



TORONTO WATERFRONT
REVITALIZATION CORPORATION

WATERFRONT CORP. LAUNCHES DESIGN COMPETITION FOR ICONIC ESPLANADE AND BOULEVARD

Construction to start in fall 2006 on project that will provide continuous public access across central waterfront

Toronto, March 20, 2006 – A prestigious jury of design and culture professionals has selected five internationally recognized teams to participate in a design competition that will deliver continuous public access across Toronto’s central waterfront and produce a bold, defining waterfront identity, Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation chair, Robert Fung announced today.

“The waterfront belongs to the people of Toronto. They need to be able to get to it and to fully enjoy it once they get here,” said Fung. “That’s what this project is about, giving the public uninterrupted, beautifully designed access to their waterfront.”

Making Waves, the City of Toronto’s official plan for the central waterfront identifies providing continuous public access and transforming Queens Quay into a remarkable “Waterfront Drive” as important priorities in removing barriers and connecting the city and the lake.

Thirty-eight design teams from 15 countries on four continents submitted proposals for the competition. The five teams selected to compete are:

- Foster and Partners, London UK and Atelier Dreiseitl, Uberlingen, Germany
- Stan Allen Architects, Princeton and Sarah Whiting and Ron Witte Architects, Princeton
- Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects, New York and Martínez Lapena-Torres Architects, Barcelona
- West 8, Rotterdam and du Toit Allsopp Hillier, Toronto
- Snøhetta, Norway, Sasaki Associates, New York, nARCHITECTS, New York, Weisz + Yoes Architecture, New York, H3, New York, Balmori Associates, New York and Halcrow Yolles HPA, New York

Toronto architect Brigitte Shim chairs the jury that selected the teams and that will choose the winning design. The other jury members are Toronto filmmaker Atom Egoyan, Toronto urban designer Ken Greenberg, Toronto designer Bruce Mau, Montreal landscape architect Claude Cormier and New York architect Lise Anne Couture.

The design competition includes the area from the water's edge along the Western Gap in the west to the Parliament Street Slip in the east, a distance of 3.5 km. The designs will connect and build on existing successful spaces like the Music Garden, the water's edge York and John Quay promenades and HtO Park and provide a distinct and recognizable identity for Toronto's revitalized waterfront.

Key components that the jury will be looking for in the winning design include:

- Continuous public promenade from the Western Gap to the Parliament Street Slip
- Completion of Martin Goodman Trail in this area
- Creation of major points of arrival where the heads of slips meet Queens Quay
- Improved Queens Quay Boulevard
- Consistent standards for finishes, furniture, pavers, boardwalks, railings, fixtures
- Sustainable approach that includes habitat and water quality improvements

TWRC's Waterfront Design Review Panel will provide advice to the jury on the final submissions. TWRC has also established a community advisory panel to provide advice to the jury. The panel is chaired by Vikki Baron, executive director of the Waterfront Regeneration Trust.

The design teams will have approximately six weeks to produce their designs. TWRC and the City of Toronto are finalizing a detailed design brief which will be distributed to the five firms on March 30 as part of a site tour. The teams will submit their designs the second week of May, following which TWRC will hold a public exhibition to obtain community input. The exhibition will run for 10 days. The winning design will be announced at the end of May.

The design teams are each receiving an honourarium of CA \$30,000 for participating in the design competition.

Funding for the first phase of construction of the Central Waterfront Esplanade and Boulevard, rebuilding the heads of the slips, is included in the 10-year waterfront funding plan approved by the three levels of government in the fall of 2005 and is scheduled to start in the fall of 2006.

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