27th Annual Canstruction NY Design/Build Competition
Brookfield Place, 230 Vesey Street, New York, NY
November 7th – 21st, 2019

Fact Sheet

- Truly, one of the most remarkable charities in the world.
- Canstruction is a Design/Build competition with each team building a self-supporting structure made entirely of unopened cans of food. Sculpture footprint is 8’ high x 8’ wide x 8’ deep (maximum).
- Canstruction events worldwide – with participants in 150 cities in 8 countries – have contributed more than 82 million cans toward the fight against hunger.
- Canstruction NY teams are composed of New York City professionals in the design and building industry: architects, engineers, designers, contractors, construction experts.
- Student participants—individuals currently enrolled in schools of architecture, engineering, design—are mentored by design professionals during the months-long design, construction, and de-construction process.
- Canstruction NY gives all food donations to City Harvest. The Canstruction event results in the largest annual donation of canned food from a single event to City Harvest, the New York-based group focused on food rescue, distribution, and nutrition. In 2018, 98,000 items and 54,000 pounds of food were donated from the structures, along with 11,000 pounds from those who visited Canstruction.
- Canstruction NY is a wholly volunteer-administered event, and is a 501c3 charitable organization. The Canstruction NY Committee, with the assistance of the SDA NY Chapter, organizes and produces the annual competition at Brookfield Place in Lower Manhattan. Arts Brookfield presents the exhibition.
- Canstruction, Inc. Founder, Cheri C. Melillo, SDA/C, Hon. AIA, helped transform the original Seattle event in 1992 from a simple food drive sponsored by the SDA into the international community service project that it is today.
- New York City A/E/C professionals played a pivotal role in the evolution of Canstruction NY as the premier Design/Build competition beloved by the architectural, engineering, and construction industry. Canstruction NY was created in 1993.
- Key Dates: Build Night (Nov. 6th), Exhibition on Display (Nov. 7-21), Judging & Awards Gala (Nov. 11)
- A celebrity jury recognizes outstanding structures based on the following award categories: Best Original Design, Best Meal, Best Use of Labels, Most Cans, Structural Ingenuity, People’s Choice and in NY only, 2 Honorable Mentions and The Cheri Melillo Award.
- Suggested donation to view exhibition at Brookfield Place: one can of non-perishable food per person