

# ECO Solidarity

## Designers Selection for 2023

**Designing sustainable solutions to prevent and respond better to the current war and natural disaster crises.**

**Dates:** Supported by EUNIC and NY based cultural organizations partners, ECO Solidarity will present the work of selected designers at WantedDesign Manhattan taking place May 21-23, 2023 at the Javits Center (New York), under the same roof with ICFF (International Contemporary Furniture Fair) and in conjunction with NYCxDESIGN (New York's design festival).

**Mission:** To address the urgency for more human-centered sustainable design, which emphasis on product design, spatial planning and architecture, in response to the war, humanitarian, environmental and public health crises.

Since it's foundation in 2020, the ECO Solidarity initiative encourages designers to redefine sustainability focusing on public safety, health, the well-being in public spaces, ecology, climate change, and the key objectives of SDG's and the Green New Deal.



*ECO Solidarity at WantedDesign Manhattan 2022*

## **ECO SOLIDARITY 2023**

In 2023, ECO Solidarity will address the urgency for reconstruction and recuperative sustainable solutions that respond to the human health, environmental and ecological conditions subjected to the war in between Russia and Ukraine.

The goal will be to redefine the urban habitat and domestic infrastructures to protect the health and well-being of people against hazards of potential natural disasters, and in the case of war, to better accommodate displacement of the most vulnerable members of the communities. Access to resources such as clean water and air, food, medical supplies, as well as storage, mobility, transportation and communication will be equally considered.

Through sharing research and resources, this initiative aims to redirect the way the future post-war public spaces, living spaces, and shared environments, are envisioned to foster design with empathy.

An Ukrainian designer will be joining ECO Solidarity 2023 , in addition to the 8-10 represented countries.

## **DESIGNERS SELECTION CRITERIA**

For this edition, ECO Solidarity will mainly highlight the work of designers and architects under 30 years old. All nominees whose submitted proposals fit the conceptual theme will be considered for the selection, but priority will be given to young designers.

The initiative plans to showcase a broad range of design implementations from product design to spatial planning and architectural solutions which respond to the current issues related to resettlement and displacement of communities, refugees, and more broadly public wellbeing in public spaces, living spaces, and shared environments. The importance will be placed on ecological sustainable solutions that address ecology, climate change, and the resulting environmental and humanitarian crises.

Projects should focus on one or multiple of the following goals:

- To redefine the purpose and implementation of sustainability in contemporary product design and spatial design to focus on reconstruction, recuperation, and public safety, addressing the key objectives and values in ECO Solidarity mission statement.
- To protect fractured fabric of local communities, propose on how to build better future home environments, shared spaces, and habitats to prevent hazards to human health, dignity, and overall well-being.
- To assist needs of the most vulnerable disadvantaged members of society affected by the multiple crises, like war refugees, communities forced to

resettlement as a result of natural disasters or environmental crises, like storms, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, water shortage due to pollution, nuclear disasters, chemical spills, smog, among others.

- To foster the importance of United Nations' human rights agenda, the key objectives of Sustainable Development Goals and Green New Deal addressing human safety and dignity, public health, public well-being as well as climate emergency, ecology, and sensitivity to integrity of natural local environments and natural habitats.
- To address climate emergency, humanitarian and public health through green technologies and sustainable materials.
- To foster a partnership with the US design communities to better respond to the global and humanitarian crises resulting from war through global implementation of sustainable design solutions.
- To support inclusivity and diversity: equal opportunity to design studio team employees of all genders and races.

## **TIMELINE AND COMMITMENTS FOR PARTICIPATING EUNIC INSTITUTIONS**

1. **January 2022** | Each institution must conduct a recruitment of potential designers in the country of origin. Suggestion: EUNIC partners can collaborate or outsource this preselection task to local institutions like federal economic chamber, design and architecture firms or business agencies.
2. **Early to mid February 2023** | Each institution must select and submit 2 to 3 designers as nominees for the jury to evaluate. The jury will select 1 designer to represent each country. Jury members include; WantedDesign co-founders Claire and Odile, 3 newly selected NYC -based advisory committee members and a selection of EUNIC representatives. The development of existing or new design projects for the exhibition will follow this final selection.
3. **May 2023** | Each EUNIC institution is responsible for covering personal costs, accommodation and travel of the designer, shipment of works to Javits in coordination with the assigned Project Manager.

## COMMITMENTS FOR SELECTED DESIGNERS OR DESIGN STUDIOS

1. **March to April 2023** | Advisory Committee members and ECO Solidarity exhibit 2023 curator and coordinator Deborah Wang, will engage with the EU designers and design studios to provide guidance for the exhibit and networking opportunities. 1-2 virtual meetings will be conducted every month as preparation with exhibition designer Deborah Wang, introductions to local design and architecture field representatives which will then develop and result in person meetings in May when designers visit New York. Selected projects will be prepared for shipment to the Javits Center.
2. **May 2023** | Last preparations culminating in WantedDesign Manhattan 2023 exhibition at the Javits Center taking place May 21-23, 2023.
3. **May 21 at 11:30 AM** | 1<sup>st</sup> ECO Solidarity panel, part of the ICFF + WantedDesign Manhattan Talks Program, will explore the role of the new generation of designers, in Europe and in the US, in providing creative solutions for reconstruction time, locally and globally. A selection of designers will be invited to join this panel as speakers.
4. **May 22 at 11:30 AM** | 2<sup>nd</sup> ECO Solidarity panel, part of the ICFF + WantedDesign Manhattan Talks Program, will engage the designers as well as faculty members of selected EU and US-based schools. Speakers will discuss the shape of educational institutions during ongoing war and how to reshape the schools curriculum to address the challenges of the cities public spaces and infrastructure in a post-military era. A second selection of designers will be invited to join this panel as speakers.
5. **May 16-19, 2023** | Opportunity for designers to take part as jury members in the WantedDesign Schools Workshop 2023 led by French design school, École Boulle. The workshop will be taking place in-person at Industry City, Brooklyn, with the participation of international design schools including Pratt Institute and Art Center.





**About WantedDesign:** [wanteddesignnyc.com](http://wanteddesignnyc.com)

**About ICFF + WantedDesign Manhattan:** [icff.com/wanted-design-manhattan](http://icff.com/wanted-design-manhattan)

**About EUNIC:** [eunicglobal.eu](http://eunicglobal.eu)

## REFERENCES FROM ECO SOLIDARITY 2022

ECO Solidarity 2022 website  
[wanteddesignnyc.com/eco-solidarity-2022](http://wanteddesignnyc.com/eco-solidarity-2022)

Media clip book from ECO Solidarity publicist Dalia Stoniene  
[share.coveragebook.com/eco-solidarity-2022](http://share.coveragebook.com/eco-solidarity-2022)

ECO Solidarity 2022 awarded Best Booth at ICFF Editors Awards  
[icff.com/fair/design-awards/](http://icff.com/fair/design-awards/)

ECO Solidarity 2022 booth professional photos  
Credits: Jenna Bascom Photography  
[dropbox.com/eco-solidarity-booth-2022](http://dropbox.com/eco-solidarity-booth-2022)

Other images for ECO Solidarity 2022  
<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/z64tv92vvv1c91qk12b19/hdl=0&rlkey=rroskgqzhob00vh4dkkhxotxk>