Partnership Projects
Make learning come alive with a boat building partnership!

For over 20 years Urban Boatbuilders has engaged students in partnership projects, encouraging youth to learn, practice, and apply academic concepts in a challenging and innovative hands-on environment that effectively complements classroom learning. Projects build Social-Emotional, and Leadership skills as youth work towards goals that ultimately lead to a finished project and immense pride. Students put STEM skills to work as they follow building plans, use specialized tools and materials, and solve problems.

Whether applying techniques of angle and length measurements or understanding the chemical properties that make a boat waterproof and durable, students have the chance to learn and develop a variety of skills through experiential learning. Projects are individualized to challenge students of middle or high school age, regardless of academic ability and developmental stage.

Urban Boatbuilders brings the tools, materials, and instructor(s) to your site. You provide the students, space (wood shop not required), and staff support. As lumber transforms into a finished boat, paddle, or longboard, students apply 21st Century skills, and undergo significant technical and socioemotional development. The completion of each group project is celebrated with a boat launch, in which students put their newly built boat in the water for its first paddle. The completed boat is yours to keep. Students participating in individual project courses also take home their completed projects, after learning safety and maintenance from the instructors.
“Focus Beyond Transition Services started a partnership this year with Urban Boatbuilders and we couldn’t be happier. The staff at UBB have been amazing to work with and they have been great to our students. Many of our students had never been in a shop class in high school and now they have the experience of helping build a canoe and paddle by hand. By the end of this year about 20 of our students will have helped make 3 canoes. Our partnership was such a success that we are adding an advanced section next year where we will be making skateboards in addition to more canoes.”

**Justin Lamphere, Work Coordinator at Focus Beyond**

“This hands on learning allows my students to feel successful. They are successful, but they don’t necessarily understand that just by looking at the results of a math quiz. They have to feel it, and when they put their hands on the work, that allows them to interact with understanding their own growth.”

**Kent Miller, Parkway Middle School**

“Urban Boatbuilders gives the students autonomy -- room to think, grow, problem solve, and to figure it out themselves, and to support them when they can’t figure it out. You watch how the students succeed in that environment and how they’re not succeeding in a classroom where they are constantly told to sit down and be quiet, not use their hands, not stand up and not move, and their behaviors just go through the ceiling. It’s not a good fit. But the model Urban Boatbuilders presents is extraordinary. “

**Mike Shypulski, Boys Totem Town**
## Skill Development

Our projects are customized to fit your organization’s learning goals. See below for some examples of skill building in different growth areas.

### ACADEMIC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Science</th>
<th>Application of force and motion, transformation of energy, understanding structure for building purposes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>Using fractions and imperfect fractions in the building process, applying properties of complex angles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>Understanding the elements of boat design that enable maneuverability and stability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>Understanding of how diverse cultures, including native communities, have contributed to design, technology, and history through watercraft</td>
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</tbody>
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### SOCIAL - EMOTIONAL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teamwork</th>
<th>Working together on tasks such as steambending</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Problem Solving</td>
<td>Assessing tasks and determining best approach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>Clearly sharing with other members of the team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Awareness</td>
<td>Realizing others unique strengths and capacity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Mindset</td>
<td>Developing perserverence and understanding group goals through obstacles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leadership</td>
<td>Learning and practicing effective communication, assessment, and execution skills</td>
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### TECHNICAL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measuring</th>
<th>Marking and cutting to within 1/16th of an inch. Drawing accurate lines to create a 3D project.</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drilling</td>
<td>Accurately drilling holes and driving fasteners.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cutting</td>
<td>Utilizing blade tools such as block planes and spoke-shaves. Cutting wood safely using hand and power saws.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steambending</td>
<td>Accurately forming ribs and stringers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodworking</td>
<td>Riveting, carving wood, and identifying species.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traditional</td>
<td>Applying lashing techniques. Sewing watertight seams in synthetic material.</td>
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</table>
Urban Boatbuilders offers group and individual projects, as well as intensive semester long course options. We will work with you to figure out which project best fits your youth, price point, and scheduling goals, as well as to identify STEM and SEL objectives unique to your students and their learning objectives.

### Project Options

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<th>Option</th>
<th>Group Project</th>
<th>Individual Project</th>
<th>Semester Long Project</th>
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<td>Participation</td>
<td>Groups can be divided so that every student gets hands-on learning with an effective youth/instructor ratio.</td>
<td>Limited to 8-10 participants per class</td>
<td>Students participate 1-3 days/week</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Program partner keeps the completed boat</td>
<td>Youth participants take their completed projects home with them</td>
<td>Suggested class length minimum 50 minutes, maximum 3 hours</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Teamwork and communication skills emphasized</td>
<td>Teaches persistence</td>
<td>Building instruction is spread out over several months</td>
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<td>Working for a common goal that benefits more than just one’s self</td>
<td>Facilitates individual expression in physical form</td>
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<td>Great for bringing community together around common achievements</td>
<td>Collaboration for mutual gain</td>
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<td>Connects youth with their local waterways</td>
<td>Allows youth to take pride in something they have created</td>
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<td>Teaches youth how to navigate team dynamics and develop personal responsibility with group accountability</td>
<td>Encourages personal time management skills with building responsibilities</td>
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- **GROUP PROJECT**
  - Groups can be divided so that every student gets hands-on learning with an effective youth/instructor ratio.
  - Program partner keeps the completed boat.
  - Teamwork and communication skills emphasized.
  - Working for a common goal that benefits more than just one’s self.
  - Great for bringing community together around common achievements.
  - Connects youth with their local waterways.
  - Teaches youth how to navigate team dynamics and develop personal responsibility with group accountability.

- **INDIVIDUAL PROJECT**
  - Limited to 8-10 participants per class.
  - Youth participants take their completed projects home with them.
  - Teaches persistence.
  - Facilitates individual expression in physical form.
  - Collaboration for mutual gain.
  - Allows youth to take pride in something they have created.
  - Encourages personal time management skills with building responsibilities.

- **SEMESTER LONG PROJECT**
  - Students participate 4-5 days/week.
  - Suggested class length minimum 50 minutes, maximum 3 hours.
  - Building instruction is spread out over several months.
Common Partners

After-school Programs
Past Partners: Hazel Park Jr High School, Murral Middle School

Summer Camps
Past Partners: Camp Kooch-i-ching, Camp Ogichi

Community Centers
Past Partners: Edina Community Center, Zanewood Recreation Center

Alternative Learning Centers
Past Partner Highlight: Stillwater ALC, Focus Beyond ALC, Highview ALC

Charter Schools
Past Partner Highlight: Laura Jeffrey Academy, Rivers Edge Academy

Special Education Programs
Past Partner Highlight: NE Metro 916, Park High School
Project Options | Group and Individual

*Program cost represents rough estimate only. Cost will vary based on class schedule and location

Wilderness Traveler Canoe
Group Project
70 hours | $5250
Includes boat and 2 paddles

Urban Traveler Canoe
Group Project
70 hours | $5250
Includes boat and 2 paddles

Loon Kayak
Group Project
50 hours | $5000
Includes kayak and 1 kayak paddle

Stand-Up Paddleboard
Group Project
55 hours | $5000
Includes paddleboard and 1 paddle

Longboard Class
Individual Project
40 hours | $5000
Includes 1 longboard and helmet per student

Paddle Making Class
Individual Project
20 hours | $2000
Includes 1 paddle per student
Wilderness Traveler

Instruction Time: 70 hours
Length: 17’5” | Weight: 40 lbs
Program Cost: $5,250

A classic two-person canoe, this is a great project to maximize student engagement and development. Students are divided into crews that are responsible for different aspects of the canoe construction, helping them stay busy and encouraging peer based learning across crews. This divide-and-conquer approach is a rewarding way to learn firsthand the importance and value of teamwork and communication. This boat is the most technically challenging boat that we build with youth, resulting in a powerful sense of accomplishment when the boat hits the water for the first time.

Urban Traveler

Instruction Time: 70 hours
Length: 15’ | Weight: 32 lbs
Program Cost: $5,250

This one- or two-person canoe was inspired by its predecessor the Wilderness Traveler. The Urban Traveler lends itself to a slightly easier and more compact build, while ensuring a dynamic hands-on learning experience for a wider range of students. As a result, it is well suited for middle and high school students alike.
Stand-up Paddleboard

Instruction Time: 55 hours  
Length: 13'  |  Weight: 27 lbs  
Program Cost: $5,000

Students immediately connect with the stand-up paddleboard’s novelty and popularity on the water. This project provides the same technical learning experience as the kayak with its own unique brand of water fun. This vessel combines the experience of traditional skin-on-frame boat building with the sleek design of a modern water craft. In this build students will assemble the SUP frames, carefully cut and lash all of the components, and enclose the board in a unique boat skin. The finishing touches include attaching the deck board, rub rails, and skeg! Connect your students to their local waterways through the hands-on process of building this playful and yet stable craft!

Loon Kayak

Instruction Time: 50 hours  
Length: 13’  |  Weight: 25 lbs  
Program Cost: $4,750

This skin-on-frame recreational kayak is sleek and lightweight. It can accommodate all levels of paddlers. Over the course of the build, students learn firsthand what makes a boat stable, durable, and easy to handle while applying their STEM skills. For example, at what depth should the hull sit in the water to maximize stability across the girth and why? Take the course to found out! Students use plans to cut out the frame, assemble the kayak, apply the skin, and, finally, sew in the coaming (cockpit entrance).
Longboard Class

Instruction Time: 40 hours
Length: 30” to 40” | Weight: 15 lbs
Program Cost: $5,000 (based on 8 students)

In the longboard program, youth complete a project with personal touches – they can customize the board’s shape and its exterior, through painting and wood burning. The curriculum teaches long-term project planning, goal setting, collaborative learning, and working towards/achieving personal goals. This program pairs 25 hours of board construction with 15 hours of learning how to ride, skateboard safety & maintenance, rules of the road, and a service learning project. Each student goes home with a fully functional longboard and helmet.

Paddle Making Class

Instruction Time: 20 hours
Length: 48” to 54” | Weight: 5 lbs
Program Cost: $2,000 (based on up to 10 students)

Paddle making is a great option for lower intensity projects that allow students to develop a variety of woodworking skills in a relatively short amount of time. Participants customize their own paddle design using a variety of industrial and hand-powered tools, and also can put an artistic twist on their work using wood burners and carving tools.
Who We Are

In 1995, a growing concern about the limited hands-on learning opportunities for youth inspired a group of Twin Cities community leaders to form Urban Boatbuilders. Their goal was to provide a diverse population of youth with an opportunity to acquire technical, social, and emotional skills through the building of traditional small water craft. Collaborative boatbuilding is an effective way for youth to acquire social-emotional skills such as cooperation, resilience, confidence, and communication while learning technical woodworking skills. At Urban Boatbuilders, Twin Cities youth are prepared to pursue their personal, academic, and vocational goals in a challenging and supportive environment. Our paid apprenticeship program provides vocational training to youth with barriers to employment. We also work in partnership with local schools and community organizations to help prepare youth to pursue their own pathways to success.

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