Either act of God or being a superior force, our society deals with Force-Majure Scenarios on many different scales. Turning these scenarios, that are often unexpected and overwhelming into opportunities to engage the community is what the Force-Majeure Ideas Competition represents. It poses the simple question of how can we as professionals help in times of immense need and attention.

AIA Austin in partnership with Design Voice, Women in Architecture, Emerging Professionals and Latinos in Architecture propose Force-Majeure, a design competition that addresses contemporary issues that are impacting our lives.

This competition is meant to serve as a tool that prompts intense thinking and tough discussion on how design can help mitigate crises. This year’s ideas competition is a multi-brief format that will challenge teams to think critically of how to design spaces in which people cannot physically be together, but still need access to basic needs and services around the community.

Architects facilitate interaction, create gathering places and build communities. What, then, is the appropriate design response to a health crisis that requires physically separating people?

Ned Cramer, Editor-in-Chief of ARCHITECT

ORGANIZERS

Design Voice facilitates opportunities for design professionals to serve their community through collaborative design focused events and informational programs.

Latinos in Architecture serve and support the local community, strengthen networks between design professionals and enrich our practice through diverse cultural views by fostering participation in educational, professional and community-oriented programs.

Women in Architecture seeks to promote, validate, and illuminate the role of women within the architectural field through fostering community, fellowship, education, and outreach.

ALL ARE WELCOME
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This call for design ideas is open to anyone who wants to create and put forth innovative ideas to solve current challenges. Teams may be formed by a maximum of (4) members and a minimum of (2).

Team members can be from any discipline, but at least (1) member of the team must have an architectural background. Collegiate students are welcome to participate. Participants will only be allowed to submit one proposal and be allowed on only one team.

No registration fee is required.

Under no circumstances may jurors, or persons directly related to the jury participate in this competition. To mitigate some of the current challenges our community is experiencing today, you will be able to pick between three scenarios and enter only one entry.

Please select one scenario for your team to submit an entry on. You must clearly indicate on your final presentation board which scenario you have chosen. Designs that provide clear practicable policy on how to maintain safety in the event of a pandemic will receive special attention. More materials for the brief can be found on the Force Majeure website. All submissions must conform to the specific deliverable requirements outlined in the submission materials below.

The three options are as follows:

(A) Post Pandemic Education
(B) Urban Cleanliness Park
(C) Crisis Resource Community Center

The jury is looking for design ideas! Think big and with no limits! The purpose of the competition is to both generate ideas that could potentially be used in real life as well as showcase the importance of architects and why architects are important to our community. The jury will be looking for submissions that are thought provoking and incorporate unique solutions to help mitigate the crisis. They should be uncommon solutions that inspire conversation and discussion about the issue as well as address the functionality of the brief.

**COMPETITION TIMELINE**

- May 25th: Competition Opens
- June 15th: Online Forum with Organizers and Participants
- Early August: Competition Winner Announced
- Aug. 19th: Round Table Discussion at AIA Austin Design Excellence Conference
AWARDS

1st Place $1,000  
Honorable Mention $500

*All entries that propose an interesting solution to the brief will potentially be presented in a digital exhibition, followed by a physical exhibition.

SUBMISSION MATERIALS

The following deliverables must be included on a 24” x 36” landscape oriented board. Arrangement, scale and layout of the project are up to the design team and the board must be submitted in PDF format.

The following outlines the base requirements but anything beyond is acceptable and will be considered. Design Teams can choose whichever kind of media they would like to work with, digital or sketch. Please do not place your names on any of the deliverables, as the selection process will be anonymous. Once selections have been made, exhibits will showcase the Design Teams’ names.

- Project Name and Brief Scenario Chosen
- Proof of concept narrative (not to exceed 300 words)
- Site Plan
- 3 Perspectives
- Floor Plan(s)
- (2) Elevations
- Diagrams that explain concept
- Short Film (Not to be included on board)

Along with the board, separately, please include a short video or film (maximum 2 minutes) about your project. It is up to the design team what they would like to submit for this. Because the evaluation process is anonymous, the film will not be part of the evaluation criteria; however films will be presented at future exhibitions. Some ideas include and are not limited to the team talking about their project, a video rendering of the project or the team virtually discussing concepts for their submission. All video submissions should be .mp4 format using ProRes HQ video compression and 1920 x 1080 resolution. Your films must have a file size limit of 3GB or less.

Submit the packaged files via https://www.aiaaustin.org/force-majeure. You will submit through the submittable link on the Force-Majeure website and will have to make a submittable profile. Competition Submissions are due July 25th at 11:59 CST. Any submissions entered after that time will not be considered.

Please refrain from putting any names of team members on the presentation boards, this will cause automatic disqualification. All Team Names should be entered into the submission portal only and one member of the team should submit the team entry. Once winning entries are selected, we will place the members of the Design Team on the boards for people to view at a possible exhibition and/or publication.
All materials submitted to the competition will become property of the AIA Austin chapter, and therefore give AIA Austin all rights to that material from that moment on.

AIA Austin will publish all materials given appropriate attributes to the authors.

AIA Austin reserves the right to modify the proposals and text in order to better adapt them to any publication format, without changing the essence of the proposal itself.

The participants are responsible for using copyright-free images. AIA Austin is not responsible for the use of protected images by any of the participants.

If you have any questions regarding the submission process or the competition please e-mail: courtney@aiaaustin.org
The project site is located on the corner of Goodwin Avenue & Tillery Street, adjacent to the busy Airport Boulevard in Austin, Texas. It is located in the Govalle neighborhood in East Austin. Located in a quickly developing neighborhood, this site has already been used as a resource for outdoor activities and gatherings, but its accessibility and proximity to resources, sets a high potential for this site to be highly utilized.

Airport Boulevard is a special corridor in Austin characterized by popular local businesses, rail stops, revitalizing neighborhoods and a new future for Highland Mall. The City of Austin is working with Airport Boulevard residents, property owners, neighbors, visitors, and community stakeholders on a vision and strategy to revitalize the corridor into Austin’s next great urban district.

East Austin has historically been comprised of marginalized communities that was initiated by the Koch City Plan in 1928, establishing the area as a “negro district”. The division for this community was geographically delineated by I-35, a major highway that became a clear indication of separation. With tech and other industries moving into Austin in the recent years, this East Austin area has been highly susceptible to gentrification and a large homeless population has concentrated under the I-35 highway by Cesar Chavez Street.

*Dimensions Provided Are Approximate*
### PROJECT BRIEF A
**POST-PANDEMIC EDUCATION**

What does teaching and learning look like in the post pandemic world? How can we provide safe and effective solutions for educating a generation growing up in quarantine? Provide a design solution for how to provide in-person education to middle schoolers grades 6-8. Solutions should include details on class sizes, scheduling and social distancing measures.

Program Elements should include but are not limited to:

- 6 Classrooms for 6th, 7th & 8th Grade (900sf)
- Auditorium (2,500sf)
- Library (2,000sf)
- Cafeteria (2,000sf)
- Student Pick-up/Drop-off
- Admin Area (750sf)
- Teacher’s Lounge (400sf)
- Gymnasium (3,000sf)
- Outdoor Areas

### PROJECT BRIEF B
**URBAN CLEANLINESS PARK**

There has always been a need to provide sanitation facilities that can be accessible to any one but especially those experiencing homelessness. In this brief, you are charged with designing a park that can be used as a resource of cleanliness and for community.

Program Elements should include but are not limited to:

- 20 genderless toilet facilities (lavatories only)
- 10 Showering Facilities
- Separated laundry facility (300sf)
- 15 Public and visible sinks
- Donation drop off cubbies.
- Storage Area for staff maintenance items (500sf)
- 2 Small Covered Picnic Shelter (300sf)
- 1 Large Covered Picnic Shelter (2,000sf)
- Outdoor Amphitheater (2,500sf)
- Playground (1,500sf)
- Soccer Fields
- Walking Trails
- Splash Pad (1,000sf)
- Community Garden

### PROJECT BRIEF C
**CRISIS RESOURCE COMMUNITY CENTER**

This design challenge consists of designing a permanent facility for the safe and sterile receiving/delivering of essential goods to the community in a 5 mile radius. The donation of goods and products is critical to keeping people healthy and happy during a pandemic. The process of receiving and delivering goods is full of opportunities for potential transmission of the virus. A key element of this design is what the space becomes once the pandemic is over. How does its useful life continue and how does it adapt itself as a resource to a community that is constantly changing.

Program Elements should include but are not limited to:

- Admittance/Entry Lobby (1,000sf)
- Employee Work Area (3,000sf)
- 2,000SF Volunteer Area
- Dry Storage Area (15,000sf)
- Cold/Frozen Storage Area (5,000sf)
- Employee Lockers/ Changing Room
- Drop-Off/Donation Center (500sf)
- Drive through Pick Up Center
- Safe Transfer Pick Up Center (3,000sf)
- Teaching Kitchen (1,000sf)
- Public & Private Restrooms