



The Next Generation of Parks

Minneapolis Riverfront

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

MEDIA CONTACT

Janette Law | 612-929-0939

janette@minneapolisriverfrontdesigncompetition.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOUR COMPETING DESIGN TEAMS UNVEIL VISIONS FOR UPPER RIVERFRONT

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and Minneapolis Parks Foundation Present a Free Public Event, Thurs, Jan 27, 7PM, at the Walker Art Center



Ken Smith
Ken Smith Workshop
New York



Chris Reed
Stoss Landscape
Urbanism
Boston



Tom Leader
Tom Leader Studio
Berkeley



Dr. Kongjian Yu
Turenscape
Beijing

Minneapolis, Minn., January 10, 2011 – Four globally-renown landscape and urban design teams from points east and west converge on Minneapolis, Thursday, January 27, to present to the public their visions for the Minneapolis Riverfront Design Competition (MR|DC). The free event is hosted by the Walker Art Center, 1750 Hennepin Avenue, and will begin at 7PM in the Walker Cinema. **Due to strong demand, tickets are no longer available for this event; there will be an in-person waitlist starting at 6 PM prior to the lecture for those who check in at the Walker box office.** The presentation will also be webcast live and archived at channel.walkerart.org.

The teams – **Ken Smith Workshop (New York City)**, **Stoss Landscape Urbanism (Boston)**, **Tom Leader Studio (Berkeley)**, and **Turenscape (Beijing)** – will each present a multidimensional design proposal for 220 acres of parkland and surrounding communities along 5.5 miles of the Upper Riverfront in Minneapolis. 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 sponsor the MR|DC. The largest design competition in Minneapolis history, the MR|DC builds on the Park Board’s award-winning 2000 Master Plan and is the first demonstration project of the Foundation’s “Next Generation of Parks” initiative.

The teams were short-listed from a pool of 55 submissions; collectively, their work includes award-winning riverfront and industrial reclamation park projects, in places such as Shanghai, Memphis, Toronto, New York City, Dubai, Milwaukee and London.

“As with many other American cities, parks in Minneapolis were first created as antidotes to the ills of urban living,” says Andrew Blauvelt, Curator of Architecture and Design for the Walker Art Center. “Yet change is in the very condition of a city and in nature itself. The MR|DC and Next Generation of Parks conceptualize our parks anew – in addition to turf and trees, parks must now be both economically and ecologically sustainable, connect with the urban and natural environment, and be a civic magnet for outdoor culture.”

-more-



MINNEAPOLIS PARKS FOUNDATION

COLLEGE OF
DESIGN
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

WALKER ART CENTER

The presentation is one requirement of the design teams, who are creating 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. Submissions are due January 21. The winning team, which will be awarded a commission for an Upper Riverfront parks project, will be selected by the MR|DC jury January 28 and announced February 10.

"This is a much-anticipated event for the Park Board, the Minneapolis Parks Foundation and our design competition partners," says Jayne Miller, Superintendent of Minneapolis Parks. "This project is of great significance to Minneapolis and the region because it has the potential to reinvigorate interest in the river and stimulate economic investments in North and Northeast Minneapolis. Like the public, we can't wait to see what these teams have created."

More on the Event and What Follows

In addition to the design teams' submissions, the presentation will feature Upper Riverfront designs created by youth involved in Minneapolis Parks' Mississippi River Green Team and a weekly evening drop-in program at Logan Park in Northeast. Following the presentation, the Walker will host a free reception with cash bar, where the public will have a chance to meet members of the design teams and competition sponsors. For those unable to attend, the event will be webcast live and archived at channel.walkerart.org.

Beginning in February, the public is invited to peruse the design submissions at several locations. First, the Walker Art Center will present "Four Visions of the Minneapolis Riverfront," a free, continuous screening of the design submissions and student work, in the US Bank Orientation Lounge in the Walker's lobby, February 1-28. The University of Minnesota College of Design will also exhibit the submissions; please visit the MR|DC website for forthcoming details about this and additional locations.

To learn more about the competition, including submissions, design criteria, community engagement and how to get involved and stay informed, please visit MinneapolisRiverfrontDesignCompetition.com, where you can also comment, sign up for our e-newsletter and subscribe to our blog and news feeds.

###

About the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

With 182 park properties totaling nearly 6,732 acres of land and water, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board provides places and recreation opportunities for all people to gather, celebrate, contemplate, and engage in activities that promote health, well-being, community, and the environment. Each year, approximately 18 million visits are made to the nationally acclaimed Minneapolis park system. Its urban forests, natural areas and waters endure and captivate. Its Grand Rounds National Scenic Byway, neighborhood parks, recreation centers and diversified programming have made the Minneapolis park system an important component of what makes Minneapolis a great place to live, play and work. To learn more about the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, visit www.minneapolisparcs.org.

About the Minneapolis Parks Foundation

Officed in the historic Theodore Wirth home at Lyndale Farmstead Park, The Minneapolis Parks Foundation is a non-profit supporter of the award winning Minneapolis park system. The Foundation provides private-sector partnership for the development of a 21st Century park system through its "Next Generation of Parks" initiative, a design-driven project that explores world class parks design and planning and will produce a "design ideas" competition. Learn more at <http://mplsparksfoundation.org>.