

Where Do You Give? National Design Competition: Student Track

A Guide for Schools

Where Do You Give? Reimagining Tzedakah for the 21st Century, features a national design competition, online interactive media and educational resources that engage the Jewish community in critical questions about where we give, to whom and why.

The *Where Do You Give? National Design Competition* challenges artists, designers and conceptual thinkers to create a *tzedakah* box for the 21st century that reflects where we give, to whom and why.

Students ages 18 and younger are invited to participate in the *Where Do You Give? National Design Competition: Student Track*, which will be held from January 10, 2012 to March 26, 2012. The competition challenges students to design a *tzedakah* box that will inspire users to think deeply about where they give, to whom and why. Submissions must be two-dimensional—either drawings or photographs of three-dimensional creations—and must be accompanied by an artist’s statement that explains the design and the Jewish values that it reflects. For official rules and more information about how to submit a design, visit www.wheredoyougive.org/students_and_teachers/student_track_rules. A panel of judges from AJWS and Babaganewz will select three student winners. Student Track winners will be featured on the *Where Do You Give?* website at www.wheredoyougive.org, and have their designs included in a nationwide mobile tour along with the winners of the general competition.

In addition to encouraging your students to submit entries in the official *Where Do You Give? National Design Competition: Student Track*, schools are also invited to run their own independent competitions at any point throughout the school year. The following guidelines will help you plan a competition that will enable students to use art and design to reflect on *tzedakah* as well as to connect students to bigger conversations about *tzedakah* in our modern world.

GUIDELINES FOR RUNNING A WHERE DO YOU GIVE? DESIGN COMPETITION IN YOUR SCHOOL OR CLASSROOM

DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY

Consider whether to run the competition within each class or grade, or whether to open it up to the whole school. If you open it widely, you may want to create categories for different ages.

DETERMINE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Consider whether to require students to submit three-dimensional physical boxes or photographs or drawings of their design. Drawings or photographs may be easier to create and manage, but physical boxes have the advantage of being functional and also allow for the possibility of creating a museum exhibit after the competition.

You may want to require students to include an artist’s statement that explains their design. If you are connecting the competition to your *tzedakah* curriculum, an artist’s statement can be an excellent form of assessment if it asks students to reference elements of the curriculum.

DETERMINE WHEN AND FOR HOW LONG THE COMPETITION WILL RUN

Consider connecting your school’s competition to your school’s calendar. You may want to schedule the competition to coincide with a *tzedakah* unit in a particular grade or a Jewish holiday that includes *tzedakah* themes like Purim or Pesach.

Determine whether you expect students to work on their designs at home or whether you plan to devote class time to the creation of their designs.

Determine how long the competition will run. You may want to limit it to a few weeks to give students enough time to work on their designs but not too much time so that you lose momentum.

SET THE CONTEXT FOR THE COMPETITION

The competition is intended to provoke reflection and dialogue about where we give, to whom and why. Consider supporting students in their exploration of these questions through lessons, speakers and other programs. For additional resources on these topics, visit www.wheredoyougive.org.

You may also want to use the competition to support your school's existing *tzedakah* curriculum or *tzedakah* initiatives. It can serve as an assessment tool to gauge students' understanding of the concepts and themes in your *tzedakah* curriculum. Alternatively, the competition can be used to generate enthusiasm and interest in your school's *tzedakah* initiatives and educational units.

Consider sharing with students sample designs from the national competition to inspire them in the creation of their own designs. Designs can be viewed at www.wheredoyougive.org.

You may also consider running the competition as an annual program for a particular grade that studies *tzedakah* intensively or for *b'nai mitzvah* students.

Where Do You Give? provides a lesson plan to introduce the competition to students. To download the lesson plan, visit www.wheredoyougive.org/students_and_teachers/student_competition_lesson_plan.

SELECT JUDGES AND DETERMINE PRIZES

Decide whether your school's competition will be judged by a select panel of faculty/student leaders and/or by student vote. If you decide on a popular vote, be sure to plan when, where and how the voting will take place as well as who is eligible to vote.

Consider offering prizes that reinforce the *tzedakah* values that are embodied by the competition. For example, you may want to make the prize a donation to the winner's organization of choice.

CONTINUE THE IMPACT

Where Do You Give? will continue the impact of its design competition by creating a traveling exhibition of the winning and finalist designs. Consider doing something similar with your school's competition by displaying students' designs in a prominent location in your school. You may also want to include photographs of the designs in your school's newsletter or on its website.