



Lunch and Learn Series

How to Build A Parklet

Build Maine conference offers practical ideas that really work

Coming in June, the sixth annual event offers hands-on advice that has left some past attendees wondering why they hadn't thought of the improvements before.

By Stephanie Bouchard

No matter what their size, cities and towns across the state grapple with how to nurture vital economic development, meet the livability needs and desires of residents and do both of those things in a financially manageable and sustainable fashion. For six years, Build Maine has endeavored to address these challenges by fomenting innovation in community planning.

What is Build Maine? “It’s a state of mind – just kidding!” joked cofounder Kara Wilbur, a Portland-based planner and urban designer. She’s only sort of kidding, though, she acknowledged.

On paper, Build Maine exists to host and organize an annual conference that brings together nationally and internationally recognized experts in urban planning and design, transportation, economic development, housing – in any area relates to planning, building, maintaining and designing cities and towns – to talk about how to plan, build, maintain and design communities using common sense and in economically sensible ways.

In a more existential sense, Build Maine is an incubator and instigator of ideas, enthusiasm and community building – community building not in terms of actual buildings and streets and sewer and water lines, but rather in people-to-people connection.

“We’re in the hands of people who are doing amazing things around the country and they talk with us and



possible and that helps these sometimes difficult conversations about zoning and municipal investment go a little bit more smoothly,” said Nate Rudy, Hallowell’s city manager. Hallowell is a city sponsor of Build Maine.

Being able to have those conversations is crucial, Rudy said. Municipalities must be able to talk honestly and openly with all the stakeholders involved in community building in order to weave together new development with what is great about the places where we live in such a way that municipalities can afford to sustain both without raising property taxes to unaffordable levels.

Presenting effective, low-cost solutions so that municipalities and builders of communities can achieve those dual goals is one of the missions of

Maine conferences (this year’s, in June, will be the sixth). He, and others from Newcastle, have been able to use some of the ideas they learned about at the conferences.

Comp plan assistance

For instance, as the planning committee was getting started on the town’s new comprehensive plan a few years ago, everyone on the committee attended the conference and left excited and energized. It set the tone for the comp plan process, and the new comp plan (it was passed last summer) incorporates some of ethos and ideas they learned about at Build Maine, he said.

One of the ideas Newcastle has already put into practice is called tactical urbanism. Tactical urbanism is a sort of DIY practice that lets communities test out potential improvements without spending huge amounts of money.

Newcastle has used tactical urbanism to test out potential changes to two problem traffic areas: by the fish ladder and local swimming hole on Route 215 that marks the town line between Newcastle and Nobleboro; and, at the intersection of Main Street, Route 215 and Academy Hill that confounds tourists in the summer and is a year-round hazard to pedestrians.

In both cases, Newcastle temporarily changed the traffic patterns of these areas to see if the changes they



Step 1: Have an idea!



Q Parking day



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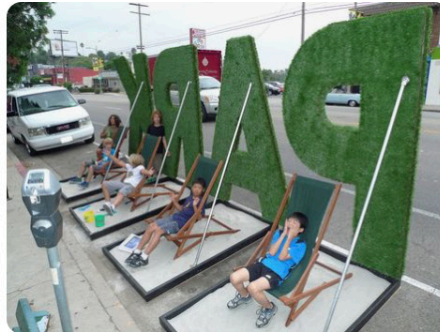
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Games

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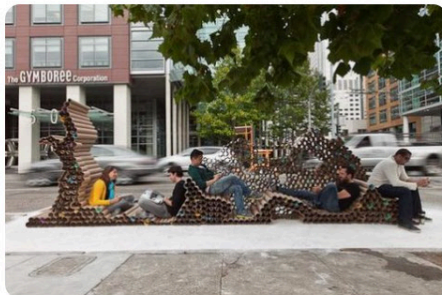
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Take Back the Street! Tomorrow is PARK(ing) Day



Park(ing) day prend racin



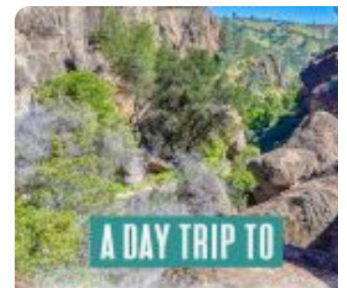
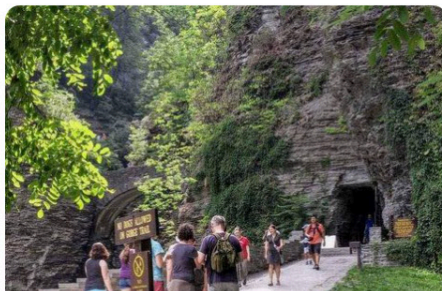
A (PARK)ing Spot from STUDIOS Architecture and SWA...



Here Now, a Gallery of our Favorites from Today's...



Top 20 des images insolites du « Parking Day »



Make your parklet sticky!

Music

Visual interest - color, light

Sense of enclosure

Create a reason for people to engage

Ability for people to sit and linger

Food















Be resourceful with materials!



Step 2: Permitting



2019 Event Application-FY20 for events from 7/1/19 to 6/30/20

Application Date: _____

Event and Organizer Information

Event Name: Build Maine Event Location: Royal Oak Room, Dufresne Plaza, Bates Street & Middle Street

Requested Date(s) 6/5/19 - 6/6/19 Rain Date (if applicable) n/a Recurring Dates _____ & _____

Actual Hours of Event 7 to 7 Set up: _____ Tear Down: 6/6 & 6/7

Type of Event (check all that apply): Park Use Only _____ Gazebo Use _____ Amphitheater Use _____

First-time Event _____ Repeat Event ☒ Attendance (25+) ☒ (1,000+) _____ (requires CC approval)

Walk/Run _____ Road Race _____ Festival _____ Concert _____ Live Performance _____ Parade _____

Carnival _____ Fireworks _____ Arts _____ Wedding Ceremony _____ Wedding Reception _____ Picnic/BBQ _____

Open to the Public ☒ Age-Restricted _____ Invitation Only _____ Vigil _____ Demonstration _____ March _____

Fundraiser _____ Other (please specify): Conference and beer garden

Name of Organization: Build Maine For-Profit _____ Non-Profit _____

Organization Address: 24 Free Street #101B City: Portland, ME

Organization Daytime Telephone: _____

Applicant Name: Mandy Reynolds Title: Executive Director

Applicant Telephone: 603-767-7411 Applicant Email: amlreynolds@gmail.com

On-site Manager Name (day of event): Same as above Cell: _____



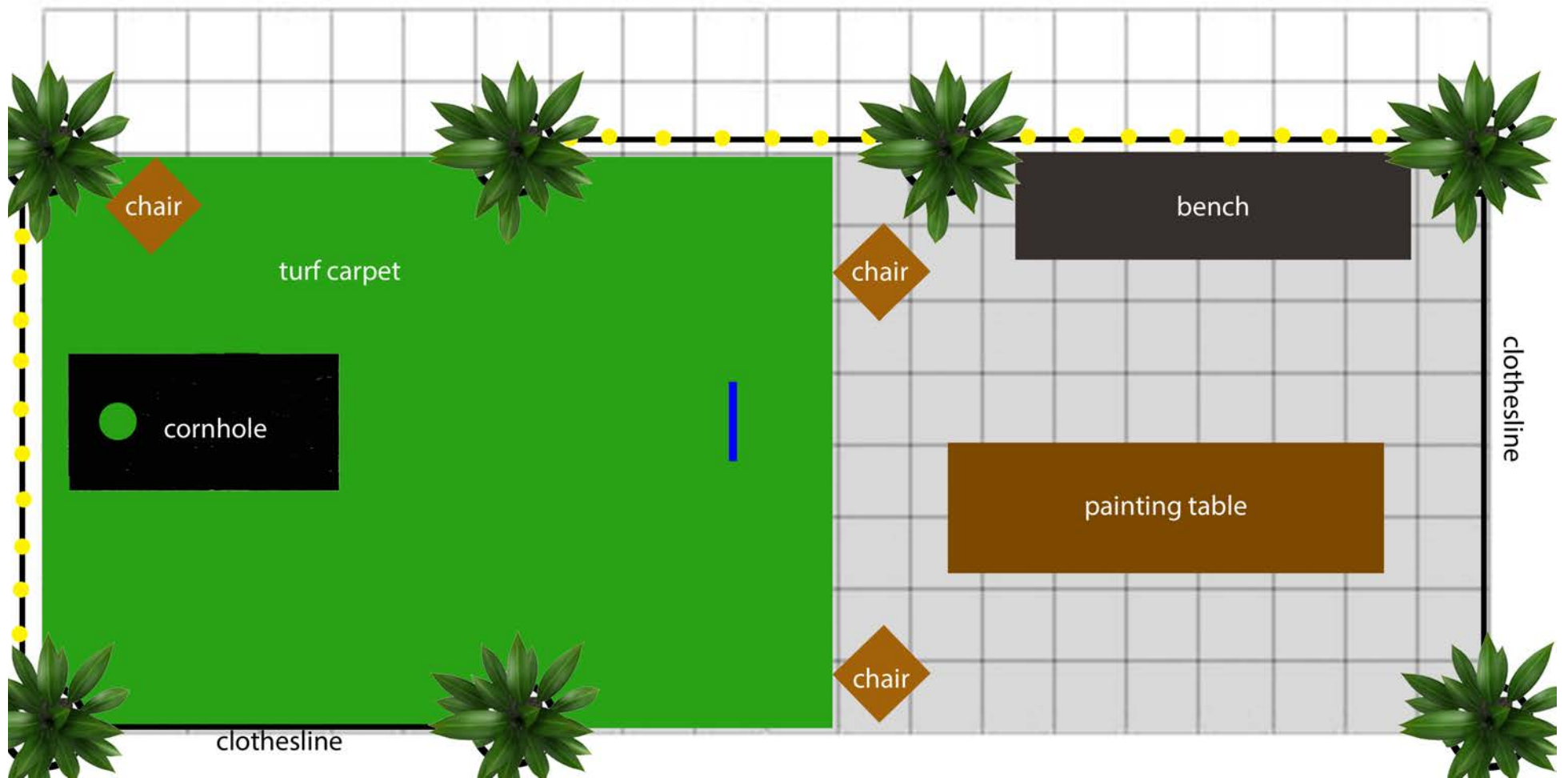
PARKING SPACE ACTIVATION PILOT

48 Front Street

Quick installation/break-down
Borrowed/found low cost materials
Moveable Seating
Shade/Sun
Enclosure
Sight, Sound, Taste, Smell, Touch

Install:

- (6) Traffic cones - medium sized, placed along perimeter
- Plant materials and string lighting to define edges, create border between moving vehicles and people
- Temporary seating and astro-turf
- Music/games/interactive activity



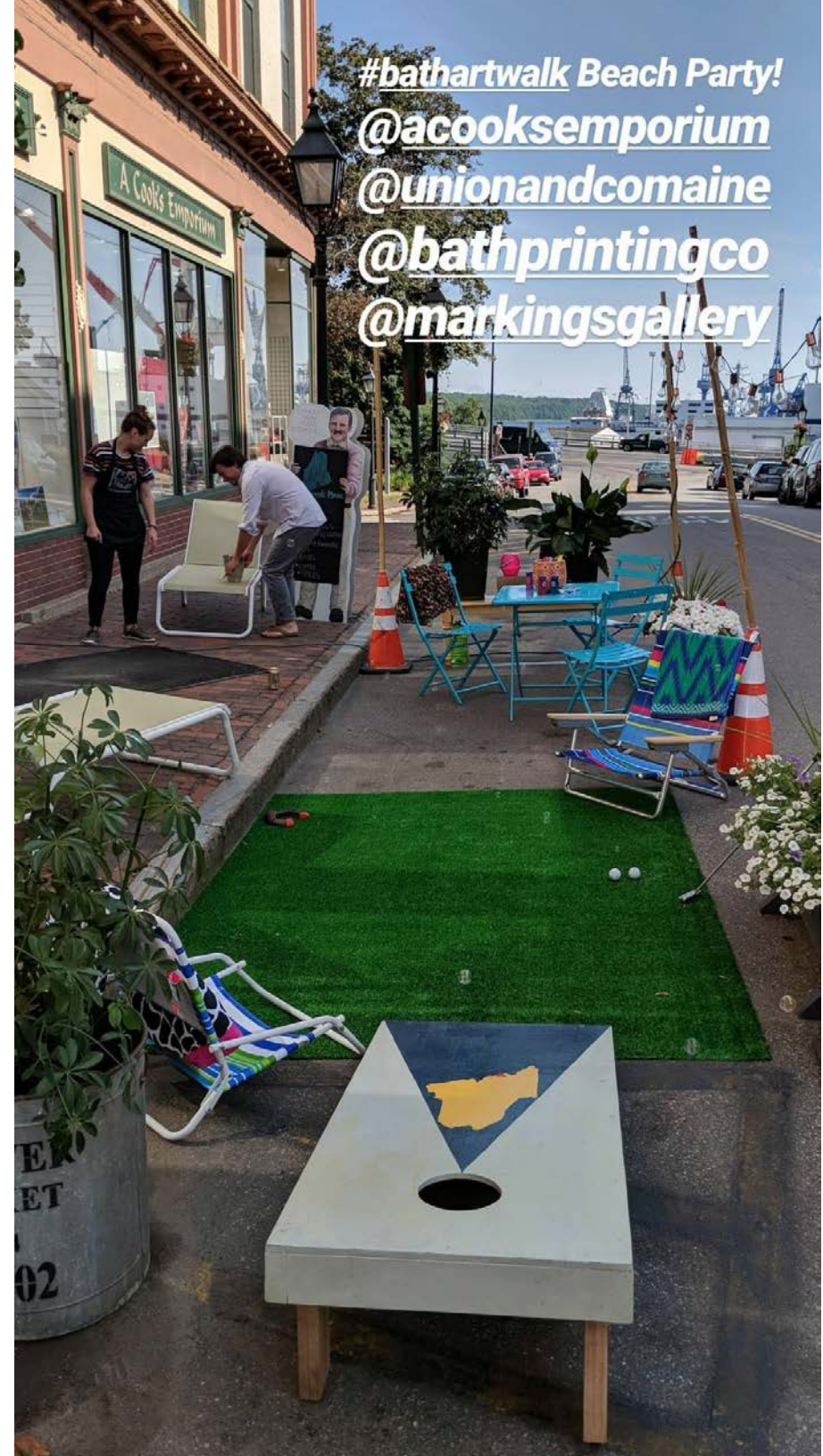
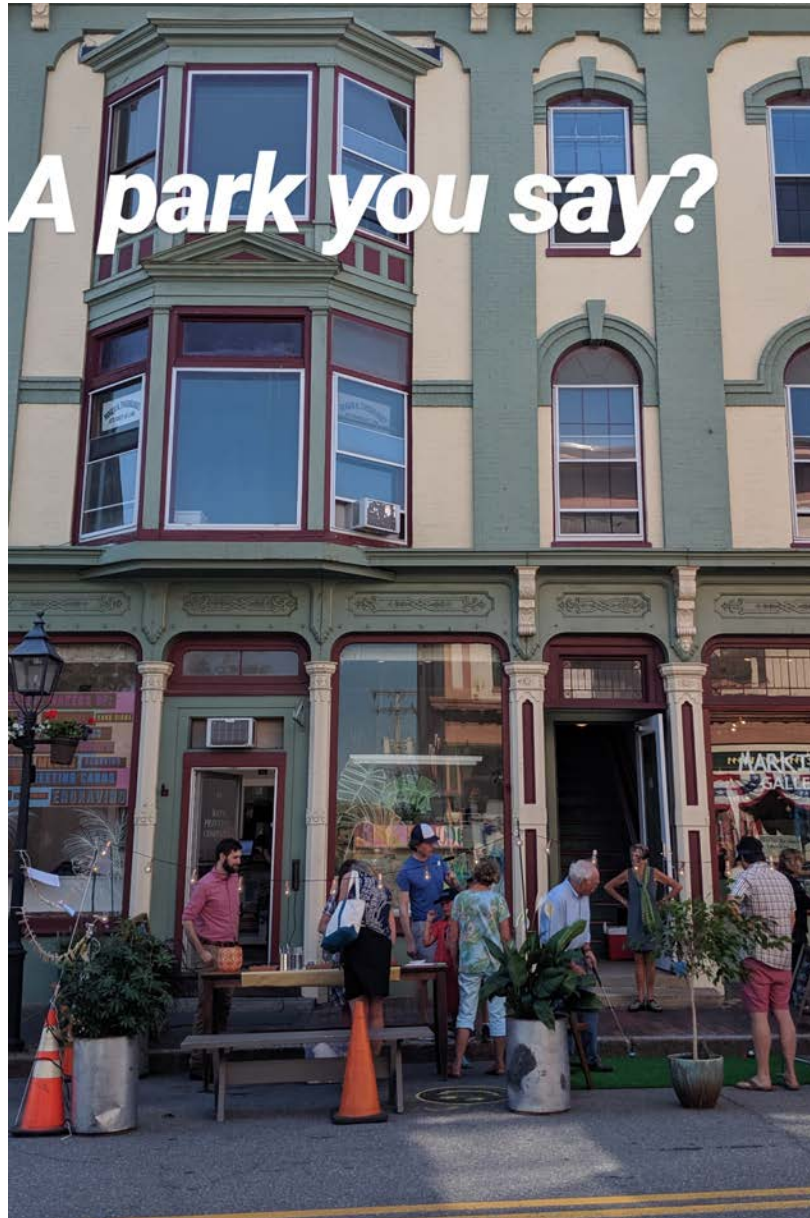
Step 2b: The beer garden



Step 3: Build and adjust as necessary



Step 4: Market your Parklet!



The Planner's Guide to Tactical Urbanism



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