

Submission Summary



Re:Purpose Savannah is a women+ led 501(c)3 nonprofit establishing a sustainable future through the deconstruction, salvage, and reuse of historic buildings. We are unique in that we have been operating our own end-to-end supply chain since 2018.

When a historic building is at the end of its life cycle, we disassemble the structure by hand to preserve as much material as possible. We divert the materials we salvage from the landfill to our lumberyard, and then provide our reclaimed materials to the marketplace for reuse. Our team works closely with our clients to extend the lifespan of the materials we reclaim in the following ways, in alignment with the scope of the ReX prize:

- **Repair** - Materials in good condition can be reused to serve their original function and replace or repair damaged or missing elements in historic structures (flooring, architectural details, etc.). Historic preservation guidelines encourage the use of “in kind” materials in historic buildings whenever possible.
- **Reuse** - Historic materials are often reused in new structures, either in their original function or in reimagined ways.
- **Repurpose** - Our in-house woodworking shop also creates custom craft goods and furniture from our reclaimed lumber for individuals, restaurants, and other businesses.

By reintroducing historic lumber to the economy, we quantifiably reduce landfill waste, sequester carbon, create jobs, contribute to circularity, and improve the sustainability of the built environment. The old-growth, heritage lumber we save is far more carbon dense and rot-resistant than new growth lumber, and we reclaim many species of timber that are either endangered or extinct. Keeping the embodied energy of these materials out of the landfill decreases off-gassing into the atmosphere and helps decrease new resource consumption as well as the use of factory-farmed lumber.