant to this process?
9. Do you foresee any potential challenges?
10. Do you or your neighbors have specific strengths/skills that pertain to this project that we should know about (for example: architecture/design, building, permaculture, facilitating, consensus, teaching etc.)?
11. Would you be interested in attending trainings on nonviolent communication, consensus, how to effectively facilitate meetings, and effective communication strategies?
12. How would you like involvement/assistance from VBC organizers in this process? Where do you see needing the most support in completing this project (materials, volunteers, training)? Do you understand the roles and responsibilities of you as the neighborhood group and of us as the VBC Organizing Committee? Any questions you have for us?
13. Anything else we should know?