Welcome to Design LAB!

Over the next 16 weeks (or so), you will be participating in the Design LAB program. It will be fun, but it also may challenge you in ways you aren’t used to – like seeing how creative you can be when trying to solve problems that people in your community are facing.

Your challenge is to build something that helps your community. Do you need a library so more people can learn and have access to books? Do you need a park so more people spend time outside and have a place to play?
The Final Model

This photo shows the end product of the program: the model. This is what you are working towards. When the program is over, we hope you will have a model that you can be really proud of!

For that to happen, you need to follow along with the steps of the program. Trust the process and learn from every step of it.
This is the process you will follow during this program:

- There are variations of this process, but they all accomplish the same thing: they break down your design problem into manageable chunks, taking the problem one step at a time to a solution.
I have a challenge

Understand the challenge.
This will mean deciding on a client, identifying their needs, and knowing how to meet them.

Research and gather inspiration.
Knowing how to meet your client's needs will probably depend on understanding how similar needs were met in the past. Research every aspect of your challenge to ensure that your solution is sound.
Search for Meaning

This can be an exciting step! Ask questions that were brought up by your research. Maybe you are wondering why bridges aren’t built in a certain area or not utilized by a certain population. What will this mean to your final solution? How can you overcome?

Identify Opportunities

Once you have thoroughly researched, you will probably have great, new, innovative ideas for how to address your problem and serve your client.
I See an Opportunity

Brainstorm Ideas
Let yourself think without constraints. Push yourself by writing down or sketching every idea you have, even if you think they are bad ones. Those can turn in to some of the best ones.

Describe Ideas/Get Feedback
Now you have an idea of why you are doing this and how you will go about it. Create a presentation for your classmates to tell them – this should be both visual and verbal. Get their feedback, maybe one of them will think of something you hadn’t.
I Have an Idea

Start Tinkering
Have fun with this part. Start to play with materials and figure out how to make different aspects of your model. Look at objects/resources around you in different ways to help create your model.

Bring Your Ideas to Life
Continue to explore materials as you begin to build your model and watch all of your ideas come to life.
I Tried Something

Develop Your Idea
As you build your model, you may develop your original plan and it may change some. That is exactly what happens to professionals, too!

Share Your Vision
Use your completed model to share your vision! Educate others on the problem you wanted to solve and how you went about solving it.
The top project in each class will be on display during a week-long exhibit at the Cincinnati Public Library’s Main Branch! All other projects will be on display digitally and will compete for social media’s award.

The Design LAB Exhibit will be on display from April 29-May 5. We will have a closing reception to celebrate all of the hard work of each student who has work represented there and award projects out of this group that are distinct in certain categories.
Types of Buildings

There are SIX main building types to learn about.
Residential & Commercial

1. Residential
- Places where people live

2. Commercial
- Places where people buy and sell things
Institutional & Industrial

3. Institutional
- Places where people get help, learn, or receive government services

4. Industrial
- Places where things are made, disposed of, or processed

- Schools
- Hospitals
- Recycling Centers
- Power Plants
5. Open/Public Space & Parks

- Places where people play, exercise, or enjoy nature

6. Mixed Use

- Places that serve more than one function
COMMUNITY

These buildings and spaces that surround you make up your community.

Complete the handout shown above and show us what you’ve learned about different types of buildings.