UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS BOX CASTLE DESIGN COMPETITION

Fall 2013

Presented by The Office of Sustainability and The Campus Environmental Center
Competition Synopsis

The Office of Sustainability and the UT Campus Environmental Center cordially invites you to this first-ever competition to design the largest university-built box castle.

The purpose of the Box Castle is to serve as a symbol of UT’s commitment to recycling, proven by its switch to Single Stream recycling, and other environmentally responsible endeavors.

The Box Castle will be built on the circle drive on 23rd St. in front of the Winship Drama Building* and will encompass a carnival celebrating America Recycles Day on November 15th.

Boxes are being collected and stored in Darrel K Royal stadium. Early morning on November 15th, with the help of UT Facilities, the boxes will be moved in front of the Winship Building and building will commence. A team of 30+ volunteers will help build the castle.

*Location subject to final review after the design is selected.

Build Timeframe

The Castle must be constructed completely from start to finish on the day of November 15th.

There is no room in storage to store a pre-built structure.

The castle needs to be constructed in roughly 5 hours or less by a labor force of 30 or more, organized by the Office of Sustainability and the Campus Environmental Center.

A plan for construction must also be present along with the design. The winner will be instrumental in creating the castle, since it will be his or her design.
Materials

Cardboard must account for the main material of the castle. The shape and form of the castle must be structurally sound.

Most of the cardboard boxes will already be broken down. There will be roughly 3,300 boxes to work with, of varying size. You do not have to re-assemble every box to use them.

Despite the varying size, boxes will be organized in small, medium, and large box sizes.

Other materials permitted are adhesives and structural supports, however cardboard must be the primary building material. You have a budget of $300 maximum for materials besides packing tape and duct tape, which will be provided free to you.

Building constraints

No ladders, pulleys, or cranes are allowed while building the castle. The height constraint for the castle is about 7.5 ft, as high as a tall person’s comfortable overhead reach.

The circle drive is a circle with a 30 ft. diameter. The castle will be built inside of the circle in front of Winship and the East Mall Fountain. Traffic will be blocked from using the circle on the day of construction.

The castle must not have a roof. The designer must be able to work throughout the fall with the Office of Sustainability in making sure the structure is in line with UT safety standards.

The winner of the competition must present their design to UT Fire Safety as well as Student Affairs before construction of the Castle.
America Recycles Day

America Recycles Day occurs on November 15th and represents the only nationally recognized day celebrating recycling resources and buying recycled resources. America Recycles Day primarily falls under the sponsorship of Keep America Beautiful, a non-profit that encourages waste reduction, recycling, and the preservation of beautiful open spaces.

Every year, on November 15th, colleges, companies, and communities engage in America Recycles Day by hosting various engaging events. These events range from recycling competitions to pledge campaigns to recycle in the coming year. For more examples and more information visit: www.americarecyclesday.org

UT Recycles Purpose

The University of Texas is particularly excited about America Recycles Day this year due to the recent switch to single stream recycling. Single Stream recycling allows for all recyclable materials to be recycled in the same bin, which streamlines the whole process.

While recycling is nothing new to a city as environmentally aware as Austin, many still fail to recycle, and even more do not understand the significance of the switch to a much easier recycling process such as Single Stream recycling. In an age where we can create mass amounts of things cheaply, learning to reuse and recycle the goods that we so easily create will be crucial to maintaining our resources and caring for our environment.

Designers are encouraged to think of special elements that will draw the UT community to the castle and make them talk about it, such as a photo booth hidden within the structure, or a gallery highlighting UT’s sustainability accomplishments, or the shape(s) that the castle might make when viewed from above.

The publicity committee for the event will be dedicated to making sure that your design is captured in photo and video for posterity! Keep this in mind when creating the design and construction plan.

Box Castles

Box castles represent fun and innovation. Building a cardboard box castle represents the first big structure many kids build. The castle will add a nostalgic novelty and allow people passing by to tap back into the whimsical nature of first building a box castle in their own childhood.
Submission Requirements

1. Perspective drawing and/or 3D model of the Castle.
2. Construction Plan including stages of construction and volunteers needed at each stage (2 pages max).
3. Illustration of castle at proposed building site, including square footage.
4. Applicant Contact Information.

Documents are preferred in pdf form and must be submitted by midnight September 22nd to AmericaRecyclesDay@UTenvironment.org.

What you will win

1. Creative control and responsibility for the largest cardboard box castle created by a university.
2. Press attention
3. Glory
4. All the ARD, Campus Environmental Center, and Office of Sustainability swag one could ask for.

Winners will be notified the week of September 23rd.
Contacts

Daniel Perenyi – d.perenyi@utexas.edu
Wesley Beckner – GreenEvents@UTenvironment.org
Green Fee Program – TexasGreenFee@gmail.com

Feel free to contact any of the above persons regarding the competition!