



The 2017 Little Free Library® Design Build Competition

Competition Brief

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About Buffalo Architecture Foundation



Buffalo Architecture Foundation [BAF] is a 501(c)3, is a not-for-profit, public charity dedicated to inspiring the exploration and appreciation of architecture and how it shapes our lives through innovative educational activities, events for people of all ages, community outreach and awareness, engaging professionals in public service, and enriching personal stories. Established with the generous support of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Buffalo/Western New York Chapter, Buffalo Architecture Foundation is committed to nurturing creative cooperation with the AIA and other regional cultural organizations to promote and celebrate architecture, design and construction.

BAF Programming



Architecture + Education

At the forefront of BAF's community outreach is the award-winning Architecture + Education program, an innovative collaboration between local architects and Buffalo Public Schools, utilizing architecture to teach students math, science, history, art and technology within Common Core curriculum.

Building Stories

Every building has a story. The intriguing architecture of our community is celebrated through Building Stories — BAF's multi-media project documenting and sharing profound individual experiences with architecture, construction, landscape and planning throughout Western New York.

6 Minute Building Stories (6Mbs)

6Mbs is an informal and fun gathering featuring presentations by esteemed speakers from diverse cultural disciplines. Speakers present their building story through 18 images. The total time allotted for each slide is 20 seconds and, as the slide changes after 20 seconds, so does the related verbal content.



Pro Bono Mission

Buffalo Architecture Foundation is the proud sponsor of the Pro Bono Publico Award in recognition of exemplary pro bono services provided to not-for-profit clients by architects or allied practitioners; and a biennial Meet and Match event that brings design professionals and community group leaders together through an inviting and productive environment to match design needs with design services.

2017 BAF/LFL Design Competition

This is an Open, Two-stage, Design-Build competition in which entrants are asked to design, construct, and install a contemporary book shelter in underprivileged neighborhoods in the City of Buffalo, NY.

Background

Children from middle income homes have, on average, 13 books per child. Conversely, it is estimated that there is only 1 book for every 300 children in low income neighborhoods and up to 61% of these families do not have any books for their kids at home [[Children's Literacy Foundation](#)]. Perhaps the most fundamental problem with current literacy campaigns is that they ignore, and even divert attention from, the real problem: lack of access to books for children of poverty.

The Little Free Libraries® movement places small-scale book shelters in neighborhoods and is based on the premise of “take a book, leave a book.” Established in 2009, there are now over 50,000 Little Free Libraries® in communities worldwide. Initially crafted to resemble miniature one-room schoolhouses mounted on a pole, these libraries have become unique structures, designed and constructed in a wide range of styles, often utilizing recycled, reclaimed, or salvaged materials.

2/3

of students who cannot read proficiently by the end of the 4th grade will end up in jail or on welfare.

The 4th grade is the watershed year. We can predict that if a child is not reading proficiently in the 4th grade, he or she will have approximately a 78 percent chance of not catching up.

Libraries can be shelters for people, as well as books. Children, especially, rely on libraries as a safe destination outside of home or school. The presence of a neighborhood library gives our smaller residents a destination and means of connection; a gathering place in an urban environment that can be otherwise unfriendly to children. A Little Free Library® should serve as an anchor for the community.

“Ensuring that books are available to any child at any time of the year will be a good first step in enhancing the reading achievement of low-income students and an absolutely necessary step in closing the reading achievement gap.”

—Anne McGill Franzen and Richard Allington, 2009

Description

Literacy-friendly neighborhoods is a grassroots initiative started by Little Free Libraries® [littlefreelibrary.org] that aims to promote literacy, expand literary horizons, cultivate generosity, and promote general neighborliness. These libraries will facilitate an informal exchange of books in the city's



public spaces, where residents and visitors may use and contribute to these communal resources. The final locations for these libraries have not been established, but all are planned to be in the urban environment.

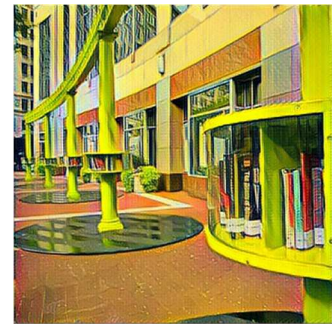
Each entry should speak to the goals of the Literacy-friendly neighborhood in an urban setting while simultaneously addressing the basic demands of an outdoor enclosure and providing a form that breaks the mold of what has been deemed typical for a Little Free Library®. Creative and innovative designs are encouraged.

Basic Expectations

- Reasonably shelter the contents of the library from exterior elements, water-tight is preferable
- Provide easy visual access to the contents of the library (Glass is prohibited; Plexiglas is preferred)
- Provide a minimum of two lineal feet of shelving or space for 15-30 books
- Adequately convey the nature of the BAF to a passerby not familiar with its mission
- Must be able to accommodate a Little Free Library® charter sign (8" wide x 1.5" tall, white-painted pine)
- Consideration for the shared challenges of LFL stewards:
 - BAF Easy installation
 - BAF Graffiti
 - BAF Integrating with surroundings
 - BAF Keeping the doors shut
 - BAF Making it accessible at night
 - BAF Serving small children and tall adults alike
 - BAF Separating various kinds of books

Heightened Expectations

- Unique fabrication methods
- Distinctive architectural style
- Inspires the feelings of surprise and delight
- Constructed with recycled, reclaimed, or sustainable materials
- Addresses one or more of the most common "dream" features according to LFL stewards:
 - BAF Accommodate 50 books or more
 - BAF Accommodate books of unusual shapes and sizes
 - BAF Areas for bookmarks and flyers
 - BAF Bright colors inside so books in the back don't get lost
 - Hook for dog leashes
 - Magnetic door catches
 - Motion sensor lights for night
 - Multiple shelves that can be accessed by children and adults alike
 - Notebook for visitors to comment in
 - Place on top to grow herbs/green roof
 - Seating area



Input

Architects and designers interested in rethinking and fabricating a library as part of this project are invited to submit their qualifications and describe their interest in the project in response to this RFQ. A conceptual design and brief narrative description of how your concept addresses the points presented above must accompany each application. Multiple design concepts are allowed and will require multiple entries.

A jury will select up to ten entrants to design and fabricate a library, hosted on public property or in the domain of a partnering community organization. Once installed, all libraries will be stocked by the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library system, so, upon selection the entrants will be expected to address specific review comments by the jury and constituents to ensure successful long-term use of the installed libraries.

Design and Fabrication Expectations

Design/Build entrants will be responsible for all design, material selection, and fabrication of one little free library® within the defined schedule. Multiple design concepts from a single entrant will first be judged against each other to select the strongest and then against other entries to maintain as diverse an inventory of libraries as possible. This does not preclude a situation wherein a multiple entrant may be asked to make more than one library, however, and each entrant with multiple designs should indicate their ability to fabricate more than one library within the timeframe given.

Budget Expectations

Traditional, custom-built, high quality, prefinished libraries are available for purchase (as a fundraiser) from the Little Free Library® organization within a price range of \$300 to \$500; unfinished or some assembly required libraries are available for as little as \$165. Entrants are asked to include an estimate of the total cost of their designs with a target budget of \$300. Buffalo Architecture Foundation is hoping to select and install up to 10 designs, so the more cost efficient the design can be, the more libraries we can afford to install. As additional funding becomes available this value may increase.

References

For more examples of Little Free Libraries, visit littlefreelibrary.org/gallery. Little Free Library® is a registered trademark of Little Free Library LTD, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

In 2013, the Architecture League of New York hosted a similar design competition with some compelling results. For more information on Little Free Library/NYC, visit archleague.org/2013/05/little-free-library-nyc/.

Eligibility

Architects, designers, sculptors, carpenters, students, etc. are encouraged to participate, however all entrants must exhibit a competent level of construction quality to ensure the successful execution and longevity of the library. Teams of skilled persons are encouraged. Entrants are not required to be residents of New York State nor the United States, however, because this is a design-build competition, it is expected that entrants be capable of travel to the project installation sites at their own cost.

Entry Fees

AIA MEMBERS:	\$25
NON-AIA MEMBERS:	\$35
STUDENTS:	\$20
MULTIPLE ENTRIES:	\$15/EACH

Entry Fees are non-refundable and tax deductible to the greatest extent allowed by law. All fees will be used to defray the costs of the building materials and any proceeds (less incidental administrative costs) will be donated to the Buffalo Architecture Foundation in support of their Service and Educational Programs. If not submitting online, please make checks or money orders payable to the Buffalo Architecture Foundation.



Deliverables

Each entry submission must include the following, exactly in order, to be considered by the jury. Disregard of the submission requirements by competitors is a violation of the rules. Those entries that do not follow the instructions shall be disqualified from the competition.

Stage One:

Submissions can be made by mail by providing all of the following in 9"x12" envelope or through the website at buffaloarchitecture.org/little-free-library.

Entry Form

The entry form must be filled out in its entirety. If you are applying as a team, please include the names and emails for each team member and identify one team member as the Lead Contact.

Qualifications Narrative

A 250 word or less description of yourself and why you are interested in participating. Please describe your design and construction background (including relevant hands-on building experience) in such detail as to ensure eligibility. If available, site examples of similar previous projects you've completed.

Project Narrative

A 250 word or less description of your submission and how it addresses the mission of the Buffalo Architecture Foundation, the goals of a Literacy Friendly Neighborhood, what basic or heightened steward expectations are being addressed and how your design breaks the mold of what has been deemed typical for a Little Free Library®. The primary construction materials should be described.

Concept Sketch

A preliminary conceptual sketch of your submission should be provided to illustrate artful re-interpretations of what a library and community gathering place could be. The concept sketch must convey the intended design concept through any drawing type the entrants choose (plans, elevations, axonometrics, and/or perspectives) however, at least one isometric drawing shall be included. Renderings or "Sketch-up" models are not required, but would be appreciated by the jury to better visualize more complex designs. There is no limit to the number of images an entrant may provide. The sketch need not be to scale; however, a relative scale or sense of proportion should be clearly expressed.

CD Containing Narratives and Concept Sketch (for entries received by mail ONLY)

All entry materials shall also be saved digitally to a clearly identified CD at 300dpi resolution (narratives in doc or pdf format only, images in jpg or tiff format only). Please label the files with names as listed below:

"Entrant's name – Qualifications Narrative"

"Entrant's name – Project Narrative"

"Entrant's name – Concept Sketch 01", "...02", etc.

Online submissions should follow the same file naming format as well. There is a file size limit of 5Mbs.

Multiple Entries

If an applicant wishes to submit multiple design concepts for consideration, a separate entry form, qualifications narrative, project narrative and concept sketches will be required for each. However, multiple entries may be made at a reduced entry fee.

Non-Refundable Entry Fee

Please make out all checks or money orders to: Buffalo Architecture Foundation.

Submission Date

Regardless of submission type (mail or web), entries be RECEIVED on or before FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1st, 2017.

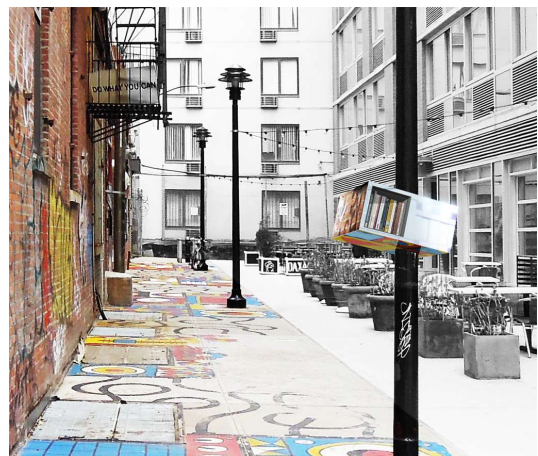
Stage Two:

In the month following receipt of the submissions, the jury will review and settle on up to ten suitable entries based on the selection criterion described. Once the final selections have been made, BAF will pair the designs with suitable locations/properties and participating community partners throughout the City of Buffalo's urban landscape with a focus on high visibility in areas lacking brick and mortar libraries. Potential steward/host organizations will be given the opportunity to select designs that resonate with them, but BAF will ultimately make the connections between the finalists and the location/participating community partner.

Following notification of their selection, the entrants will receive the first half of their stipend (valued at \$150) and any jury review comments/feedback. Entrants will also be given the list of selected sites and asked to consider which they prefer or find inspiring to encourage the further development of their concept within the context of its final home. Entrants will be encouraged to contact their host organization to involve them in the process and to facilitate coordination.

Entrants will have up to THREE months to complete their formal designs. At the 6-WEEK and 12-WEEK marks, a progress report will be requested. The jury will wish to review the progress of the proposed design with each entrant in more detail. Since each applicant is constructing their own design, thorough, dimensioned drawings are not required to be submitted unless the entrant wishes. The progress review may include drawings, renderings, material samples, photos, etc. as well as a brief in-person or telephone conference with each entrant to answer questions.

Once the design is completed and the jury is satisfied with the results, the entrant will have up to FOUR months to construct and install the library. Upon successful installation of the library, the entrant will receive the balance of their stipend (\$150). Digital photos at significant points of completion are requested for promotional purposes and for inclusion in the commemorative photo book at the end of the project.



Submission

If submitting by mail, all deliverables shall be provided in a 9"x12" envelope and delivered to:

Attn: Matthew Etu
Tredo Engineers
755 Seneca Street, Suite 202
Buffalo, NY 14210

If submitting online, please go to buffaloarchitecture.org/little-free-library.

* Regardless of submission type (mail or web), entries MUST be RECEIVED on or before FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8th, 2017. The submission deadline date will be strictly observed; no exceptions will be made.

An email confirmation will be sent to all entrants upon receipt.

All submission entries must contain original content only. BAF will use all information submitted to display in exhibitions and publications to promote the competition.

Selection Criteria

Entrants are encouraged to take wide latitude in determining the form, function, and style of their designs, but, to ensure dedication to the Buffalo Architecture Foundation's mission, all designs will be judged based on the following criteria:

INNOVATIVE EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY: Has the design entry met the needs and requirements to be considered a destination and means of connection? Does it promote literacy and promote general neighborliness? Does the entry have clear, concise, and appropriate design methodology and form that compliments the intent?

EVENTS FOR PEOPLE OF ALL AGES AND ABILITIES: Does the entry address the needs of a diverse population? Is it accessible to children, adults? Is it engaging? Aesthetic appeal of the formal design will be a major focus of the jury's deliberation.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND AWARENESS: Does the entry convey the nature of the Buffalo Architecture Foundation to a passerby not familiar with its mission? Does it expand literary horizons and cultivate generosity? Does it facilitate the informal exchange of books and public contribution?

ENRICHING PERSONAL STORIES: Does the entry have a unique story to tell? Does it exhibit unique fabrication methods or a distinctive architectural style?

Additional considerations include:

EXPECTATIONS: Has the entry met or exceeded Steward Expectations? Basic or Heightened? How have these expectations been incorporated in a creative or unexpected way?

CONSTRUCTABILITY: Could this library be built? Are the fabrication methods creatively executed in the design to reinforce the overall concepts of the library?

REPRESENTATION: High-quality representation that showcases strong and captivating design identity will be sought after during jury deliberation. Whether utilizing hand-drawn or computer graphic methods, the designer's craft must be maintained at an exceptional level.

Emphasis on other considerations such as sustainability, unusual material selection, estimated cost of construction, and accelerated production schedule are also left up to the discretion of the entrant, but will factor into the jury's evaluation of each entry.

Decisions of the Jury are Final.

Prizes

Each design team will receive \$300 to build and install its library.

Ribbon Cutting, Exhibition, and Publication

BAF intends for each library to be a permanent installation.

BAF will publish regular updates on the competition via email, on their website, on Facebook and Twitter, and to local press. Whenever possible, participants will be references by name and any provided images will be shared.

Buffalo Architecture Foundation, in conjunction with competition sponsors, will invite entrants to a formal ribbon cutting ceremony at one of the installed libraries. BAF intends to promote this event with local press and will thank all parties involved in its success including all selected entrants.

A commemorative photo book including written descriptions of each library, photos of the design and construction process, along with the installed finished product will be made available for sale during and following the event. Entrants may pre-order a book at a reduced price with entry submission.

Schedule

Competition Opens	June 5, 2017
Submissions Due	September 1, 2017
Jury Deliberation	September 2017
Winners Notified	October 1, 2017
Design Duration (3 months)	October 2017 thru December 2018
Construction Duration (4 months)	January 2017 thru April 2018
Progress Reports	Every 2 months during design and construction phase
Installation	Any time after completion but no later than May 1st, 2018
Ribbon Cutting	Late May/early June 2018

Rules and Regulations

All entrants must abide by the following:

1. Entrants give Buffalo Architecture Foundation (BAF) permission to reproduce their submission without restriction.
2. No royalties shall be payable by BAF or any other sponsors for use of the submission entry materials.
3. Entrants verify that all information provided in the Entry Form is true and their submission is subject to disqualification if it is found that any information has been falsified.
4. Entrants affirm that they are sole owner of the materials identified in the Little Free Library® Competition entry, that each submitted entry is an original work, and that neither these materials nor the permission granted hereby infringes upon the ownership, copyright, trademark, or rights of others.
5. All deliverables become property of Buffalo Architecture Foundation.
6. Entries shall not have been previously published in any competition publication, whether printed, online, or otherwise.
7. Entries shall not have been selected as a finalist, winner, honorable mention, etc. in any other competition.
8. If the design is submitted from a team of people, all team members must be identified on the entry form with a clearly identified team leader.
9. For jurying purposes, each design is considered as a separate entry and a separate entry form and reduced entry fee must be received for each. Multiple designs will not be considered as a single entry.
10. Entrants are not allowed to discuss details of their competition designs and/or entries with any of the judges directly whatsoever. Any attempt to do so will result in immediate disqualification.
11. Any deviation from competition rules may result in automatic disqualification at the discretion of the jury.

FAQs

For more information regarding the competition, entry requirements, rules, regulations, selection criteria, and answers to FAQs, please visit buffaloarchitecture.org/little-free-library.

Entry Form

THIS FORM IS FOR HARD COPY SUBMISSIONS ONLY. ONLINE VERSION IS ALSO AVAILABLE.

The entry form below must be filled out in its entirety and included as part of your deliverable submission. One entry form must be filled out per each entry submitted.

- By checking this box, I/we hereby comply with all the rules, regulations, guidelines and requirements as outlined in the Official Competition Brief.

Contact Information (Fill out as applicable)

COMPANY / TEAM NAME: _____
PRIMARY CONTACT NAME: _____
STREET ADDRESS: _____
CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____
EMAIL: _____
PHONE: (_____) _____
OTHER TEAM MEMBERS: _____

Entry Fee (Check One):

I am:

- An American Institute of Architects Member (\$25) AIA Member #: _____
 A Non-AIA Member (\$35)
 A Student (\$20) (Provide copy of School Photo ID with entry)
School: _____
 Submitting Multiple Entries (\$15 for each additional with separate entry form)
 Pre-ordering Commemorative Photo book (\$25)

Non-Refundable Entry Fee Total: _____

Please make out all checks or money orders to: Buffalo Architecture Foundation.
All major Credit Cards are accepted through our online entry portal.

FOR COMMITTEE USE ONLY

- This entry complies with all the rules, submission, and eligibility requirements.

