



EDITORIAL BACKGROUNDER

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Contact:

Stephanie Kirschner
513.268.5300 x. 1003 (desk)
513.519.4564 (cell)
skirschner@cincinnati-canstruction.org

Canstruction® Art Exhibit

Each year, Cincinnati is one of more than 150 cities in North America participating in Canstruction®, a not-for-profit foundation sponsored by the Society for Design Administration (SDA), with the mission to “Canstruct a World Without Hunger.” Since 1992, the SDA has been working in tandem with the American Institute of Architects and other members of the design and construction industry to make Canstruction© a major contributor to the national fight against hunger.

Canstruction© combines the competitive spirit of a design/build competition with a unique way to help feed hungry people. Teams of America’s best and brightest design, architecture, construction and engineering professionals and students compete locally to construct giant sculptures made entirely from canned goods and other non-perishable foods. Teams have just five hours to construct their sculptures, which may measure as large as 10 feet wide, 10 feet long and 8 feet high.

A panel of judges reviews all the sculptures before selecting the winning displays in different categories, including “Best Meal,” “Best Use of Labels,” “Structural Ingenuity” and “Jurors’ Favorite.” The public is also invited to vote on Facebook in the “People’s Choice” award. The overall winners then have the opportunity to compete for national honors.

The final sculptures are displayed to the public as exhibits in each city. At the close of the exhibitions, all the canned food items used to build the structures are donated to local food banks for distribution to emergency feeding programs that include pantries, soup kitchens, elderly and daycare centers.

In Cincinnati, Canstruction© partners with the Freestore Foodbank, the largest emergency food and services provider in the Tri-State area. Cincinnati joined the Canstruction© mission in 1997 and since then, has contributed nearly 600,000 pounds of food to the Freestore Foodbank. Nationally, Canstruction© has donated more than 21 million pounds of food to aid in the fight against hunger.

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