

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 7, 2019**

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

**Building to erase hunger in Massachusetts: *Canstruction Boston 2019***

*The annual charity event and exhibition, now in its 24<sup>th</sup> 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 6 through October 25, 2019

**(Boston, October 7, 2019)**—*Canstruction* is a charity event and exhibition where teams of architects, designers, engineers, and contractors compete in awesome 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 24<sup>th</sup> year, *Canstruction Boston* raises hunger awareness in Massachusetts by challenging 23 Boston design teams to transform thousands of nonperishable food items into larger-than-life masterpieces at BSA Space, in the Atlantic Wharf lobby at 290 Congress Street, and in the Nelson Court lobby at 280 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](https://facebook.com/CanstructionBoston) from Sunday, October 6 until 1:00 pm on Wednesday, October 9. 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.

**This year's theme is "Around the World". The colossal sculptures will be on display from Sunday, October 6, through Friday, October 25. 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 Ted Touloukian AIA:

*"We are proud to once again host Canstruction, which not only demonstrates the power of design to affect positive change in the lives of local residents, but creates an exhibition that year-over-year delights visitors and inspires a sense of wonder and awe."*

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 2018, Canstruction Boston donated 63,214 pounds of food from the participating 21 teams, which is the equivalent of more than 48,500 meal servings— or providing one and half meals to every resident in East Boston.** In the past 23 years, Canstruction Boston has collected more than 1,100,000 pounds of food, which has provided over 850,000 meals to those in the Greater Boston and surrounding areas.

**A total of 23 teams are taking part in this year's edition.**

*Participating firms:*

Ann Beha Architects & Thornton Tomasetti (joint venture)  
Arup & Gensler (joint venture)  
Cannon Design  
CUBE 3 Studio  
Cummings Properties  
EYP Architecture and Engineering  
HDR  
Jacobs  
L.A. Fuess Partners  
Margulies Perruzzi  
Nitsch Engineering  
Payette  
Prellwitz Chilinski Associates  
Sasaki  
Simpson Gumpertz & Heger  
Shawmut Design and Construction  
Silman  
S/L/A/M Collaborative  
Smith Group & DPR Construction (joint venture)  
SMMA & D.C. Beane and Associates (joint venture)  
Studio Troika  
Wentworth Institute of Technology & Chi Epsilon at Northeastern University (joint venture)  
Wilson Butler

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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



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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](http://architects.org)

### **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](http://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](http://mvfb.org).

### **Social Media**

Sign up to the BSA social-media channels:

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