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[Editor's note: High-resolution images and interviews are available upon request.]

Building to erase hunger in Massachusetts: *Canstruction Boston 2018*

The annual charity event and exhibition, now in its 23rd year, teams up with the building industry once a year to help raise hunger awareness and feed more than 60,000 people in Massachusetts and the surrounding cities.

October 7 through October 26, 2018

(Boston, October 5, 2018)—*Canstruction* is a charity event and exhibition where teams of architects, designers, engineers, and contractors compete in heroic feats of engineering to create awe-inspiring sculptures made out of canned goods and other nonperishable food items—without the use of glue or other adhesives. Now in its 23rd year, *Canstruction Boston* raises hunger awareness in Massachusetts by challenging 21 Boston design teams to transform thousands of nonperishable food items into larger-than-life masterpieces at BSA Space, in the Atlantic Wharf lobby at 280 Congress Street, and in the Nelson Court lobby at 290 Congress Street, Boston. The participating teams will compete for top honors in categories including Best Use of Labels, Best Meal, Structural Ingenuity, Most Cans, Best Original Design, and People's Choice, among others. Members of the public will have the opportunity to vote online for their favorite works through the *Canstruction Boston* Facebook page at facebook.com/CanstructionBoston from Sunday, October 7 until 1:00 pm on Wednesday, October 10. After the sculptures are dismantled, all of the canned goods supplied by the teams will be donated to the Merrimack Valley Food Bank in Lowell, Massachusetts with the help of drivers and trucks provided by Hannaford Supermarkets.

This year's theme is "Heroes vs. Villains". The colossal sculptures will be on display from Sunday, October 7, through Friday, October 26. Admission is free and kid friendly. Suggested donation: one can or other nonperishable item of food per person (such as tuna, beans, peanut butter, meals in cans, and canned fruits or vegetables).

Says BSA Foundation chair Laura Wernick FAIA:

"This exhibition and event is a unique opportunity to show the power of design and the transformative impact it can have in the lives of local residents at a time when many families in Massachusetts are still experiencing food insecurity."

The Merrimack Valley Food Bank in Lowell, serves 70,000 children and adults monthly in Massachusetts and Southern New Hampshire, most of whom cannot confidently predict where their next meal is coming from. For more than two decades, the design community in Boston has united through a creative medium that provides canned food for charities fighting hunger in our areas. **In 2017, Canstruction Boston donated 78,715 pounds of food from the participating 29 teams, which is the equivalent of more than 60,500 meal servings – or providing one and half meals to every resident in East Boston.** In the past 22 years, Canstruction Boston has collected more than 1,012,500 pounds of food, which has provided over 790,216 meals to those in the Greater Boston and surrounding areas.

A total of 21 teams are taking part in this year's edition.

Participating firms:

Ann Beha Architects with Thornton Tomasetti (Joint Venture)
Architectural Resources Cambridge (ARC)
Arrowstreet
CannonDesign
CRB
CUBE 3 Studio
Ellenzweig
Gensler with ARUP (Joint Venture)
Goody Clancy with Silman (Joint Venture)
HDR
L.A. Fuess Partners
Nitsch Engineering
PCA (Prellwitz Chilinski Associates)
Phase Zero Design
Shepley Bulfinch
Simpson Gumpertz & Heger
Stantec
Steffian Bradley Architects
Symmes Maini & McKee Associates
Wentworth Institute of Technology with Northeastern University/Chi Epsilon Chapter (Joint Venture)
Wilson Butler Architects

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BSA Space

BSA Space, Boston's leading cultural institution for architecture and design, is home to the Boston Society of Architects/AIA (BSA/AIA) and the BSA Foundation. The BSA/AIA is one of the oldest chapters of the American Institute of Architects. The BSA Foundation, a charitable organization, supports activities that illuminate the ways that design improves

the quality of our lives. All exhibitions at BSA Space are supported by the BSA Foundation. BSA Space is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 am–6:00 pm, and on weekends and holidays from 10:00 am–5:00 pm. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information visit architects.org/bsaspace

Canstruction Boston

Canstruction Boston, hosted by BSA Space, is the local competition of an international, trademarked event that brings together teams of architects, engineers, construction firms, and students to design and build giant structures made entirely from cans of food. Since its inception, more than 10 million pounds of food have been donated to aid in the fight against hunger – including more than one million pounds of food in the greater Boston area. Thousands of hungry people are fed wherever a Canstruction competition is held. For additional information, visit canstruction-boston.org.

The Merrimack Valley Food Bank

The Merrimack Valley Food Bank is a community-supported 501c-3 nonprofit organization that provides nutritious food and personal-care items to emergency feeding programs serving the low-income, homeless, and hungry population. It is one of only four food banks in Massachusetts that serves food pantries, shelters, soup kitchens, and day and residential programs that, in turn, serve individuals and families. For more information, visit mvfb.org.

Hannaford Supermarkets

Hannaford Supermarkets, based in Scarborough, Maine, provides Canstruction Boston with donated transportation to relocate the nonperishable food items from Boston to the receiving food bank. Hannaford Supermarkets operates over 180 stores and employs more than 27,000 associates. Their stores offer good prices and value; top-quality fresh foods supported by daily deliveries; and friendly, efficient service. At Hannaford, the commitment to local communities and businesses is a part of who they are. In their stores, you'll find produce and many great products that come from neighborhood farms and businesses. They call this staying Close to Home. Not only does Close to Home help them discover new local products, it allows them to drive shorter distances, reducing emissions—and contributing to a healthier planet.

Autodesk

Autodesk, a presenting sponsor of the event, makes software for people who make things. If you've ever driven a high-performance car, admired a towering skyscraper, used a smartphone, watched a great film chances are you've experienced what millions of Autodesk customers are doing with our software. Canstruction Boston teams rely heavily on Autodesk software products to design, plan, calculate/quantify and execute their amazing can sculptures. Learn more at <http://www.autodesk.com/>



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Social Media

Sign up to the BSA social-media channels:

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