



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Design team finalists present concepts for Pierscape
redevelopment at Navy Pier Inc.'s public forum**

Design proposals on public display throughout city

CHICAGO – The five finalists vying to redesign Navy Pier’s public spaces presented their complete visions to hundreds at a public forum setting on January 31 and February 1 at the Museum of Contemporary Art.

The public presentations were another step in the process of selecting the design team that will ultimately redesign Navy Pier’s outdoor public spaces, also known as “Pierscape.”

The search for a Pierscape design team is an important part of the larger vision for Navy Pier called the *Centennial Vision*, which seeks to make Navy Pier a truly iconic and world-class destination as it approaches its 100th anniversary in 2016. The redevelopment effort is being overseen by NPI, the new not-for-profit board that operates the Pier.

“The board was thoroughly impressed with the proposals from this group of talented and internationally renowned design teams,” said Sarah Garvey, chair of the Navy Pier, Inc. (NPI) Board. “We had a strong turnout at the presentations and

received great public input. We hope to hear from many more people in the coming weeks and encourage people to go see the design proposals first-hand at locations throughout the city.”

The two-part public forum included three presentations by finalists the first night and two presentations by the remaining finalists on the second night. Both evenings concluded with time for questions from the audience.

“Allowing the public to take part in the process is very important to us,” said Marilynn Gardner, President of NPI. “Navy Pier is Chicago’s most popular public destination. We believe that feedback from those who use it and love it is an important part of the selection process.”

The Centennial Vision: A Framework for Reimagining Navy Pier aims to build on the Pier’s success as Illinois’ most popular tourist destination and to assure its continued growth in coming years. A key goal is to maintain the Pier’s family appeal while drawing more adults and year-round visitors with more dining and entertainment options and more appealing public spaces that take full advantage of the Pier’s unique setting.

“Ultimately, NPI will select a design team, or possibly a combination of teams, that best understands our objectives and would make a great partner in further exploring, developing, and refining design ideas and concepts,” said Steve Haemmerle, Executive Vice President of NPI. “We have five truly talented design teams so the decision will not be easy, but we are confident that the team selected will contribute significantly to the transformation of the Pier into a truly world-class public venue.”

In addition to the MCA’s public forum, Navy Pier will continue to solicit public input on the proposed design concepts in a variety of ways including an exhibition at the Chicago Architecture Foundation, satellite locations across the city (locations listed

below) and beginning this Thursday on Navy Pier's website www.navypiervision.com. In addition, the presentations from each design team at the MCA public forum were recorded and are available on Navy Pier's website.

In addition to using Twitter and Facebook to raise public awareness about the designs on display and encourage feedback, NPI has also reached out to civic and community groups throughout the process to enlist their perspectives.

The Chicago Architecture Foundation (CAF) will have the finalists' design proposals on display at a free exhibition starting February 2 and running through mid-May. In conjunction with the exhibition, CAF will host a series of programs and lectures to further engage Chicagoans in the project. For more information, go to www.architecture.org.

The process of selecting a design team to redesign Navy Pier's public spaces began in September with an invitation to design firms worldwide to submit their qualifications. The initial response drew submissions from 52 international design teams, which was ultimately narrowed down to the finalists by the NPI board.

The public spaces to be redesigned include Gateway Park at the west entrance of the Pier, Crystal Garden, Pier Park, East End Park and the South Dock - along with smaller public spaces that dot the length of the Pier. This work will include enhancements to the Pier's landscaping and streetscape along with the addition of water features, public art, and lighting.

The final selection of a design team - or teams - will be in the coming weeks.

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See attachment for Media Notes.

MEDIA NOTES:

- For images of the design teams' proposals, go to:
<https://jtdigital.box.com/s/pp1cbsv1vb3t4gyfe8xh>
- For more information on the public exhibition and satellite locations, go to www.navypier.com; locations listed below.
- For more information on design team finalists, contact Nick Shields (nshields@navypier.com); names of teams are listed below.

LOCATIONS FOR PUBLIC VIEWINGS AND INPUT

Public Exhibition

Chicago Architecture Foundation

February 2-mid-May

Satellite Locations

Richard M. Daley-W. Humboldt Park Library

733 N. Kedzie, Chicago, IL 60612

Conrad Sulzer Regional Library

4455 N. Lincoln Ave, Chicago, IL 60625

Mount Greenwood Library

11010 S. Kedzie Avenue, Chicago, IL 60655

Harold Washington Library Center

400 S. State St., Chicago, IL 60605

Center On Halsted

3656 N. Halsted Street, Chicago, IL 60613

Chicago Cultural Center

78 E. Washington St., Chicago, IL 60602

DePaul University – DePaul Center

1 East Jackson Boulevard., Chicago, IL 60604

IIT - College of Architecture – Crown Hall

Crown Hall, 3360 South State, Chicago, IL 60616

UIC School of Architecture

845 W. Harrison, Chicago, IL 60607

Richard J. Daley Center

118 North Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60602

Walter Payton College Preparatory High School

1034 North Wells Street, Chicago, IL 60610

DuSable Museum of African American History

740 East 56th Pl., Chicago, IL 60637

Chicago Architecture Foundation

224 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60604

National Museum of Mexican Art

1852 W 19th St, Chicago, IL 60608

Navy Pier

600 East Grand, Chicago, IL 60611

LIST OF DESIGN TEAM FINALISTS

!melk/HOK/Urban Lab

!melk, the lead firm, is located in New York City; HOK is located in Chicago with offices throughout the world; Urban Lab is based in Chicago.

AECOM/Bjarke Ingels Group

AECOM is based in Chicago and its lead team partner, BIG (Bjarke Ingels Group), is located in New York with an office in Copenhagen.

Aedas Architects/Davis Brody Bond/Martha Schwartz Partners

Aedas, the lead firm, is located in New York with offices in the Americas, Europe, Asia and the Middle East; Davis Brody Bond is located in New York with offices in Washington DC, Seattle and Brazil; Martha Schwartz Partners has offices in the UK, New York and Cambridge, MA.

James Corner Field Operations

James Corner Field Operations is based in New York City.

Xavier Vendrell Studio/Grimshaw Architects

Xaiver Vendrell Studio's Chicago/Barcelona office is located in Chicago. Grimshaw Architects is located in New York and has three additional offices in the UK and Australia.

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