

# How might we develop a space to serve the needs of the homeless, one of our most vulnerable communities in the County?



## The small bet:

Create and design a model to address any of the myriad of needs for people experiencing homeless (PEH) including possible solutions for housing, hydration, hygiene, and summer cooling.

## County Goals:

#2 Buildings and infrastructure that support human health and resilience.

## Location:

Skid Row-(3rd street (N) to 7th street (S), Alameda (E), Main (W).

Community refresh center, located at 544 Towne.

Gladys and San Julien parks.

## The Challenge:

The Mayor's office has identified under-utilized spaces and buildings that can be converted into hubs for PEH housing, hydration and cooling centers. Exact location TBD.

Best use proposal for a chosen location to include population capacity; needs assessment and planning; design; and utility.

Team projects may include any of the following components:

- An accurate homeless count within the targeted area.
- Infrastructure design and renderings for proposed space and buildings to provide some or all of the following: housing, hydration, and cooling center services (not necessarily all in one space or building).
- Planning proposal for implementation.
- Strategies for deep community empowerment and engagement.

## Client Partners:

Mayor's Office of City Homelessness Initiatives (MOCHI), City of Los Angeles.

County partner, DHS-Housing for Health

## Background and Need:

Skid Row has been home to PEH for nearly 100 years and is the largest concentrate of PEH in the country. There are currently an estimated 2,800 unsheltered PEH in the area of Skid Row and it is a growing population in need of housing, hydration, hygiene and cooling center options. The area is a climate desert, registering as many as 15 degrees hotter on a summer day than comparable areas within LA that offer trees and shade. Many members of the PEH community reside there in sheltered or unsheltered settings and many more continuously arrive from other parts of the city in search of vital services. Integrated and community-driven solutions are an imperative.