

BUILD FEST 2

PEACE RISES

SEPT 10-14

2025 Bethel Woods Art
& Architecture Festival

At the Historic Site of
"WOODSTOCK"



MORE PEACE. MORE LOVE. MORE FEST.

Bethel Woods Art and Architecture Festival 2025: *Build Fest 2, Peace Rises* invites university faculty in design, or a related field, to propose ideas for **interactive wooden art installations to be built on the **historic grounds of the 1969 Woodstock Festival**. Over the course of a five-day live-work festival, accepted participants will work with self-organized teams to build, install, and work through on-site design solutions.**

THEME

Fire, humanity's first technology, was delivered to us by Prometheus, stolen from the gods and given as both a gift and a burden. This act bestowed upon us the power to create (to cook food and to keep warm) but also the potential for destruction (to burn down, and destroy). From that mythic moment, we've been tasked with the responsibility to wield this power with care.

Today, as we stand on the threshold of new technological revolutions—artificial intelligence, autonomous construction, and beyond—we face a similar dilemma. While these innovations promise efficiency and

progress they also bear with them enormous responsibility. What are the consequences of these tools? Can they, like fire, be used to nurture community, enrich craft, and sustain our planet? Or, rather, will they hasten our demise.

Build Fest 2: *Peace Rises* looks to explore how emerging technologies can be embraced convivially, in service to human connection and ecological balance. It is an opportunity to question and reimagine a future where technology, like Prometheus' fire, can be wielded for the collective good—mindful of both its power to spread peace and its potential to harm.

HISTORY OF ART AT WOODSTOCK:

In 1969, over 450,000 people gathered in Bethel, New York, for a legendary music festival (the first of its kind) that would come to be referred to simply as "Woodstock." The event brought some of the world's most celebrated musicians—Jimi Hendrix, Joan Baez, Janis Joplin—to a single stage to spread a message of peace and love. It was a seminal event in many ways and has come to hold unique symbolic meaning for the counterculture at large within American lore.

Woodstock is most known for its contributions to the world of music, paving the way for modern festival camping. However, to paraphrase Woodstock organizer Michael Lang in

his book *The Road to Woodstock*, the festival was intended to encompass all the arts—not only music but also crafts, painting, sculpture, and theater. Having artwork permeate the landscape was one of the early concepts and key elements of the festival.

Thus, in addition to its legacy in music history, the 1969 Woodstock festival also served as the largest mass exposure to experimental, participatory wooden artwork in the world up to that date. In 2025, the Bethel Woods Art and Architecture Festival seeks to continue the site's legacy as an experimental incubator of art, design, and architecture—reviving a lesser-known tradition of the grounds.



CALL FOR PROPOSALS:

BuildFest 2 asks candidates to submit designs for timber "Peace-Infrastructure," which will be installed at various locations on the historic grounds of the 1969 Woodstock festival located at Bethel Woods Center for the Arts.

Proposals should specify the scale of their submission based on the following typological categories. If you wish your structure to be considered at multiple scales, please specify in the proposal.

Small (Peace Pop-ups)

Examples: tables, seating, bars, etc. (think six people meeting for the first time and having lunch).

Award: \$1,000
Number of recipients: up to 6
Materials: dimensional lumber

Medium (Peace Hubs)

Examples: Small Stages, gateways, Shade Structures, etc. (Think a group of tired festival-goers need somewhere to rest and blow off steam).

Award: \$3,000
Max square footage: 120 ft
Number of recipients: up to 2
Materials: majority timber products

Large (The Peace Pavilion)

Pavilion: think contemplation, harmony, community (Could serve as a meditative space for a single individual as equally well as 20 people listening to live music).

Award: \$6,000
Max square footage: 120 ft
Number of recipients: 1
Materials: majority timber products

Successful proposals will:

- Critically engage with the festival theme (page 1)
- Critically engage with historic Woodstock site
- Clearly demonstrate competency, feasibility, and durability of design through conventional architecture drawings

Priority will be given to projects that:

- Utilize digital fabrication, prefabricated elements, and/or off-the-shelf parts
- Clearly detail a feasible off-site and on-site construction plan keeping in mind there will only be 3 days on-site to install
- Stick to the size constraints laid out in the Call for Proposals
- Because we are working on a historic site, no holes, foundations, or concrete can be poured. Ground Screws and helical piles may be allowed upon permission of The Museum at Bethel Woods archaeological team.
- Engineering and safety of the structure is the responsibility of the designers who submit the proposal
- No cranes or vertical lifts will be available during construction

Eligibility:

All university faculty in a design or related field are eligible to apply. Accepted candidates will be required to provide written consent from their department chair or supervisor before being granted the project. Selected candidates are expected to bring self-organized student teams of 8-12 people each (dependent on project size) including project leads. Selected candidates should be experienced builders and/or fabricators capable of coordinating and managing a design-build project. The 2025 Art & Architecture Festival will provide the tools and materials necessary to complete the projects and may provide additional fabrication expertise if desired. Any digital fabrication necessary should be conducted using the resources of the candidate's home university. If the project requires additional funds to be completed, please specify any existing funding or in-kind support in the proposal document.



Daily Schedule:

By day, we BUILD:

shop spaces and facilities will be open every day from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm for teams to utilize in the fabrication of their respective installations.

By night, we FEST:

each night of the festival will be programmed with concerts, lectures, pop-ups, and other activities. All evening and nighttime festivities are mandatory for all participants.

WHAT WE PROVIDE:

Materials & Resources:

Awards will be allocated via direct purchasing of materials by Bethel Woods Art and Architecture Festival on behalf of the designer, or by reimbursement to designer with accompanying receipts.

Transportation:

Reimbursement of up to \$500 may be requested for transportation with accompanying receipts.

Lodging:

This years festival will take place on the historic site of Best Road Camping, the new festival car camping facility at Bethel Woods Center for the Arts. Teams are responsible for bringing their own cars, tents, sleeping bags, pillows, blankets, etc.

Teams flying to the site will stay in "Basic Glamping Tents" provided by Bethel Woods Center for the Arts, including one mattress, pillow, & blanket.

A very limited number of glamping tents, tents, sleeping bags, pillows, blankets, and other resources may be available to local teams upon request.

Food:

Breakfast, lunch, and dinner will be provided for all team members from the evening of Wednesday, September 10, through Sunday lunch, September 14.





FUNGORUM

MEDITATIONS

WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION:

If you are a student or professional and would like to attend the festival as a workshop participant or volunteer, please email BuildFest@bethelwoodscenter.org to express interest.

QUESTIONS AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions please contact BuildFest@bethelwoodscenter.org

SUBMISSIONS:

Proposals should be submitted as single PDFs, no more than 20MB, to BuildFest@bethelwoodscenter.org. Name the file "first name_last name_project title" and use the subject line "Peace Rising."

Submissions should include:

- One project statement clearly stating how the submission relates to the festival theme (Max 250 words)
- Conceptual imagery (relevant drawings, models, diagrams, and/or renderings clearly showcasing the project intent).
- 1 hero image (rendering, model photograph, etc.) 3000 px long on short edge
- Off-site construction timeline and on-site installation schedule
- Draft budget including any existing monetary and/or in-kind support
- Bios of the faculty team
- Links to past projects/research

TIMELINE:

- Submission deadline: April 21
- Shortlist interviews: April / May
- Award notification: May 12
- Project coordination: May through August
- Arrive BuildFest: arrive afternoon September 10
- Leave BuildFest: afternoon September 14



PACKING List

SUNSCREEN

SUNGLASSES

REUSABLE WATER BOTTLE

CLOSED TOE-SHOES

SHADE HAT

WORK WEAR

WORK GLOVES

SENSE OF HUMOR

FLASHLIGHT

SWIMSUIT

SWEATER

TOWEL

EXTRA BLANKETS

T-SHIRT (FOR TIE DYE)

SKETCHBOOK