



For Immediate Release

**The Capital Jewish Museum and National Building Museum Announce: Sukkah City x DC**  
*Notable architects to highlight social justice issues through public display of creative Sukkahs*

**Washington, DC (date)** — The Capital Jewish Museum and National Building Museum, in collaboration with the Edlavitch DC Jewish Community Center (EDCJCC), present *Sukkah City x DC*, a public display of creative sukkahs designed by notable architects, on view at the National Building Museum’s West Lawn and the EDCJCC campus. Seven *sukkahs* will be on view September 18 through October 3, 2021, with each structure interpreting the theme of “welcoming the stranger,” while exploring the traditions of Sukkot. Five of the *sukkahs* will be exhibited/installed at the National Building Museum, two at the EDCJCC.

Sukkot is a week-long Jewish holiday that celebrates the fall harvest while recalling the Israelites’ 40-year journey through the desert. Each fall, Jewish families and communities build *sukkahs* - temporary structures in which it is customary to share meals, entertain, sleep, and rejoice.

“The Sukkot holiday will be especially meaningful this year, as we close a year focused on home, health, and equity,” said **Kara Blond**, Executive Director of the Capital Jewish Museum. “We celebrate the importance of community by honoring the stories of place and transformation that a sukkah can inspire.”

“The *Sukkah City x DC* presentation provides a modern spin on an ancient tradition and reflects the vibrant Jewish community in our nation’s capital,” says **Dava Schub**, CEO of the EDCJCC.

Featuring imaginative and expressive structures that highlight key social justice themes including housing insecurity, displacement, and our changing urban landscape, *Sukkah City x DC* asks visitors to confront the impermanence of our lives and to experience what it would mean to live without a solid roof overhead.

**Aileen Fuchs**, President and Executive Director of the National Building Museum notes, “The Museum is thrilled to showcase interpretations of this important religious tradition through this unique aspect of the built environment that appears in towns and cities across our country and around the world at this annual time of reflection.”

Architect teams were provided with creative and technical requirements for the designs. Each structure must have three sides and a partial view through the roof, and be large enough to contain two standing people and a shared table. In addition, there must be an overhead screening made only of natural materials, and the construction must be built with enough stability to last the duration of the holiday.

Sukkah City first launched in New York City in 2010 and has subsequently been recreated in cities across the country. Sukkah City x DC, the first such presentation in the Nation’s Capital, is a signature program for the Capital Jewish Museum, now under construction a block east of the National Building Museum and set to open to the public in Fall 2022. The project was directed by **Stephany Fry**, Museum Educator at Capital Jewish Museum, with **Caitlin Bristol**, Exhibitions Developer at National Building Museum, and

**Dava Schub**, CEO of EDCJCC. Rabbinical consultation and ritual blessings were provided by Rabbis **Aaron Potek** and **Nora Feinstein**, both of Sixth and I Historic Synagogue.

For additional information about Sukkah City x DC, please contact: Maura Scanlon, Communications Specialist, [mscanlon@capitaljewishmuseum.org](mailto:mscanlon@capitaljewishmuseum.org), 917-446-9876.

### **Participating Architects and Architecture Firms**

a complete unknown

Location: National Building Museum

Esocoff & Ng Architects

Location: EDCJCC

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Location: National Building Museum

Knu Design & Cedar

Location: National Building Museum

Shinberg.Levinas

Location: National Building Museum

SmithGroup

Location: National Building Museum

A. Robert Zweig

Location: EDCJCC

### **Related Programs**

Community Day

National Building Museum West Lawn

Sunday, September 19, 11 am–2 pm, In person

Meet the architects and explore the public display of creative sukkahs on view outdoors at the National Building Museum's West Lawn while you learn about Sukkot and participate in an arts workshop, holiday activities, family story time, and a letter-writing campaign in support of eradicating homelessness in our city . Refreshments available for purchase.

Presented in collaboration with DC Public Library, EDCJCC, PJ Library, Project Create and Sixth & I. Featuring visual artist Jessica Valoris. Free. In person, masks suggested. Registration encouraged.

Panel Program

Thursday, September 23, 6:30–8:00 pm, Online

Hear from the notable architects behind Sukkah City x DC, a creative public art installation that celebrates Sukkot, presented by the Capital Jewish Museum, National Building Museum, and EDCJCC. Learn about their inspiration and design process, and how the built environment can impact and inspire a community to reconsider who is welcome. Free. Online registration required.

### **Related Content**

The designs will be featured on all partner websites, as well as on their corresponding Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter channels using the hashtag #SukkahCityDC.

@CapJewishMuseum

@NationalBuildingMuseum

@E\_DCJCC

### **Exhibition Support**

This presentation was made possible by Andrew R. Ammerman, Esther and Bert Foer, Mark and Judy Lerner and Family, Howard Morse and Laura Loeb, Tina and Albert Small, Gene Sofer and Judith Bartnoff, the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, and a HumanitiesDC 2021 Humanities Festivals Partnership Grant.

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### **Capital Jewish Museum**

The new Capital Jewish Museum inspires audiences to connect, reflect and act: connect across families and diverse cultures, reflect on the relevance of the past to today, and act on behalf of their communities and values. With its unconventional, experimental spirit, the Museum will explore the intersection of the American Jewish experience and American democracy, and serve as a secular space for storytelling, connection, and dialogue across cultural communities in our city. The new museum, now under construction at 3rd and F Street NW, will open in Fall 2022 with engaging exhibitions, extensive programming, and creative public experiences. Sukkah City x DC, the first such presentation in Washington, DC, is a signature program for the new Capital Jewish Museum.

### **National Building Museum**

The National Building Museum inspires curiosity about the world we design and build. We believe that understanding the impact of architecture, engineering, landscape architecture, construction, planning, and design is important for everyone. Through exhibitions, educational programs, and special events, we welcome visitors of all ages to experience stories about the built world and its power to shape our lives, our communities, and our futures.

### **Edlavitch DC Jewish Community Center**

Guided by Jewish values and heritage, the Edlavitch DC Jewish Community Center (EDCJCC) engages individuals and families through its cultural, recreational, educational, and social justice programs by welcoming people of all backgrounds to connect, learn, serve and be entertained together in ways that reflect the unique role of the Center in the nation's capital. Open to all, the EDCJCC aspires to be a dynamic institution, cultural destination, and welcoming Center for Jewish and community connections, where individuals and families come together to enrich mind, body, and soul.

**Sukkah City x DC**  
 September 18 - October 3, 2021

LILLIAN AND ALBERT SMALL  
**CAPITAL  
 JEWISH  
 MUSEUM**

**NATIONAL  
 BUILDING  
 MUSEUM**

**EDLAVITCH  
 DCJCC**



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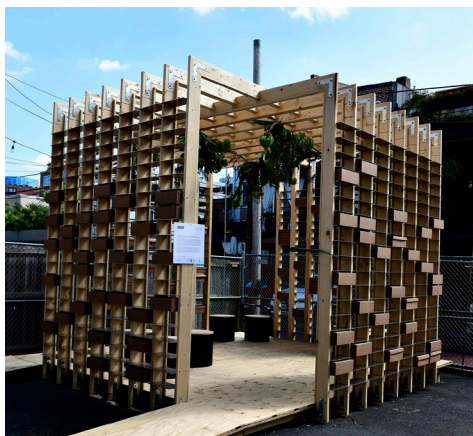
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| 2. Esocoff & Ng Architects | [EDCJCC] |
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| 4. Knu Design and Cedar    | [NBM]    |
| 5. Shinberg.Levinas        | [NBM]    |
| 6. SmithGroup              | [NBM]    |
| 7. A. Robert Zweig         | [EDCJCC] |

## Photo captions for Sukkah City x Dc

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Escoff & Ng Architects, *Minyan*, 2021. Copyright Jacob Esocoff, Philip Esocoff & Henry Ng. Photo: Ron Sachs/CNP

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Knu Design & Cedar, *(Re)Orienting the Pallet (Palate/Palette)*, 2021. Copyright Knu Design & Cedar  
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