



Design Connect Project Description Fall 2025

Hello All,

On behalf of [Design Connect](#), we are looking for eight project managers, both graduate and undergraduate students, to lead our Fall 2025 projects. Design Connect is a multidisciplinary, student-run, community design and planning organization based at Cornell University. The organization is rooted in running collaborative, democratic, and sustainable projects in direct partnership with Upstate New York communities. Those who are selected for these roles will be enrolled in the course (CRP3348/5348) for 4 credit hours in Fall 2025.

The goal of the Project Manager position is to support student professional development while organizing a successful community project with partnering municipalities and non-profits. As a Design Connect Project Manager, you will be responsible for developing a strategic project plan and for co-managing a team of 8 to 10 student professionals across different disciplines. Design Connect centers experiential learning, and helps students (including the project managers themselves) gain skills in project design and implementation, community engagement, professional writing, and presentation.

Throughout the semester you will set important team deadlines and deliverables, run weekly meetings, organize site visits, manage project partner relations, and seek advice from experts at Cornell University and beyond.

[APPLY HERE](#)

Fall 2025 Projects

Town of Ulysses – Community Park Planning

The Town of Ulysses is set to accept a 15.2-acre donation to create its first public recreational park, addressing the growing demand for outdoor sports and family recreation in both Ulysses and Trumansburg. This project will involve a comprehensive, community-centered planning process to design the park's features and layout. Key stakeholders, including youth sports leagues, schools, and local families, will contribute to the development of an initial site plan. The plan will include phased development recommendations, strategies for mitigating neighborhood impacts, and plans to secure future funding. This park will be a vital addition to the town's recreational infrastructure.

The Arc Chemung-Schuyler – Accessible Bus Shelter Study

Schuyler County Transit, operated by The Arc of Schuyler, is working to improve the accessibility, safety, and comfort of its bus stops and shelters throughout the county. This project will involve a detailed assessment of existing bus stops with a focus on ADA compliance and rural transportation needs. The goal is to identify barriers and propose design recommendations

to improve shelters and infrastructure. The project will support the county's long-term transit planning efforts and guide funding applications for future implementation. This initiative will help enhance transit accessibility for all community members, particularly in rural areas.

Chenango County Historical Society – Interior Campus Master Plan

The Chenango County Historical Society (CCHS) seeks to develop an interior master plan for its growing museum campus in Norwich, NY. This project will focus on optimizing the interior spaces of CCHS's two primary historic structures. The goal is to enhance usability, accessibility, and visitor flow while respecting the historical significance of the buildings. The master plan will incorporate input from museum staff, trustees, and local stakeholders, and include phased recommendations for improvements, such as layout adjustments, signage, and wayfinding strategies. The plan will guide future renovations and help CCHS continue to expand its role as a cultural and educational hub.

Town of Nichols – Riverfront Redevelopment Project

The Town of Nichols plans to transform its existing fishing access and boat launch site into a multifunctional riverfront destination that serves both residents and visitors. The project aims to enhance water access, develop walking trails, picnic areas, and improve ecological restoration efforts along the riverfront. Additionally, interpretive signage will be incorporated to educate visitors about the site's cultural and ecological value. The plan will address shoreline access, flood resilience, and public recreation needs, providing a comprehensive blueprint for the site's long-term development. The project will support the town's efforts to attract funding and guide future development phases.

If you are interested in helping the Design Connect Board beyond these four projects, or have any additional questions regarding the project manager position, please email Kritika Vidyashankar kv283@cornell.edu and Tessa Mykel tem84@cornell.edu