

Fact Sheet | Finalist Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Each member of the 14-person Minneapolis Riverfront Design Competition jury was asked to evaluate the four finalists' proposals according to the following criteria outlined in the Competition Brief. In addition, each jury member brought to the evaluation process their own criteria based on his/her professional experience in design, urban planning, architecture or landscape architecture, or as a city, county, or state community representative. A list of the jury members is available on the competition website.

Charge

The challenge for the design teams is to create a comprehensive vision for the identified portion of the Mississippi River that addresses current demands, as well as future uses. The successful design proposal will weave together the diverse communities of the river into a unified landscape that *performs*, in the greatest sense of the word. It will operate at the scale of the city but adapt to local, unique sites; explore multiple functions for diverse constituents; transform and revitalize the riverfront; and inspire the community.

Goals

The goals and the scope of the competition, as outlined in the RFQ:

The competition encourages a comprehensive, integrated approach to evaluating the larger river/park system, creating a framework that:

- Establishes parks as the engine for economic development along the river;
- Knits both sides of the riverfront together with their surrounding communities, thereby transforming the river from a barrier to a connector;
- Re-focuses the city toward one of the three great rivers of the world—the Fourth Coast of the U.S.—an extraordinary environmental amenity that defines Minneapolis' civic identity, past, present and future.

Scope

The competition will build on existing assets, not only existing social, economic and environmental features in and around the Mississippi upper riverfront, but also previous plans and proposals for the area as well as past exercises in community engagement. At the same time the competition will investigate new opportunities for connectivity, sustainability, infrastructure and public space along the upper riverfront and extending into the surrounding neighborhoods.

Programmatic Considerations

Design proposals should address the following issues within the context of the larger themes of sustainability, infrastructure, public space and connections:

Scale Consider multiple scales, from broad systems to local sites, and establish connections to reflect unique conditions and multiple identities along the river and in adjacent neighborhoods and areas.

Location Build on existing assets through place-based solutions that consider the geography, history, culture, ecology and economic conditions of Minneapolis and the Mississippi River.

Function Accommodate individual land uses, landscapes and places that perform more than one function and both programmed and un-programmed space.

Time Think about long-term development, flexible solutions that change and mature over time. Consider seed strategies that grow and adapt in ways that are sustainable in the broadest terms. Investigate landscapes that are accessible 24/7 and respond to the changing seasons.

Movement Examine multiple types of movement, to and across the river and neighborhoods, including systems that connect people and the environment.

Outcomes

Designers must provide a comprehensive vision for the site that includes these five elements:

- A multi-layered framework for the full 5.5-mile length of the site that identifies and illustrates a strategy for redevelopment of new or enhanced social, economic and environmental systems and opportunities.
- Identification of critical connections from neighborhoods to, along and across the river, including enhanced green infrastructure, ecological systems, community networks and historical and cultural assets.
- Identification of strategic sites, physical features and catalytic opportunities for design and development.
- Conceptual design of the highest priority strategic site as a development prototype.
- Estimates of the short-term and long-term costs of design features and maintenance

Note: Design proposals should not be limited to the boundaries of parkland but should incorporate any necessary improvements to the surrounding infrastructure and landscape.