

Feature Structure for the Woodworks Pavilion @ BuildEX Vancouver



(C Shore Pavilion, Bush Bohlman)

1. Background

WoodWorks BC (WWBC) and Fast + Epp's Concept Lab are pleased to invite participants to submit design concepts for a feature timber structure to be the centerpiece of the WoodWorks Pavilion at BUILDDEX Vancouver 2027. The competition seeks concepts for a reusable public-facing timber installation that creates a strong visual presence and distinct visitor experience, while remaining practical to fabricate, transport, assemble, and disassemble.

WWBC has acquired material from the decommissioned TEDx Vancouver stage for use in this competition. It is intended to showcase the sustainability of wood construction through material re-use. Participants are encouraged to consider how the structure can express the history, transformation, and re-use of the material in a visible and meaningful way.

Participants are also encouraged to explore the versatility of a standardized, kits-of-parts approach to construction. Proposals should consider how a limited set of repeatable, standardized components can be combined in different ways to create visual interest, simplify fabrication, support efficient assembly and disassembly, and allow the installation to be reused or reconfigured in the future.

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2. Design Challenge

Participants shall provide a minimum of two (2) renderings or sketches and a preliminary list of material quantities based on the following guidelines. Submissions may include multiple individual structures as part of the same installation.

Design Intent: Participants are welcome to interpret the brief broadly, provided the submission aligns with the project goals, material constraints, and constructability requirements. Participants are encouraged to explore the following recommendations and refer to the enclosed visual references:

- Seating and rest areas (e.g. chairs, tables, benches, stools, quiet booths)
- Gathering places (e.g. gazebos, trellises)
- Sculptural installations (e.g. gridshells, free-form, foldable, interactive displays)

Materials: The structure shall maximize the use of reclaimed material. It may be supplemented with other offcuts, or with commercially available sawn lumber, sheathing, and fasteners. A detailed cut list will be provided to the selected participant for the detailed design:

- Fifty-four (54) 5x5-1/2" D.Fir GL posts, 6–10' length
- Fifty (50) 1x3" D.Fir slats, 8–10' length
- Two (2) 4x8' vertical grain plywood sheets



Constructability: Constructability and practicality are central to the competition, and submissions should demonstrate a clear and realistic approach to fabrication, handling, assembly, and disassembly. Participants are strongly encouraged to modify and reshape the material in unique ways while maintaining constructability as a primary driver.

- Proposals should demonstrate a clear and repeatable component strategy, using standardized pieces wherever practical to simplify fabrication, assembly, disassembly, transport, and future reuse.
- Traditional joinery is preferred over mechanical connections. Fabrication must be achievable without CNC unless the participant coordinates or fully undertakes that scope of work.
- Work must be feasible without heavy or specialized equipment (e.g., forklifts, scissor lifts, impact drills). The structure will be assembled/disassembled by volunteers from the Structural Engineers Association of BC's Young Members Group (i.e. unskilled labour).
- The total footprint of the exhibit shall not exceed 20x20'. There will be no additional laydown area, so all work must be completed in the same space within a 3-hour period.

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3. Project Schedule

Key competition and project milestones are outlined below:

- Submission Deadline: July 31, 2026
- Participant Selection: August 5, 2026
- Project Kickoff: August 10, 2026
- Detailed Design Due: October 2, 2026
- Fabrication Period: October 2026 – January 2027
- Assembly: February 10, 2027
- Disassembly: February 12, 2027

4. Selection and Awards

Successful submissions will balance creativity, extensive use of reclaimed material, and a practical approach to fabrication, transport, and assembly/disassembly. Submissions will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

Criteria	Value
Design intent interpretation	25%
Constructability	35%
Reclaimed material use	25%
Attendee experience and visual appeal	15%

The selected participant will be awarded up to \$4,000 for the detailed design of the structure. The award will depend on the complexity of the concept and the overall scope of the installation. This work would include design development and fabrication coordination only. Engineering signoffs, fabrication, and installation will be coordinated by WWBC as separate scopes. However, the selected participant will be expected to provide support throughout the design, construction, and assembly process.

5. Submissions

Please submit your design concept by email to acoronado@wood-works.ca by the end of day on July 31, 2026. Thank you for your interest in participating in this design competition. We look forward to your submission.

Contact

Alejandro Coronado, P.Eng.
 Technical Manager, WoodWorks BC
 T: [+1-613-747-5544x710](tel:+16137475544x710)
acoronado@wood-works.ca

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ENCLOSURE: Design Intent



Feature Structure for the Woodworks Pavilion @ BuildEX Vancouver

ENCLOSURE: Design Intent (Continued)

