



Containers to Clinics
Kathleen Fleming
631-553-3707
kathleen@containers2clinics.org
www.containers2clinics.org

YouthBuild Boston
Andrew Padilla
617-445-8887 ext.15
apadilla@ybboston.org
www.youthbuildboston.org

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**YOUTHBUILD BOSTON AND CONTAINERS TO CLINICS
CONNECT ARCHITECTURE AND BOSTON YOUTH TO DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

October 26, ROXBURY, MA: YouthBuild Boston and Containers to Clinics (C2C) are teaching resource-constrained architecture with high social impact to Boston's high school students. The Designery is YouthBuild Boston's afterschool urban architecture workshop for students aged 14-18 who are "commissioned" by clients with real-world design challenges. C2C, a non-profit using shipping containers as health clinics for the developing world's rural women and children, is this semester's new design client.

C2C is sending its pilot container clinic to Baní in the Dominican Republic in early 2010. Baní is a rural area with limited infrastructure and great need for improved maternal and child care. Designery students are learning from C2C's process and applying those lessons in the design of a health center built out of shipping containers but for an urban, developed-world context: Roxbury.

"Our hope with The Designery is to get young people thinking creatively and resourcefully, to get them hooked on crafting solutions to social and environmental problems," said Ken Smith, YouthBuild Boston's Executive Director. "We do that

through the medium of architecture. Partnering with C2C is ideal for us, because they share these values, and the clinics themselves serve as an excellent model for teaching sustainable design.”

Earlier this week, the students working on the C2C project visited the real container clinic fabrication site in Cranston, Rhode Island. They toured containers being built and discussed the challenges and benefits of working with recycled shipping containers with C2C’s builders at Stack Design Build (www.stackdb.com).

“C2C believes deeply in leveraging partnerships,” explains C2C Founder and Executive Director Elizabeth Sheehan. “The partnership with YouthBuild Boston’s Designery is an exceptional opportunity for C2C to encourage sustainability and innovation for high social impact, and we’re honored to be one of the real-world design projects that The Designery is working on this semester.”

The C2C project makes a conscious connection between the ideas of social change and innovative design. Moreover, via their partnership at The Designery, YouthBuild Boston and C2C also connect people: one of The Designery’s students on this project, José Diaz, has close ties to Baní, Dominican Republic. Both of his parents are from Baní, and his extended family still lives there.

“When we first started doing [the C2C project], I thought it was cool to build stuff with the metal containers, but I didn’t know where it would be sent,” said Jose. “Then the lady from C2C said it was going to the D.R. and I asked which part. She said Baní, so it was like a weird coincidence.”

“My mom and dad’s families are both from there. Most of my father’s side is still over there, and I have a lot of cousins, aunts, and uncles. I go to Bani for the whole summer,” continued Diaz, a Dorchester native. “It’s cool because I know how the area was down there, so I know how the design [for the clinic] could be. My parents were excited because they thought this was a cool idea and a good thing to send down there. I think it

will be good for more people to get treated, and preventing causes [of illness] from getting serious.”

Containers to Clinics’ pilot container clinic will be unveiled at Boston’s Institute of Contemporary Art on Monday, November 16th from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend the showcase and reception. For more information about the ICA launch event, please visit www.containers2clinics.org or email info@containers2clinics.org.

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Driven by the belief that basic health interventions can save the lives of millions in the developing world, **Containers to Clinics** developed a new clinical model for health service delivery. C2C retrofits portable shipping containers into health clinics with high-quality equipment, medicines, and medical staff. The clinics are transported to underserved areas of the developing world to administer primary healthcare to women and children. C2C’s clinics are designed with diagnostic, lighting, and climate-control technologies appropriate for low-resource settings and reflect local cultural traditions and health education needs. By repurposing shipping containers, C2C exports access to better health around the world and closes the gap between available treatments and the women and children who desperately need them.

YouthBuild Boston (YBB) is a nonprofit organization based in Roxbury, Massachusetts that serves young adults of Boston. Established in 1990, YouthBuild Boston provides opportunities for students to build career and life skills via innovative, hands-on programs such as construction training and sustainable landscape design. The Designery is YouthBuild Boston’s hands-on urban architecture workshop for high school students. Designery students, or ‘Junior Designers’, hone their problem solving skills through a team-based approach to real-world architectural problems. Junior Designers explore architectural and landscape design, investigate the environmental and social aspects of

design, and discover new career opportunities. They develop life and job-readiness skills, build self-esteem, and serve their communities.