

Water Fun(d) Team Design Process

Paramount throughout this competition, balance between the technical and the aesthetic, the landscape and the built environment were our guiding principles. The proliferation of detail and expansion of ideas inherent to Phase II required that we look beyond our core team to strategically selected specialists to help us solve the challenges that our ambitious proposal generated during the initial phase of the competition. We engaged consultant partners to help answer critical questions regarding the waterfront ecosystem, real estate development policy and feasibility, and successful strategies for putting more decision-making power into the hands of the local community members. Our core team members met every week to discuss research, development, designs and ideas. Our team operates on the twin principles of collaboration and openness. In each of our host offices we called upon the brightest and best-qualified individuals to assist in the overall discussion and design process.

Strategic and targeted development to fund community amenities and services forms the core of our proposal. We sought to incorporate hydrologic systems into the greater city edge and create a policy mechanism that generates funding for necessary infrastructure to meet the challenge of a changing climate. To address those specific needs, we enlisted the help of commercial & residential real estate developers, a community and sustainability organizer, and a systems ecologist. Each of these consultants attended at least one weekly team meeting in order to present their information and collaborate on team design solutions. Our real estate consultants provided key insights into the various funding scenarios that our proposal would levy to satisfy our project goals. Together we developed strategies for optimizing gross square footage requirements to generate funds for city amenities and understand "real-life" scenarios through our policy proposals. The community and sustainability organizer worked with us to illustrate how we will effectively create a community organization that incorporates the interests of the stakeholders. The systems ecologist gave us critical information regarding waterfront wetlands establishment and success. He clarified the realities and requirements of healthy aquatic systems, both natural and created.

Although we chose the Prince building as our site, our team recognized that one key to making the project successful was to expand beyond the immediate building site. Due to the experience of members who have professional proficiencies in fields such as Urban planning, Ecology and Sustainability, we were able to identify neighborhood, urban, and ecology system factors that are critical to the health of the community, the built environment and the aquatic systems in our design proposal.