



## Re-Design Your Community Project

This project is designed for use with the following episodes:

- **e<sup>2</sup> design season three — Melbourne Reborn and A Garden in Cairo**
- **e<sup>2</sup> transport — Paris: Vélo Liberté and Portland: A Sense of Place**

Objective: Re-design a section of your city or town to both improve the quality of life of the citizens and benefit the natural environment. One proposal will be chosen to present to the city planning commission.

TIMING: 5 – 8 class periods (not including episode discussions)

THE ASSIGNMENT:

- 1) Follow the teacher’s guide for discussion of **e<sup>2</sup> design season three** episodes “Melbourne Reborn” and “A Garden in Cairo”, and **e<sup>2</sup> transport** episodes “Paris: Vélo Liberté” and “Portland: A Sense of Place.” (Note: All episodes are not necessary.)
- 2) There are three main parts to the project, each group (of three or four students) must:
  - a. Describe the part of your city that you will re-design and list the problem or problems that you will address.
  - b. Describe the changes that you will make and build a model or draw a map to show what your design will look like.
  - c. Explain how the changes that you have proposed will:
    - i. Improve the quality of life of the citizens of the community
    - ii. Benefit the natural environment

Helpful questions to ask when selecting a site: (Note: Teachers may choose to plan a city tour field trip to help with site selection.)

- Is it already a public space or will the city have to purchase the land?
- Has the site fallen into disrepair? If so, what caused its demise? How could that same result be avoided with your new design?
- What type of transportation is available to get to the site? If public transportation is not available, how will the public gain access to the site?
- Are there pre-existing features of the site that can be restored?
- Is the area residential, commercial or a mixture?
- Is there a lot of foot traffic nearby?
- What will the environmental effects of the construction be? Will you use local materials?

- How will the project be funded?



## THE FINAL PRODUCT

- 3) Written Proposal. Each group must hand in a written proposal in three parts:
  - a. The site research. What is the current situation? Why is a redesign necessary? What problem or problems will be addressed?
  - b. The design proposal with visual aids (models, drawings, charts, statistics) and potential problems with suggested solutions.
  - c. A written explanation of how the new design will:
    - i. Improve the quality of life of the citizens of the community
    - ii. Benefit the natural environment

The presentations can take place simultaneously at a Re-Design Fair. Members of the school community (other grade level students, teachers, parents administrators) can be invited to visit booths where each team presents its proposal.

- 4) Booth Presentation. Each group sets up a booth at the Re-Design Fair and presents its proposals to students and teachers who visit the booth. Your presentation will be oral with the help of visual aids. Each group member should play a role in the presentation. Remember, the necessary parts to cover are:
  - a. The site research. What is the current situation? Why is a redesign necessary? What problem or problems will be addressed?
  - b. The design proposal with visual aids (models, drawings, charts, statistics) and discussion of potential costs and benefits of suggested solutions.
  - c. An explanation of how the new design will:
    - i. Improve the quality of life of the citizens of the community
    - ii. Benefit the natural environment

Note: If time constraints do not allow for a school-wide fair, teachers can have students share their work with an in-class version of the fair.



## THE PRESENTATION TO THE CITY

- 5) There are several options for deciding which proposal or proposals will be presented to the town planning commission.
  - a. The student body can vote to choose a winner, 1<sup>st</sup> runner-up, and 2<sup>nd</sup> runner-up.
  - b. A panel of teachers and students can choose a winner, 1<sup>st</sup> runner-up, and 2<sup>nd</sup> runner-up.
  - c. A panel of teachers can choose three to five finalists. Those finalists can present again so that the whole school community can vote to choose a winner, 1<sup>st</sup> runner-up and 2<sup>nd</sup> runner-up.
  - d. A panel of teachers can choose three to five finalists.

The school can invite the city officials to come and see the finalists present at the Re-Design Fair and/or the winning team can travel to the city offices to present.