

Activity Plan for Public Space Design Challenge Day

Numbers: whole class split in to small groups of 5/6 students

Support: volunteer built environment professionals (one for each group of students)

Timing: whole school day (6 hours approx)

General Materials required: laptop and projector, coloured pens, paper, scissors, glue, simple plans/maps of site to be reviewed, range of model making materials, clip boards, digital cameras, photographs of the site being explored

Engaging Places resources required:

3. Elements of Public Space (powerpoint presentation)
4. Public Space User Cards (word doc)
5. Public Space Image Collection (powerpoint presentation)
6. Public Space Design Challenge Brief - Weymouth Example (pdf)

Activity	Details	Timing
Introduction	Introduce the outline of the day. Introduce volunteer Built Environment (BE) professionals who will be supporting the day. Split students into small groups, each with a BE professional.	20 mins
Site visit	Visit site that will be the focus for the design challenge. Give pupils simple maps/plans of the site for them to record notes/observations. Students to photograph likes and dislikes of the site.	60 mins
Refreshment break		15 mins
Public Space elements powerpoint presentation	On return to school show the class the Elements of public space powerpoint presentation using the Weymouth waterfront as an example. Ask students to think of good examples of each of the elements and share with the whole class.	15 mins

User Card activity	This activity is to encourage students to consider/develop empathy for all the different types of users of a public space. Download and print a copy of the User cards sheet for each group and follow the instructions.	10 mins
Public space comparison activity	Give each small group a set of images of different public spaces (from the Public Space Image Collection powerpoint). Ask the students to rank them from best to worst. Then give each group an image of the space they are working on and ask them where they would put it on the scale of best to worst space. Encourage students to justify their choices.	10 mins
Presentation of design brief	Present the design brief to the whole class and read through what they need to consider and what they have to do/produce by the end of the day. (Use the Weymouth Design brief as a template and modify for the space you are exploring). Emphasis teamwork.	10 mins
2D Design scheme drawings	In small groups with their BE professional, the students develop their ideas for how they would improve the public space as 2D drawings. Students may want to focus on particular themes/elements. Plans of the site, paper and pens will be needed.	45 mins
Lunch break		45 mins
3D model making	In small groups with the support of their built environment professional, the students use their 2D drawings to develop 3D models of their design ideas. Ensure there is a good range of model making equipment and allow time for clearing up!	60 mins
Presentation development	Ask pupils to revisit the design brief and then prepare a 5 minute presentation of their design ideas. Encourage them to explain how they have met the requirements of the design brief.	20 mins
Presentations	Each team of students to present their design ideas including drawings and models. At the end of each presentation allow the volunteer BE professionals to give comments and ask questions.	40 mins
Thanks/prizes/photographs	Thank all the volunteers and students for their hard work. Take photographs of each team with their models and drawings (these could be used in school magazine/website). Award small prizes for specific good ideas/hard work.	10 mins

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