



Three Internationally Acclaimed Landscape Architecture Firms Are Selected as Finalists for Middle Branch Waterfront Design Competition

BALTIMORE, Md. (April 18, 2019) – Following a search that generated proposals from some of the top landscape architecture firms in the world, three teams have been selected to compete for the opportunity to lead the transformation of the Middle Branch Waterfront into a more than 11-mile park system in South Baltimore along the shoreline the Patapsco River. The selection comes after nearly a year of public planning and meetings with community stakeholders.

The shortlisted firms, selected by a committee of waterfront property owners, community representatives, government leaders, and technical experts, each possess outstanding credentials in landscape architecture and have demonstrated capacity to handle projects at this scale by executing urban waterfront projects around the world. All have included Baltimore-based firms on their teams to ensure local knowledge and perspectives on issues ranging from connecting to the City’s park system to engaging communities in articulating their priorities

The firms are:

- **James Corner Field Operations**

Based in New York City with offices in Philadelphia, San Francisco, London and Shenzhen, China. Notable work: South Park at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, London; Chicago’s Navy Pier; the High Line, New York City; Seattle’s Central Waterfront; the Tsim Sha Tsui Waterfront in Hong Kong.

- **Hargreaves Jones**

Based in New York City with offices in San Francisco and Cambridge, Massachusetts. Notable work: Haihe River Ribbon Park, Tianjin, China; New Orleans’ Crescent Park Waterfront; Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, London; JFK Plaza/Love Park, Philadelphia; Zaryadye Park, Moscow.

- **West 8**

Based in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, with offices in Belgium and New York City. Notable work: Toronto Central Waterfront; The New Hondsbossche Dunes, Petten, The Netherlands; Governors Island, New York City; Xinhua Waterfront Park, Shanghai, China; Madrid Rio River Renewal Project, Madrid, Spain.

The selected firm will have the opportunity to lead a project destined to make lasting positive change by revitalizing this neglected stretch of Baltimore’s waterfront. The project will be designed to link nearby neighborhoods to an activated waterfront via a connected system of parks and trails. It will include a focus on restoring wetlands and creating opportunities for water- and land-based recreation that serve both visitors and nearby residents.

“Our vision for the Middle Branch Waterfront is that it will be the newest crown jewel in Baltimore’s inventory of great public parks: one of the country’s next great urban waterfronts,” said Lisa Schroeder, CEO of the Parks and People Foundation, which is managing the project on behalf of City of Baltimore and working with local partners including the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership.

“It is exciting to see that three of the top landscape architecture firms in the world are competing to design a connected park and trail system for the people of Baltimore, creating new prospects for residents and enabling this area of our city to reach its potential,” she said.

The shortlisted firms will visit Baltimore April 24th and 25th to meet with community representatives and local officials. In late May, concept designs from each firm will be published online and displayed at neighborhood venues for public review. A jury of local representatives and technical experts will assess the final submissions, review the public comments and interview the teams, after which they will recommend their winning selection to the Mayor.

About the Middle Branch Waterfront

The Middle Branch will be Baltimore’s next great recreational and natural waterfront, with water and land-based attractions along 11-plus miles of the Patapsco River shoreline connected within a network of parks and trails. A transformed waterfront will generate opportunity for investment while creating a new front yard for local neighborhoods. The Parks & People Foundation is managing community engagement and design team selection for the City of Baltimore under a contract with the City and the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership. For more information visit www.middlebranchwaterfront.com

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