



Junk Battle!

LA's most creative minds are taking on Big Junk.

Includes a blowout event and specialist symposium in collaboration with UCLA Office of Sustainability, ArtCenter, CalArts, LA Trade Tech Architecture, What Design Can Do, Common, NCompass.

JUNK BATTLE! brings the County's architecture and design students together with professionals to focus on one of LA's toughest challenges: what to do about mountains of waste.

“Imagine TED meets architecture-and-design studio meets hackathon meets innovation black belts,” says Creative Director John Bielenberg, “and you’ve just imagined what JUNK BATTLE! can be.”

Includes a blow-out, competition event held at the LA Cleantech Incubator (LACI) in the downtown Arts District, and a specialist symposium held at UCLA.

CASE STUDY: UCLA

UCLA case study highlights the challenge. The university purchases close to a billion dollars' worth of goods every year. **A large percentage of which winds up in area landfills.** UCLA targets a zero-waste goal by 2020. But to reach it, they have to change the game.

The essential challenge is the same for institutions large and small across the County.

So we're bringing LA County's architecture and design community together with experts on waste and recycling to take on Big Junk.

The one-day JUNK BATTLE! competition event, held on the campus of the LA Cleantech Incubator (LACI), includes:

- **TED-style talks bringing the County's leading innovators and visionaries together to raise the bar on what's possible in terms of waste and recycling and frame new inspirations.**
 - **JUNK BATTLE! design competition with countywide architecture and design programs.**
 - **Blow-out, zero-waste party.**
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The specialist symposium, held on the campus of UCLA, assumes that business-as-usual approaches to waste no longer work and that a new zero waste roadmap must be implemented. We bring together the people who can make it happen.

JUNK BATTLE! will be a small hit if we:

Engage the County's architecture and design communities for the common good of creating a more ecological LA. Create a buzz-worthy event that spotlights waste and southland creativity. Unite better ideas with a stronger connections for a zero waste roadmap.

THE COMPETITION EVENT.

JUNK BATTLE! competition brings together LA County's architecture and design schools to upcycle institutional waste in the most useful and creative ways imaginable. Professionals volunteer as project consultants. Work begins ahead of time and culminates on the day of the event with celebrity judging.

JUNK BATTLE! is improvisational. Fast-paced. No one can imagine in advance the results. Perhaps we'll see dwellable tiny houses emerge from the competition. Entrepreneurial ideas for rapid prototyping develop out of the Think Wrong workshops. Solutions to the challenge of waste and recycling will get spotlighted.

Visionary design and architecture students from across LA County collaborate with leading professionals on a common social challenge.

The point is not to come up with solutions in a few hours. The point is to focus attention, engage, generate a lot of useful energy – and possibly even hammer some prototypes together that might be worth taking for a longer ride.

TEAMS.

Teams for the JUNK BATTLE! competition are based in architecture or design programs (higher ed) from throughout LA County, and may involve full- or part-time students.

- **We expect teams to develop in relationship to graduate seminars in some cases, and from semester-long classes in others. Teams may also be extra-curricular.**
 - **Students from outside of these programs (e.g., engineering) may join an architecture or design submission.**
 - **We assume a total of 5-12 students per team.**
 - **Professional architects and designers serve as consultants to the student teams on a time-limited basis – say, up to 2 hours per consultant, virtually or in person, to be used by teams wisely.**
 - **Institutions provide faculty guidance, studio space, and junk storage space.**
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SUBMISSION CRITERIA.

The idea of the JUNK BATTLE! competition is to make something both useful and amazing from a big pile of institutional junk.

- We anticipate that results will vary widely, from a tiny house to something with wheels to playground equipment to a collection of things to wear. We are currently drafting competition rules.**
 - Because submissions are to be useful, teams must pre-identify a need and location in LA County whose purpose the submission will serve, and articulate how their submission will help create a more ecologically sustainable Los Angeles.**
 - Submissions must be transportable and fit into a specified size of cargo container.**
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RESOURCES.

Resources for the JUNK BATTLE! competition will be limited by the rules of engagement.

- **Junk will be provided by the sponsoring institutions according to rule-book specs: for example, limit by weight or number of junk pieces; community-originated, etc.**
 - **\$2,000 grants will be provided to each team for miscellaneous purchase and transportation.**
 - **\$500 grants (or in-kind) will be offered for video equipment to document team work.**
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PROCESS WITH TEAMS.

- **Teams will be selected for the JUNK BATTLE! competition based on submitted proposals. Proposals should be 1-2 pp in length and include: Institution and department; Team members; Faculty sponsor; Idea; General description of the kind of junk to be used; Proposed usefulness of the submission; Target location and need it will fulfill in meeting LA County sustainability objectives; Proposed time commitment.**
 - **Teams selected and confirmed based on submissions.**
 - **Orientation for all teams and project launch.**
 - **Temperature checks throughout the process.**
 - **Presentations at day-long JUNK BATTLE! event.**
 - **Siting of submissions at target locations.**
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EVENT DAY.

- **Program elements include: TED-style talks; and breaks during which audience members have the opportunity to view ad hoc presentations of submissions in scattered locations around the space.**
 - **Lunch includes “ugly” foods, zero-waste, and up-cycling.**
 - **Popular voting takes place over the final break. The popular vote will become one factor in final voting that includes celebrity judging.**
 - **Cocktail party includes celebrity judges and Shark Tank-like event:**
 - **Includes quick pitches by contestants introducing team; junk used; inspiration; what purposes it serves; how it relates to a vision for the future of waste management, etc.**
 - **Final vote tally while party continues over drinks and food. Announcement of winners.**
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Key Partners:

UCLA Office of Sustainability

ArtCenter

CalArts

LA Trade Tech, Architecture

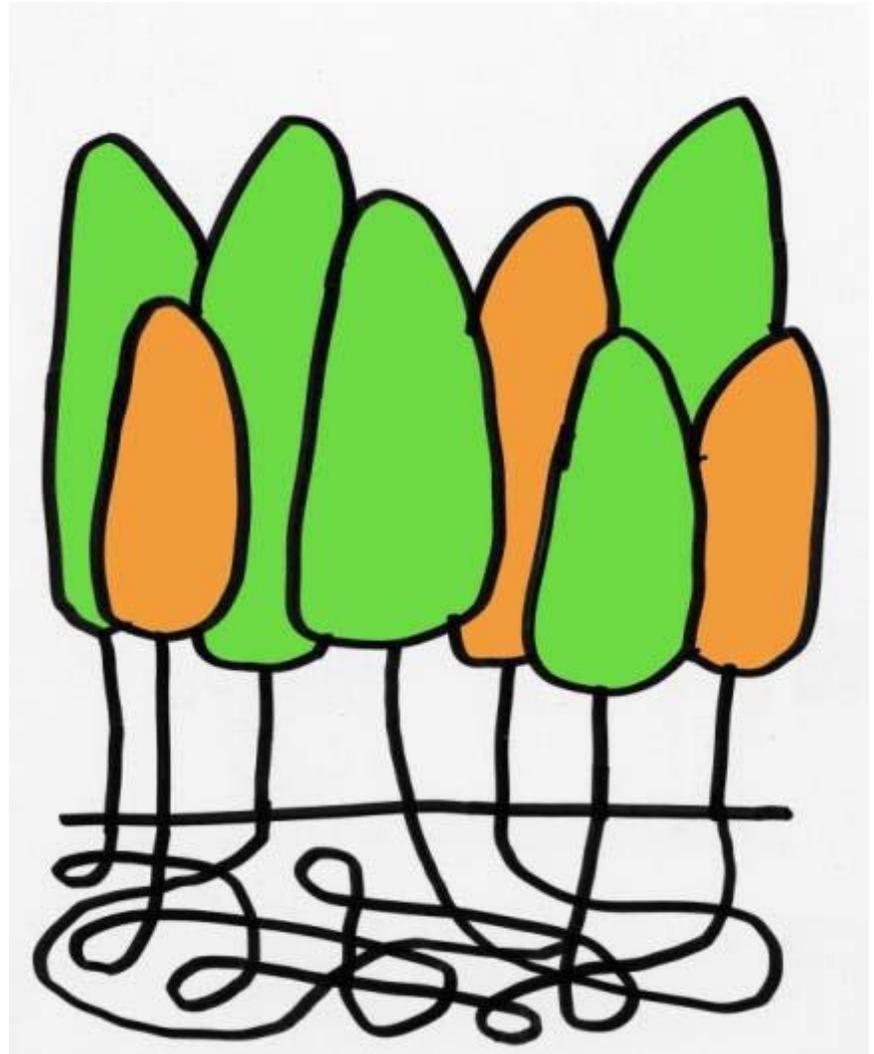
What Design Can Do

Common

NCompass

Pando Populus is a producer of strategically chosen initiatives for a more sustainable Los Angeles County.

Our name comes from the largest and one of the oldest organisms on Earth: Pando. Hundreds if not thousands of years old. Spreading over 100 acres. Connected at the roots. Each part nourishing the whole. A symbol of our life together.



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Eugene Shirley, President: eugene@pandopopulus.com; 310-428-6406

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