

## Michael G. Meyers Competition 2019 Design Competition

### ***“Emancipation 2020”***

Since ancient times, communities have gathered around public spaces where social activity happens. These community centers served as a place where people from the community can, meet for social, educational or recreational activities. With time, these spaces have evolved into what is now known as mixed-used developments. These centers are intended to not only be functional, but also bring life and movement while also providing a sense of place that attract visitors to the area.

This year, the design solution for the MGMC is to design a *new mixed use/community center with the elements of your choice*. The possible programmatic elements to be housed in your mixed-use are the following: supermarket, affordable housing, educational spaces, indoor-outdoor spaces, studios.

This new mixed-use/community center will be located in the heart of Houston’s Third Ward, in the block next to Emancipation Park. Situated at the corner of Emancipation Ave. and Elgin St., you should consider the role your new mixed-use will take on. It will be up to you to decide which path to take with your design strategies. Be sure to consider the context and surrounding landmarks in the area. Don’t forget this is foremost an ideas competition!

### **PROJECT REQUIREMENTS:**

#### **The design for "Emancipation 2020"**

1. Include a comprehensive description of your building explaining the concepts behind your interior and exterior design. See essay requirements. Give your design a name.
2. Develop a distinctive solution that considers the established urban surroundings. Your design solution should integrate and accomplish at least (2) sustainable strategies (see the last page of this document). Your solution should be pedestrian friendly.
3. Develop interior and exterior spaces that show an understanding of how these spaces are created within the required program elements. Consider the use and relationships of the programmed elements, as well as the relationship between the indoor and outdoor spaces, and the overall flow through the space.
4. You are encouraged to explore the use of interesting materials, structural components and environmental strategies. Your drawings should clearly illustrate these components. Consider the context of surrounding downtown buildings.

### **PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:**

#### **SITE ELEMENTS**

Consider how you will approach the site as a pedestrian, on a bike, or in a vehicle. How does one enter the building? What views of your building do you want to emphasize? What does the landscaping look like? What other elements accent your design and contribute to the experience of visiting the space? What special features will enhance the visitor experience? Does your design blend into the context of the surroundings or stand out?

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How will this space relate to the surrounding urban area? Will it be isolated from the street or use the city as a backdrop?

Your site is approximately 150 feet by 250 feet (37,500 sqft). Maintain a 10 ft set back on all sides of your building. Your building footprint may **not** occupy more than 75% of this area. The remaining area must be dedicated to outdoor public space. However, the outdoor public space should still be considered in your design.

### **Exterior Space Incorporate/ Develop 2 Ideas (min)**

- Façade Development
- Urban Green Space
- Natural Daylighting
- Energy Efficiency
- Green Roof
- Rain Water Harvesting

### **BUILDING ELEMENTS**

#### **75,000 SQFT APPROX.**

When designing your building, there are some critical issues to keep in mind. Your mixed-use should respond to the existing Emancipation Park Plan. What makes your building stand out from or integrate with these surrounding venues? What is the relationship between your **chosen program elements**? How does your building cater **to the park and surrounding neighborhood**?

Keep in mind that you may include additional programmatic elements if it is necessary for the function of your building or eliminate a programmatic element if it is unnecessary for the function.

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### **Main Anchor:**

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Co – Working Office	~ 30,000 – 40,000 sqft
<i>Within the office:</i>	
Ground floor lobby	~ 800 – 1200 sqft
Office core (20' x 60') <i>includes elevators, restrooms, and stairs</i>	~ 1200 sq ft.

### **Community Support:**

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\*choose at least 3 of the following

Market	~ 10,000 – 15,000 sqft
Affordable Housing	~ 10,000 – 15,000 sqft
Artist Gallery	~ 6,000 – 8,000 sqft
Health Clinic	~ 6,000 – 8,000 sqft
Retail Shops	~ 6,000 – 8,000 sqft

### **Public Spaces**

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Outdoor Community Market	3000 - 5000 sqft
Café	3000 - 5000 sqft
Community Garden/Plaza	3000 - 5000 sqft

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### PRESENTATION REQUIREMENTS:

#### 1 - narrative (should be firmly affixed to the front of one board)

Your descriptive narrative should include some detail to explain your design. Please limit your narrative to one 8 ½ x 11 sheet @ 12 point Arial font, approx. 500 words

Required descriptions in your essay:

- Describe your main anchor and how this anchor has influenced your design.
- Describe the community support. Who are they? What do they experience when engaging with the development and their customers? What do they experience in front of their audience? How does your development cater to the needs of their shops, housing?
- Describe the community/patrons. Who are they? What do they experience arriving to the development, entering the building, engaging with the shops, artisans, and outdoors?
- Describe how the surrounding context influences the design of your building.
- Describe the patron's experience in your building. What makes your building unique? What will make your users excited to spend time in your building?
- Describe your sustainable strategies and how your proposed multi-use development will benefit the community.

#### 2 - drawings

The following **minimum** requirements should be mounted on two 24" x 36" or 30" x 42" **foam core** (*do not submit more than two boards*): (*Winning entries will be exhibited @ the Architecture Center Houston, therefore to facilitate display, boards **must be foam core**, and must not exceed the allowable sizes*)

- 1" = 50' scale **site plan**, showing outdoor features and site improvements and the roof of the shelter (and other buildings if applicable).
- 1/16' = 1'-0" scale **floor plan** of the building showing walls, doors, windows, furniture, countertops, plumbing fixtures, room names, and other descriptive information that defines the space.
- 1/16' = 1'-0" scale **exterior building elevation(s)** showing façade, roof heights, building materials, windows, and other descriptive information.
- **Building section:**
  - o 1/16' = 1'-0" **building section** of the building showing spaces and how they are connected or divided walls and exterior wall material
  - Or
  - o 1"=1/4" **enlarged section** of a particular space of interest (I.E.: the entry from interior to exterior). Be sure to show materials.
- At least one accurate **perspective** drawings at any scale of an interior or exterior view of your project.
- Any **hand sketches** that document your design process.

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### 3 – model\*

1/16" = 1'-0" **scale model** of the project (*building only, no site model*) is required for team projects

Models are not to exceed a 36" x 24" base, and should fit in front of the participants' mounted presentation boards.

*\*Models are optional for individual participants, but all are encouraged to experiment with models to help answer questions about their designs.*

### DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS:

Entries are due by 5:00 pm on Friday, 03 May 2019. Location for drop off Kirksey Architecture. Check [aiahouston.org/mgmc](http://aiahouston.org/mgmc) for updates [phone 713-520-0155].

### AWARDS:

MGMC reception and awards presentation will be held on Monday, 06 May 2019. Location TBD. Check [aiahouston.org/mgmc](http://aiahouston.org/mgmc) for updates [phone 713-520-0155].

Design is a creative process, and this is an ideas competition. Engineering calculations are not required for mechanical, electrical, or structural systems. All participants will receive a certificate of recognition from the American Institute of Architects. There will be a balanced evaluation by jurors from architectural, academic, and other relevant fields of expertise. Awards include college scholarships and scholarships to the UofH Architectural Summer Discovery Program. While the quality of presentation is important, any contestant of any ability may receive an award based on the strength of a concept or inventiveness of an idea.

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## Sustainable design strategies

### Site



Preserve green space or return developed land to more natural state  
Be aware of drainage, minimize potential erosion  
Be smart about transportation  
Be aware of extent of impermeable surfaces, eg; roads and paving  
Be aware of the effect of your site on adjacent properties

### Water



Be smart about how much, and how you use and or reuse water.  
Think about ways to conserve water.  
(Use native and adaptive plants, and minimize use of potable water.  
Adopt water technologies that reduce amount of water used.

### Energy



Be smart about how much, and what type of energy is used.  
Think about ways to conserve energy.

### Materials



Consider the impact of products used in the construction of the Building;  
this would include materials with recycled content, salvaged, rapidly renewable and local materials.

### Indoor Environment



We spend the majority of our time indoors and we should optimize the quality of that environment.

Think about ways to bring lots of daylight into the building for visitors and workers

Think about the types of materials you use inside the building and how they could affect the health of the occupants