



The Next Generation of Parks

# Minneapolis Riverfront

[minneapolisriverfrontdesigncompetition.com](http://minneapolisriverfrontdesigncompetition.com)

*A competition sponsored by The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and The Minneapolis Parks Foundation, with creative partners The University of Minnesota College of Design and Walker Art Center*

## FACT SHEET

### About the MINNEAPOLIS RIVERFRONT DESIGN COMPETITION (MR|DC)

7 December 2010

#### ABOUT THE MR|DC

##### What is a “design competition”?

Design competitions date back 2,500 years to buildings such as the Acropolis in Athens and are still today a common way for governments and other bodies to invite a wide pool of qualified architects to submit designs for a new building or project. In Minnesota, design competitions were used for the Minnesota State Capital Building, and more recently, the Minnesota History Center.

- Based on geographic area, the MR|DC is the **largest design competition in Minneapolis history**.
- The MR|DC is an **open professional competition**.
- The MR|DC is both an **ideas competition** and a **project competition**, meaning design teams are to generate innovative ideas for the designated project area, as well as develop a plan for a specific project to be implemented.
- The MR|DC is a **landscape architecture and urban design competition**; architects, ecologists, engineers and other related professions will also be represented on design teams.

##### The MR|DC Geographic Area

- 5.4 miles of the Mississippi River
- 11 miles of riverfront (both banks of the river)
- 220 acres of parkland, and surrounding neighborhoods and business districts
- Stone Arch Bridge is the southern boundary
- Minneapolis city limits is the northern boundary

##### Competition Facts

- A Request for Qualifications generated interest around the world, with more than 3,000 unique website visits in four weeks.
- 55 design teams from 14 countries and 5 continents responded the MR|DC Request for Qualifications.
- Four design teams are competing – Ken Smith Workshop (New York), Stoss Landscape Urbanism (Boston), Ted Leader Studio (Berkeley), and Turenscape (Beijing).
- One winning team will be awarded a commission.
- The MR|DC jury has 13 members representing nationally known park and design professionals and local decision-makers.



MINNEAPOLIS PARKS FOUNDATION

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DESIGN  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

WALKER ART CENTER

### Key Dates

December 7, 2010	Community Meeting, 7:00 PM, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board "Designer Ask" survey available online and at Minneapolis Parks recreation centers
December 21	"Designer Ask" submission deadline
January 21, 2011	Design teams submit concepts
January 27	Public presentation of final designs, 7-9:00 PM, Walker Art Center
January 28	Video exhibition of final designs begins, Walker Art Center + Final designs posted to MR DC website
February 10	Announcement of winning team

### Project Funding

The MR|DC is funded by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board with funds from the Parks and Trails Legacy Fund allotted to the Metropolitan Council for Regional Park development.

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Superintendent and Commissioners, along with the Metropolitan Council, will determine the site and scope of the commission award, which will go to the winning team chosen by the jury. The budget for the design and construction phase will be set at that time.

### MR|DC SPONSORS AND CREATIVE PARTNERS

*Sponsors are responsible for managing the MR|DC and the subsequent Upper Riverfront project.*

- Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
- Minneapolis Parks Foundation

*Creative Partners provide material support and design guidance for the MR|DC and the subsequent Upper Riverfront project.*

- University of Minnesota College of Design
- Walker Art Center

### OTHERS INVOLVED

*Jury Member names and biographies are available on a separate fact sheet.*

### Collaborators

*Advocate and raise funds for MR|DC and for the subsequent Upper Riverfront project.*

- Minneapolis Riverfront Corporation
- Friends of the Mississippi River
- North Loop Neighborhood