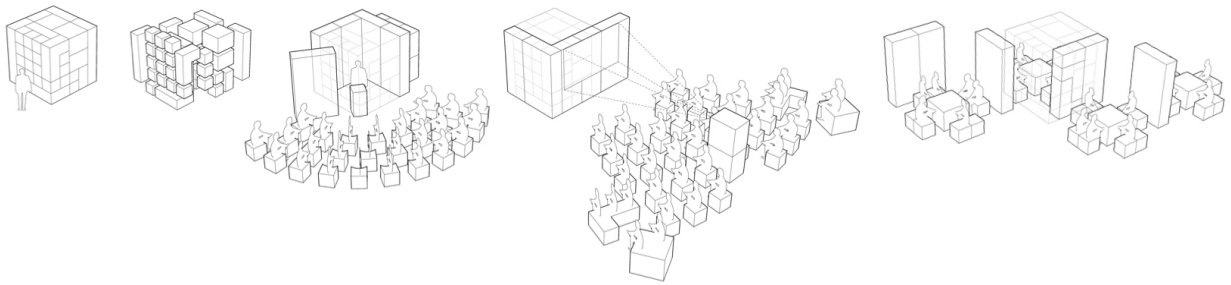


## THE UNI

An experimental reading room and venue for public programming

### PROJECT SUMMARY

The UNI is a portable, all-in-one reading room and programming venue designed to take up temporary residency right at street level, in the heart of our cities, towns and communities. It comes in the form of an eight foot cube and is literally an "institution-in-a-box" that opens up to offer books to read, as well as public lectures, workshops, screenings, and educational activities. During operating hours, the UNI's physical components can be easily arranged to provide seating, work surfaces, display panels, a stage, and a podium. At night, the UNI can be closed up and secured, with surfaces announcing the next days' events and other nearby learning opportunities.



The UNI comes pre-programmed with a unique collection of books for children and adults, as well as its own documentary film series for evenings. Other programs, such as lectures and readings, are customized by location and feature partnerships with local organizations, with a focus on small, independent nonprofits who lack program space of their own. The UNI can be a "test kitchen" for these partners to showcase educational programs and reach new audiences.

### WHO

Boston Street Lab is developing the UNI, drawing upon its experience creating the Storefront Library (2009-10) and other projects it has produced in urban space. Boston Street Lab will manage, insure, and operate each deployment of the UNI. The UNI cube is being designed by Höweler + Yoon, an architecture firm with broad experience with public installations.

### WHY

Boston Street Lab is developing the UNI to create an efficient and attractive way to put educational programs and activities in prominent, public, street-level locations. We want to see books and other learning opportunities in outdoor places where we haven't seen them before, like plazas, walkways, parks, empty lots, or even shopping centers.



The UNI is a tool for showcasing the act of learning and improving cities. Coming Summer 2011.