The World Impact Design Prize (WDIP)™ was established in 2011 to honour and elevate industrial design driven projects that use design and/or design thinking to make a positive impact on our social, economic, cultural and/or environmental quality of life.

Awarded biennially, the World Design Impact Prize aims to bring recognition and exposure to socially responsible design projects and initiatives around the world in the hope of stimulating future growth and support for these ventures and encouraging a global exchange of meaningful solutions. To date, there have been three cycles of the World Design Impact Prize and one World Design Medal in 2017.

Pushing the boundaries of industrial design

The WDIP brings together a unique group of nominees from around the world. Nominated projects aim to create products and services that build capacity and engage and empower citizens by using participatory, community-based design processes. They address a variety of global issues, from simple creations to help curb the spread of disease, to complex structures that harness traditional technology to generate clean energy. As WDO works to inspire equitable and collaborative global change, the WDIP process acts as a way to highlight and support the hard-work of those building a better world.

Championing socially responsible design

Projects are submitted through a public nomination process and are subsequently reviewed by an international review panel. The WDIP review panel is a volunteer group comprised of multidisciplinary experts in the fields of design, education, communications and anthropology that are dedicated to championing socially responsible design. In addition to providing insights on successfully growing this initiative, the review panel is responsible for selecting the shortlist for the Prize, which is then voted on by more than 185 WDO member organizations.
Community Cooker
(2011-2012 Winner)

The Community Cooker is made of welded steel and eight circular hot-plates and was developed by a team in Nairobi (Kenya). The cooker uses trash as a fuel source, burned at a specific temperature so as not to emit toxins, removing garbage from the communities’ public spaces. The capacity of the cooker also allows multiple families to cook at once in a safe, aerated environment. The product is designed entirely with locally available materials so that maintenance and operation can be easily carried out.

ABC Syringe
(2013-2014 Winner)

Recognizing that unsafe injections with reused syringes account for more than 1.3 million deaths a year, the ABC Syringe empowers patients to know if the syringe being used in their care is new or not. A simple, cost effective colour changing label is affixed to syringes, turning red (a universally understood colour) once removed from its packaging.

HappyTap
(2015-2016 Finalist)

The HappyTap is the first ever mass-produced hand washing device that is both affordable and accessible. A portable plastic sink that brings water and soap together in a convenient and attractive place, HappyTap provides underdeveloped communities with a solution for hygiene stations, saving hundreds of thousands of lives in the process.
Submit a project

Have you launched a design-driven initiative that is actively making a positive impact on environmental, economic, social and/or cultural quality of life? Does it leverage design and embrace sustainability? Submit before 30 April 2021.

Nominate a project

Not working on your own project at the moment but know of a design initiative (product, system, experience) that is actively making a difference? Show your support by nominating it before 31 March 2021 and we’ll take care of the rest!

About WDO

Building a World Where Design Enhances Global Quality of Life

The World Design Organization (WDO)®, formerly known as the International Council of Societies of Industrial Design (Icsid), is an international non-governmental organization representing the international voice for industrial design. We advocate, promote and share knowledge of design driven innovation that has the power to enhance our economic, social, cultural, and environmental quality of life. Guided by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, we engage our community in collaborative efforts through our international programming in the goal of creating a better world.

Timeline

- 13 January - 30 April: Submission period
- May - June: Project showcase
- 29 June: Shortlist announced
- 1-15 September: Voting period
- September: Finalists announced
- October: Winner announced