



## **MAKING OUR OWN SPACE – RAPID RESPONSE TEAM**

### **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**PROPOSAL DEADLINE: JUNE 30, 2021**

**Contact: [cudc@kent.edu](mailto:cudc@kent.edu) | 216.357.3434**

Kent State University's Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative (CUDC) is looking for a **community development corporation, government agency, or non-profit organization** that serves middle and high school students within the City of Cleveland to be our partner on a new initiative in our award-winning Making Our Own Space program.

Making Our Own Space (MOOS) is a design/build program where young people imagine, design, and build improvements to public spaces in their neighborhoods. MOOS Students will learn valuable skills and have fun while earning a stipend for their participation in the program.

The MOOS program was established in 2015 and currently operates in six Cleveland neighborhoods and two first-ring suburbs. The CUDC's new initiative, Making Our Own Space Rapid Response Team (MOOS-RRT) is an outgrowth and expansion of the original MOOS program.

MOOS-RRT is an 18-month enrichment program for middle and high school students who have an interest in design and the desire to be active changemakers in their neighborhood. Student participants will conduct research and develop design-based solutions to address issues in a Cleveland neighborhood, in collaboration with the staff of Kent State University's Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative (CUDC), guest designers, and community leaders.

Thanks to the generous support of the Cleveland Foundation, the CUDC will operate this program at no cost to the community partner we select through this Request for Proposals. We ask the community partner to actively participate in the program. We will provide a stipend for this participation as described in the Partner Requirements section.

#### **PROGRAM COMPONENTS**

MOOS-RRT will consist of six middle and high students from the selected neighborhood. Students will commit to the 18-month process, from late Summer 2021 through Fall 2022. Students will receive a stipend for their participation. We will have a mechanism for bringing in new participants if a student withdraws during the program.

The CUDC will organize summer camps and after-school workshops that equip students with the skills they need to conduct field work and analyze existing conditions in a neighborhood; work with community members and other stakeholders to understand their needs and priorities; communicate with leaders and decision-makers about urban issues relevant to their neighborhood; and develop design ideas and alternatives that respond to local conditions. MOOS-RRT will focus on urban design and research, and students will have the opportunity to determine what creative outputs they want to produce to best respond to the needs and opportunities they identify through this research. As with previous MOOS programs, students will also learn hands-on design/construction skills to create public installations, prototype their ideas, and advance community conversations.

A key component of MOOS-RRT is a community design charrette to be held in the fall of 2022. A charrette is an intense, three to four day workshop during which MOOS students will work side by side with Kent State graduate students in landscape architecture, architecture, and urban design and CUDC staff on an intensive design challenge in their neighborhood. By this time, MOOS students will be design and planning experts in their community based on summer camps and after school sessions that will lay the groundwork for the charrette. The students will help shape the direction of the charrette, and be positioned as leaders in this community process.

MOOS-RRT will offer an in-depth experience through which MOOS students develop close working relationships with each other, program staff, and guest designers. The MOOS curriculum will be carefully tailored to the needs and interests of the student participants, and responsive to their evolving skills and curiosities. The small size of the cohort for MOOS-RRT is structured to allow for longer-term engagements and closer integration with the professional side of the CUDC's community design practice.

The CUDC will also identify opportunities to hire MOOS students for other projects that emerge during the project period. We will weave MOOS students into some of our professional projects as paid employees, based on the students' interests and availability. We anticipate that this will be more effective for building a pipeline into the design professions than previous MOOS programs, which focused solely on short-term design/build projects.

#### **COMMUNITY PARTNER REQUIREMENTS**

MOOS-RRT Community Partner must be a community development corporation, government agency, or non-profit organization that serves middle and high school students in the City of Cleveland.

Community Partner will:

- Recruit six student participants for the MOOS Rapid Response Team, plus additional student participants if any of the initial students need to withdraw from the program.
- Identify neighborhood opportunities, challenges, sites, and priorities for the MOOS students to explore and address.
- Invite community participation throughout the 18-month period,
  - The program is scheduled to run from August 2021 through November 2022,
  - Summer camps and weekly after school workshops will culminate in a community design charrette in the fall of 2022.
- Provide indoor meeting space and outdoor work space as needed during the program
  - We anticipate approximately 50 workshops over the 18-month project period.
- Provide refreshments for students at workshops and stipend payments for student participants. Grant funds will cover the cost of refreshments and stipends, but we request that the Community Partner handle the logistics, if possible.
- Work with the CUDC team to ensure that MOOS-RRT addresses important neighborhood issues and is integrated into the work of your organization.
  - The MOOS curriculum includes design thinking, urban research, and hands-on making skills. CUDC will provide construction materials, tools, printing, etc. as needed for student projects.

## **PROPOSAL SUBMISSION**

Please submit a proposal of no more than five pages that:

- Describes your organization, including current programs you offer for teens.
- Identifies a staff member at your organization who will be the main point of contact if your organization is selected for MOOS-RRT, including a brief bio that highlights their experiences in working with neighborhood youth
- Introduces your neighborhood, describes community issues and priorities, and identifies some preliminary design challenges and opportunities the MOOS students could explore.

Based on a recent community survey, we are particularly interested in exploring the the following topics:

- redlining / community reinvestment
- park access / design
- climate change / climate resilience

However, MOOS-RRT is designed to be community-driven, so if there is a different, more urgent issue in your neighborhood, please describe it in your proposal.

**DEADLINES**

Please submit your proposal to the CUDC by June 30, 2021 in order for us to review and select no later than July 12, 2021.

**QUESTIONS?**

Please contact the CUDC at [cudc@kent.edu](mailto:cudc@kent.edu) or 216.357.3434

**FOR MORE ON MAKING OUR OWN SPACE AND THE CUDC:**

- <http://www.wearemoos.org/>
- <http://cudc.kent.edu/>