



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

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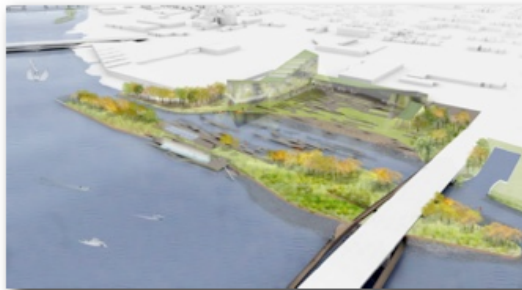
## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Mussel Beach image courtesy of Ken Smith Workshop



Botanic Overviews image courtesy of Stoss Landscape Urbanism



Scherer Park image courtesy of TLS/KVA



Hall Island image courtesy of Turenscape

## KEN SMITH WORKSHOP, STOSS LANDSCAPE URBANISM, TLS/KVA, and TURENSCAPE DISCOVER MAGIC IN THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER

Their Visions for the **Minneapolis Riverfront Design Competition** Wowed Overflow Audience at Walker Art Center, January 27

**Minneapolis, Minn., January 31, 2011** – The Mississippi River flows through the heart of America – and last Thursday, January 27, [Ken Smith Workshop](#), [Stoss Landscape Urbanism](#), [TLS/KVA](#), and [Turenscape](#) paid homage to its majesty before a sold-out audience at the Walker Art Center with inspirational visions for reconnecting Minneapolis and the region to one of the three great rivers of the world.

The four teams converged here for the juried [Minneapolis Riverfront Design Competition](#) (MR|DC), the largest landscape and urban design competition in Minneapolis history, each crafting a multidimensional landscape and urban design proposal addressing 220 acres of parkland and surrounding neighborhoods along 11 miles of riverfront from the historic Stone Arch Bridge north to the city limits. The competition is co-sponsored by the [Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board](#) and the [Minneapolis Parks Foundation](#), with creative partners the [Walker Art Center](#) and the [University of Minnesota College of Design](#).

The event was created to give the public and 14-person jury an unfiltered view of the design teams' visions. Each team expressed the unique character of its design, approach and priorities in original multimedia presentations:

### **Ken Smith Workshop** | *City of the River*

*The river is a catalyst for renewal through new and enhanced park, infrastructure and ecological systems and a series of bold, iconic design scenarios that reflect the area's history and spirit of place.*

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**Stoss Landscape Urbanism | Streamlines**

*A longer-term transformation that reclaims the river as civic space, introduces new landscapes, infrastructure and urban fabrics, and weaves the multiple new and existing systems and experiences back into the city.*

**TLS/KVA | RiverFirst**

*A set of inter-related design initiatives – focused on health, mobility and green economy – that function at multiple scales and are enhanced by community outreach strategies to raise public awareness about consumer choice impacts on the river system.*

**Turenscape | The Resilient River**

*A fifty-year framework for investment that focuses on: ecological renewal, social equity, new economies and a new identity for the city of the river, and includes a strategic approach to ecological infrastructure, re-orienting urbanism and phasing over time.*

“The four teams collectively presented an incredible range of possibilities for the riverfront, with many phases of implementation spread out over an extended period of time,” says Mary deLaitre, competition project manager, who noted to the audience that each team invested an estimated \$250,000 in time and expertise in their design proposals. “Any one of these submissions or teams would be a tremendous resource for what’s before Minneapolis and the jury has quite a job before them selecting one team from among a highly qualified group.”

The presentation was one requirement of the design teams, who created their designs around the criteria and resources outlined in the Competition Brief, as well as layers of public engagement ranging from public experience surveys, to small group discussions, youth urban design activities and an advisory group of community decision-makers. In total, each team was required to submit five deliverables: a framework for development along the entire 11 miles of riverfront; identification of critical connections from neighborhoods to and across the river; identification of strategic sites for design and development; conceptual design of the highest priority strategic site; and estimates for long- and short-term costs of design features and maintenance.

The jury met January 28 to evaluate the submissions. The winning team, which will be announced at 11AM, February 10, in Minneapolis, will be awarded a commission for a Minneapolis Riverfront parks project, with projected completion within five years.

**How to View the Design Submissions**

Complete design submissions are posted on the competition website. The entire January 27 presentation is archived at [channel.walkerart.org](http://channel.walkerart.org). In addition, the Walker will host a free continuous screening of the presentation throughout February.

**About the MR|DC**

In September 2010, the **Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board** and the **Minneapolis Parks Foundation** announced an international design competition to address the Upper Riverfront. Four award-winning landscape and urban design teams were selected as finalists in November, from a pool of 55 submittals from 14 countries on five continents. In December, the four teams – **Ken Smith Workshop** | New York City, **Stoss Landscape Urbanism** | Boston, **TLS/KVA** | Berkeley, and **Turenscape** | Beijing – made a four-day research visit to Minneapolis. Also in December, the MR|DC sponsors hosted a Community Meeting, implemented a community “Designer Ask” survey, and began a youth designer curriculum. The competing design teams, which include firms from all across the country including Minnesota, submitted their design proposals in January and made a public presentation of their work at the Walker Art Center on January 27. The winning team will be announced on February 10 in Minneapolis. More information can be found at [MinneapolisRiverfrontDesignCompetition.com](http://MinneapolisRiverfrontDesignCompetition.com).