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

25 Years of *Canstruction Boston*

The annual charity event and exhibition, now in its 25th 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.

(Boston, November 9, 2020)— As we celebrate *Canstruction Boston's* 25th Anniversary in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, we look back at creative and thoughtful structures that resulted in donating over one million pounds of food for people experiencing hunger in Massachusetts.

Canstruction Boston is an annual charity event and exhibition where teams of Boston based architects, designers, engineers, and contractors create awe-inspiring sculptures made out of canned goods and other nonperishable food items. This year, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, *Canstruction Boston* looked at how they could continue help the Merrimack Valley Food Bank (MVFB) while keeping teams safe and socially distant. With this balance in mind, *Canstruction Boston* pivoted to a virtual design competition in 2020.

The theme this year was "That's Entertainment!" and instead of building colossal 3D structures at BSA Space, the seventeen participating teams rose to the virtual challenge and submitted detailed renderings, sketches, and videos of their *Canstruction* designs. Since there were no physical structures this year, teams were also encouraged to raise funds and make donations to the MVFB, with the goal of providing enough money to the food bank to make up for this year's lack of canned food donations.

The COVID-19 pandemic and associated job losses have driven demand for food banks through the roof. Organizations like the MVFB are experiencing increased demand but receiving fewer donations due to a loss of events like food drives because of social distancing requirements. Efforts to raise funds and food are more critical than ever. Learn more about how you can get involved in fighting hunger [here](#).



BSA Space
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architects.org/bsaspace

Participating firms:

Ann Beha Architects
Arrowstreet
Arup & Gensler (joint venture)
Columbia
CUBE 3 Studio
Dimeo Construction Company
Dore + Whittier Architects
EYP Architecture and Engineering
Margulies Perruzzi
Northeastern University Chi Epsilon
Payette
Prellwitz Chilinski Associates
Simpson Gumpertz & Heger
Stantec
TRIA Architects
Wentworth Institute of Technology CM Club
Wilson Butler Architects

The participating teams competed for top honors in the following categories, with the 2020 winners noted below:

- Best Concept: "The Show Will Go On," designed by Wilson Butler Architects
- Best Use of Labels: "Mulan," designed by Dimeo Construction Company
- People's Choice: "We're not in CANSas anymore," designed by Margulies Perruzzi
- Director's Favorite: "Zooming in to Fight Hunger," designed by Arrowstreet
- Honorable Mention: "Leo the Lion," designed by Ann Beha Architects
"A Night At The Drive-In," designed by Dore + Whittier Architects
"Anyone CAN Cook," designed by Northeastern University Chi Epsilon
- Social Media Soup-er Star: "The Show Will Go On," designed by Wilson Butler Architects
- Fundraising Soup-er Star: "Mulan," designed by Dimeo Construction Company

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BSA Space

BSA Space, Boston's only center dedicated to the exploration of 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. For more information visit architects.org.



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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 ten 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 501(c)(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.

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