



*h*OUR CITY

URBAN SOS

AECOM

**VAN
ALEN
INSTITUTE**

PIONEERED BY THE
ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

100 RESILIENT CITIES



INTRODUCTION

3

Urban SOS 2017™: *hOUR* City

The challenge

Cities, interventions, and sites

THE DETAILS

6

Selection process

Prizes

Schedule

Jurors

Evaluation criteria

Rules for entry

THE FINE PRINT

10

Legal

About

Urban SOS™ 2017: *hOUR* City is a project of AECOM and Van Alen Institute, in collaboration with 100 Resilient Cities – Pioneered by The Rockefeller Foundation.

Urban SOS™ is a trademark of AECOM.

May 2, 2017

Introduction



URBAN SOS 2017™: hOUR CITY

Urban SOS

Now in its 8th year, Urban SOS is a global competition that challenges multidisciplinary student teams to propose solutions to urban issues and support more equitable access to resources, improve the built environment, and enrich quality of life.

Urban SOS 2017

We're living in an urban age: The growth of cities is driving the creation of new housing, transportation, and jobs at an unprecedented rate. But too many people find themselves left behind: They may be caught outside the orbit of a thriving city, or isolated in urban neighborhoods with little access to economic opportunity.

Historically, the boundaries of a city have been shaped by how far people could travel in one hour. This "hour city" radius helped define a city's physical boundaries, the reach of its infrastructure, and its exchanges with surrounding areas. With the forces of globalization and dramatic geographic, social and economic shifts, the time has come to reimagine new ways to connect people in suburban, rural, and isolated urban communities around the world to opportunity.



THE CHALLENGE

Overview

hOUR City, this year's Urban SOS student ideas competition, calls for multidisciplinary teams to focus on challenges associated with three deeply intertwined systems — housing, transportation, and economic development — that fundamentally influence the quality of life in a given region. Teams should propose design, planning, policy, and other strategies that address unequal access to opportunity by offering people better options for where to live, how to move around, and how to make a living.

The challenge asks you to imagine:

- Multidisciplinary approaches that marry design, planning, business, engineering, policy, or other kinds of expertise to produce strategies that could increase the production or preservation of high-quality affordable housing.
- How increased mobility can offer greater access to jobs, affordable housing, markets, services (e.g., healthcare, education), and other opportunities or resources.
- Economic development strategies that can be broadened to offer opportunities to a wider range of people (e.g., with limited skills and education; living in remote, rural areas).
- A combination of housing, transportation, or economic development strategies that complement each other to improve people's quality of life.

CITIES, INTERVENTIONS, AND SITES

You and your team may focus on any housing, transportation, or economic development-related challenge facing one of the cities identified within the 100 Resilient Cities network and its surrounding region. A complete list of the cities can be found [here](#).

All proposals must include a physical intervention to the selected housing, transportation, or economic development challenge. Physical interventions may include new buildings, landscapes, infrastructural components, or other elements of the built environment; they may also comprise changes to existing buildings, landscapes, infrastructure, or other elements of the built environment. Students are encouraged to propose policy strategies, new business models, and a wide range of other solutions to address their selected challenge, but these solutions must be accompanied by a physical intervention at a specific site or sites identified by the team.

The Details



SELECTION PROCESS

In summer 2017, we'll select up to 16 semifinalist teams from around the world to participate in a feedback session with AECOM and Van Alen Institute that will help student teams further develop their proposals.

After the semifinalist teams have refined their proposals, they will be reviewed in fall 2017 by juries of experts in Hong Kong, London, New York, and Sydney. These juries will select teams to advance to the final jury in Los Angeles. The competition organizers will work closely with the finalists to revise and refine their proposals. Up to two representatives from each finalist team will then present their proposals to the final jury in late January 2018.

PRIZES

A total of US\$15,000 in prize money will be distributed among the finalist teams. The winning team also will receive up to US\$25,000 of in-kind support from AECOM to create a real-world pilot of their project. This in-kind support is available for up to one year after the announcement of the winning team.

SCHEDULE

May 2, 2017

Competition launched

June 28, 2017

Pre-registration of interest deadline at:
aecom.com/urbansos.

July 17, 2017

Final submission deadline at: aecom.com/urbansos.

September 2017

Announcement of up to 16 semifinalist teams. AECOM and Van Alen Institute staff will conduct a feedback session with each team to further develop their proposal for review by semifinalist juries, incorporating feedback from 100RC's technical experts.

October–November 2017

Juries in Hong Kong, London, New York, and Sydney review the semifinalist proposals; finalists are announced.

December 2017–January 2018

AECOM and Van Alen Institute staff will work with each of the finalist teams to refine their proposal, with a specific focus on the potential for implementation.

January 2018

Representatives from the finalist teams travel to Los Angeles for the final jury event and announcement of the winning team.

March 2018

Competition summary published; AECOM begins work with winning team to implement a pilot of its proposal.

JURORS

Prof Nelson Chen FAIA FRIBA FHKIA

Director, School of Architecture, CUHK
 Principal, Nelson Chen Architects Ltd

Beck Dawson

Chief Resilience Officer — Metropolitan Sydney
 Resilient Sydney

Ross DeVol

Chief Research Officer, Milken Institute

Melissa Edwards

Senior Lecturer, University of Technology
 Sydney Business School

Stephen Engblom

Senior Vice President/Global Director of Cities
 AECOM

David van der Leer

Executive Director, Van Alen Institute

Peter Murray Hon FRIBA FRSA AoU

Chairman, New London Architecture, and
 The London Society

Juliette Michaelson

Executive Vice President, Regional Plan Association (RPA)

Alan Penn

Professor of Architectural and Urban Computing
 Dean, The Bartlett, UCL Faculty of the Built Environment

Carlo Ratti

Director of the Senseable City Laboratory,
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Otis Rolley

Regional Director, City and Practice Management
 Africa and North America
 100 Resilient Cities — Pioneered by
 The Rockefeller Foundation

Louise Wyman

Head of Strategic Land,
 Homes and Communities Agency (HCA)



EVALUATION CRITERIA

Jurors will evaluate proposals based on the following criteria:

- Demonstrates a deep and nuanced understanding of the chosen site(s), the people the proposal addresses, the specified infrastructural problems and opportunities, as well as its social, economic, physical, and political context.
- Demonstrates interdisciplinary thinking and collaboration between sectors.
- Resourcefully addresses real-world constraints (e.g., the proposal builds on existing public- and private-sector initiatives, and considers economic, social, and political feasibility) and offers implementable solutions.
- Develops innovative design, policy, or other strategies that strengthen physical, economic, political, ecological, or other connections within urban communities, and between urban and outlying communities, improving the quality of life of the people affected.
- Communicates its ideas clearly, succinctly, and compellingly using both words and visuals.

RULES FOR ENTRY DELIVERABLES

**All entries are due by 11:59pm EDT on July 17, 2017.
Your entry must include:**

- Site analysis, and innovative and implementable strategies that demonstrate multidisciplinary thinking, and that strengthen the connections within urban communities or between urban and outlying communities, as described in the evaluation criteria.
- A brief description (100-250 words) of your proposal. Clearly state the name of the city and specific location within that city where your design would be implemented.
- The name(s), university, degree program(s), and contact information of all team members.
- Site coordinates (via Google Earth) of the location, or an address that is searchable on Google Maps.
- A slide presentation of up to 10 slides in Adobe Acrobat PDF format. These must be landscape in orientation, and include images and/or text. There is no word limit but font size must be legible when printed at A4 paper size. Each file must be no larger than 10MB.
- All entries must be in English, with any measurements provided in metric units.
- You may include photographs, diagrams, drawings, renderings, collages or other visualizations to represent your solution(s).
- Proposals must be uploaded using the submission link on aecom.com/urbansos by 11:59pm EDT on July 17, 2017. Entrants will receive a confirmation that the files have been uploaded and should retain this confirmation for reference.
- Failure to comply with any of these submission requirements will result in immediate disqualification.

Eligibility

The competition is open to undergraduate and graduate students at all levels of higher education around the world. You must be enrolled in a certified program during the 2017–2018 academic year at Bachelors, Masters, or Ph.D. levels. Students graduating before the final jury meeting in late January 2018 are not eligible to enter the competition; students graduating after this date are eligible to enter.

Team

Your team must be multidisciplinary, comprising members who are pursuing/concentrating studies in different disciplines and/or who have already completed a program in another discipline. For instance, your team may include members from design, engineering, business, technology, public health, policy studies, economics, finance, sociology, international development, social entrepreneurship, or any other relevant fields. Jurors will score proposals using five criteria, one of which is an evaluation of team composition and evidence of multidisciplinary thinking. Teams should include two to five members.

We strongly encourage students to join the [Urban SOS LinkedIn page](#) to identify potential partners in other disciplines and other universities.

Entry fee

There is no entry fee for entering the *hOUR City* student ideas competition.

Number of entries

Individuals may participate on only one team. Each team is permitted to enter only one submission.

Pre-registration

All applicants are strongly encouraged to pre-register their interest at aecom.com/urbansos by leaving a contact email address before June 28, 2017. Pre-registration ensures that you receive all relevant updates.

The Fine Print

Finalist travel honoraria and presentations

Each of the finalist teams will be provided with an honorarium to defray travel costs for up to two members so that they may present their project to the final jury (amount varies depending on location of entrants). The honoraria are to contribute to expenses related to attendance and presentation only, and cannot be exchanged for other prizes. No other costs or fees will be covered by AECOM, Van Alen Institute, or 100 Resilient Cities (the "Competition Organizers").

Further details on proposal requirements and presentation formats will be provided to the finalist teams.

Publication restrictions

Entrants may not submit projects that have already been fully implemented, or prepared for or with a third party, or have already been published before the last day of the deliberations of the judging panel. Students may submit projects developed for studio or other coursework.

Infringement of copyright and other intellectual property

All work submitted for the competition must be the entrant's original work. It is the entrant's sole responsibility to ensure that the work submitted does not infringe upon the intellectual property rights of any third party, including, but not limited to copyright, trademark, and design right. The Competition Organizers shall not be responsible for entrant's infringement of any third-party intellectual property rights, regardless of whether said infringement was known or should have been known by entrant.

Use of submitted works

Entrants own the rights to the work they submit for the competition. Entrants agree that the Competition Organizers are granted the non-exclusive reproduction rights to all entries for the Competition Organizers' advertising, promotion, exhibition, print and digital publication directly relating to the competition. The Competition Organizers shall have no responsibility for any unauthorized use of the entrant's works by any third party, including but not limited to the Organizers.

All information required can be found on aecom.com/urbansos.

If you have questions, please contact Jerome Chou, Van Alen Institute, at jchou@vanalen.org.

About AECOM

AECOM is built to deliver a better world. We design, build, finance and operate infrastructure assets for governments, businesses and organizations in more than 150 countries. As a fully integrated firm, we connect knowledge and experience across our global network of experts to help clients solve their most complex challenges. From high-performance buildings and infrastructure, to resilient communities and environments, to stable and secure nations, our work is transformative, differentiated and vital. A Fortune 500 firm, AECOM had revenue of approximately \$17.4 billion during fiscal year 2016. See how we deliver what others can only imagine at aecom.com and [@AECOM](https://twitter.com/AECOM).

Website: www.aecom.com/urbansos

Facebook: www.facebook.com/urbansos/

Twitter: [@AECOMUrbanSOS](https://twitter.com/AECOMUrbanSOS)

About 100 Resilient Cities — Pioneered by The Rockefeller Foundation

100 Resilient Cities — Pioneered by The Rockefeller Foundation (100RC) helps cities around the world become more resilient to the physical, social, and economic challenges that are a growing part of the 21st century. 100RC provides this assistance through: funding for a Chief Resilience Officer in each member city who will lead the resilience efforts; resources for drafting a resilience strategy; access to private sector, public sector, academic, and NGO resilience tools; and membership in a global network of peer cities to share best practices and challenges.

<http://www.100resilientcities.org>

[@100ResCities](https://twitter.com/100ResCities)

About Van Alen Institute

At Van Alen Institute, we believe design can transform cities, landscapes, and regions to improve people's lives. We collaborate with communities, scholars, policymakers, and professionals on local and global initiatives that rigorously investigate the most pressing social, cultural, and ecological challenges of tomorrow. Building on more than a century of experience, we develop cross-disciplinary research, provocative public programs, and inventive design competitions.

vanalen.org

[@Van_Alen](https://twitter.com/Van_Alen)