

At the Heart of Homelessness

Overview

A plot of land has been donated to help make a positive impact on the homeless population in an urban area. Students will demonstrate their understanding of the social issue of homelessness through innovative design solutions for a housing structure.

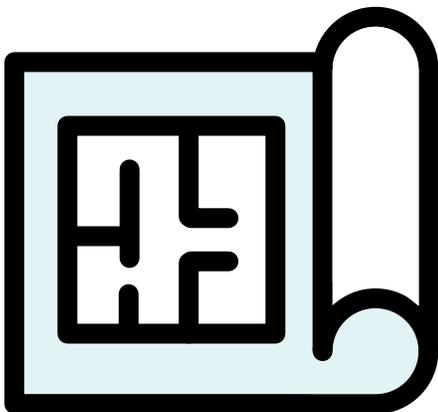
Scenario

A group of philanthropists in an urban area has donated a plot of land (about 2.41 acres—350' x 300') to make a positive impact on the homeless population in the area. They're looking for a variety of ways to make the best use of the property. They're requesting that each interested firm submit three potential solutions that demonstrate innovative, forward-thinking design options.

Driving questions

The driving questions were developed to encourage you to explore the current realities of communities and individuals to be served. The questions will aid you in developing empathy to understand how others might be feeling about a problem, circumstance, or situation.

1. In what cities is homelessness the biggest issue?
2. What causes homelessness?
3. What needs does a homeless person have?
4. What needs are a priority?
5. Does a shelter take precedence over other needs?
6. What can be built in the space provided?
7. How can the community support what is built?
8. How can the homeless support what is built?
9. How can the designs created demonstrate variety and innovation?
10. How will the designs make a positive impact on the homeless population?

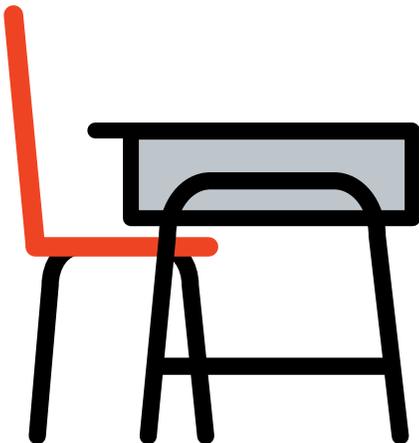


Understanding, Research, Define, and Ideation (U-RDI)

Understanding

Understanding is the process of gathering information to inform what you need to know about a topic. The use of a graphic organizer can help you analyze two aspects of a problem. We are suggesting a T-Chart to explore your “know” and “need to know”.

Know	Need to know
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A group of philanthropists has donated a plot of land that is approximately 2.41 acres—350' x 300'. • The plot of land is located in an urban area. • The plot of land is to be used to make a positive impact on the homeless population in the area. • The philanthropists would like to see a variety of ways to make the best use of the property. • Each interested firm must submit three potential solutions. • The potential solutions should demonstrate innovative, forward-thinking design options. 	



Research

Research is the process of examining as much data as possible to have an informed idea for your problem.

Problem specific resources

- [AIA - Designing for Equitable Communities](#)
- [10 Key Components for Building Healthy, Equitable Communities](#)
- [EPA - Creating Equitable, Healthy, and Sustainable Communities](#)
- [Tips for Connecting Learners to their Community](#)
- [The 7 Universal Design Principles](#)
- [Engaging Everyone](#)
- [Designing More Equitable Cities](#)
- [Simple Machines Article](#)

Hands-on activity

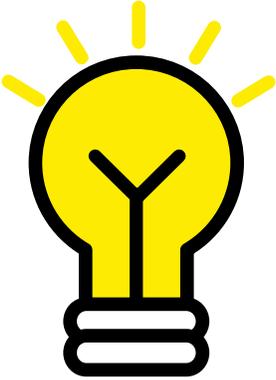
- [Simple Machines Activities](#)

Define your problem using empathy

Architects work to define problems before coming up with a solution. They use empathy in defining a problem. This allows them to define a problem using multiple perspectives.

Now that your research is done, define your problem!





Ideation

During ideation you will develop as many possible solutions as possible to the problem base on your defined problem. Do not limit your solutions!

Once you have listed all your possible solutions in the box below, cross out those that are extreme or refine them to be more practical.

Possible solutions: