



JURY REPORT STAGE I

To: Connect Kendall Square Open Space Competition Governance Group

From: Competition Coordinator on behalf of the Competition Jury

Date: September 4, 2014

The City of Cambridge received 30 Stage I submittals from across the country and around the world. The Jury met for two days to review, discuss, and evaluate each submittal and determine the Team Leaders to advance to Stage II of the Competition. This report records the decision of the Competition Jury for the Stage I short list and the process by which the decision was made.

Review of Stage I

In Stage I, Team Leaders submitted individual qualifications. Team Leadership was defined as professionals with knowledge and experience in open space planning, design, operation, programming, conservation, or place-making in an urban setting. The required submittal for each Team Leader included: a brief biography and resume, a statement of project understanding and planning and design philosophy, and examples of work that demonstrate an ability to execute innovative projects at the urban design scale, address complex site and program interrelationships, and create places that are sustainable, beautiful and meaningful. The project understanding was intended to describe the Team Leaders' project approach, understanding of local conditions, issues to be addressed during Stage III, professional disciplines to be represented on the Team, and the organizational model of the Team.

Stage I Jury Process

The Jury received electronic copies of the submittals on August 21, 2014. They convened in Cambridge on Wednesday, August 27, 2014 and received welcome and introductory remarks from Richard Rossi, City Manager, City of Cambridge; and presentations from Stuart Dash, Director of Community Planning, City of Cambridge, and Don Stastny, Competition Coordinator. The presentations covered the context and history of Kendall Square and the purpose of the Competition, including a summary the public meeting that occurred in June and the extensive work by the ECKOS Study Committee to develop the Vision and Planning and Design Goals.

Stuart Dash lead a walking tour of the area, providing the Jury an in-depth look at the current conditions of the area. The remainder of the day was spent in individual study of the Competition submittals. By the end of the first day, all the Jurors had read and discussed the merits of each and every submittal.

The second day of the Jury session began with additional discussion and review of the submittals. Through the discussion, deliberations, and individual evaluations of the submittals, the Jury determined a short list of Team Leaders who best met the evaluation criteria to advance to Stage II of the Competition.

Jury's Stage I Recommendation

The Jury has selected the following eight Team Leaders to advance to Stage II (listed in no particular order). The Team Leaders demonstrated an understanding of the issues and context specific to Kendall Square, and presented ideas and analysis of this specific place beyond general design philosophy and experience. Additional information on the Team Leaders and the Jury's comments follows the list below.

- Jonathan Marvel, FAIA (Marvel Architects) and Ken Smith, FASLA (Workshop: Ken Smith Landscape Architecture)
- Matthew Urbanski (Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, Inc. Landscape Architects)
- Robert M. Rogers, FAIA (Rogers Partners Architects+Urban Designers) and Daniel Harple (Context Labs with academic partner MIT Media Lab)
- Lesley Bain, FAIA (Framework Cultural Placemaking)
- Sebastian Mariscal (Sebastian Mariscal Studio), Stephen Stimson, FASLA (Stephen Stimson Associates), Jason Turgeon, Dan Sternoff Beyer (New American Public Art), and Tom Stohlman
- Evan Rose, Assoc. AIA, Laura Crescimano, and Eleanor Pries (SITELAB urban Studio)
- Richard Burck, FASLA, FAAR (Richard Burck Associates, Inc.)
- Alex Krieger, FAIA, Alan Mountjoy, and Kelly Lynema (NBBJ)



Jonathan Marvel, FAIA (Marvel Architects) & Ken Smith, FASLA (Workshop: Ken Smith Landscape Architecture)

Bio excerpt from submittal:

Founding Principal of Marvel Architects in 2013, Jonathan Marvel received his MArch from Harvard Graduate School of Design and has over 25 years of experience designing public space in New York and Washington DC. A leader in community outreach and collaborative workshops, most recently Jonathan led a team at the Port Authority of NY/NJ in a master plan effort for the Midtown Bus Terminal district in Manhattan.

Ken Smith is one of the best known of a new generation of landscape architects equally at home in the worlds of art, architecture, and urbanism. Trained in both design and the fine arts, he explores the relationship between art, contemporary culture, and landscape. His practice, WORKSHOP: Ken Smith Landscape Architecture, was established in 1992 and is based in New York City with a southern California office in Irvine

Comments from the Jury:

Their analysis to show their initial understanding of the problem was very strong. The four organizing principles and diagrams supported this analytical approach and showed the depth of their thinking about Kendall Square. Their discussion of connectors was clear and they showed much creativity in their thinking. They articulated well their past experience to Kendall Square and made a strong connection to their portfolio projects. Specifically, the Hudson Square work is a great project that is quite relevant, having made a positive impact in a place that is similar to Kendall Square.

Matthew Urbanski (Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, Inc. Landscape Architects)

Bio excerpt from submittal:

Matthew is a Principal of MVVA, where he has worked for over two decades. He has been part of the leadership team for almost every major project the firm has completed. He has planned and designed landscapes in the United States, Canada, and France, including waterfronts, plazas, parks, college campuses, courtyards, sculpture gardens, and private gardens. In addition to his work as a designer, Matthew lectures and publishes frequently, including recent articles in *Topos* and *Ecological Restoration Journal*. He is an Adjunct Associate Professor at Harvard's Graduate School of Design and is co-owner of Red Hill Nursery, a plants nursery.

Comments from the Jury:

His analysis of building whole systems of experience rather than individual pieces of program was clearly presented. He acknowledged the dual emphasis on the integrated network and the need for each place to have a strong identity of its own. He demonstrated a clear understanding of the issues and the expectations of the community, citing the assets on which to build in Kendall Square. The portfolio of work supported the analysis and was relevant to Kendall Square; specifically, the programmed open space of Biomed Plaza, with winter skating and summer music events.

Robert M. Rogers, FAIA (Rogers Partners Architects+Urban Designers) & Daniel Harple (Context Labs with academic partner MIT Media Lab)

Bio excerpt from submittal:

Robert M. Rogers, FAIA is the founding partner of Rogers Partners, Architects+Urban Designers. After leading Rogers Marvel Architects (RMA) for over twenty years, Rob founded Rogers Partners in August 2013. Throughout his career, he has directed design teams to wide success with award winning educational, cultural and open space projects. This work has been recognized with more than 65 design and industry awards from peer and client groups.

Dan Harple is the Managing Director of Shamrock Ventures, BV, based in Cambridge, MA and Amsterdam, The Netherlands. He's been a technology entrepreneur for 20+ years, having founded and built technologies, companies, and products, which have been used by billions of Internet users. Dan and a team of MIT Sloan Fellows founded Context Labs, a subsidiary of Shamrock Ventures, by applying their backgrounds in software technology, internet standards, innovation policy, venture capital, entrepreneurship and corporate strategy to assist governments and corporations in analyzing, developing and maintaining successful innovation activities and ecosystems.

Comments from the Jury:

Their critique of the problem and project understanding were strong, including observations on the fragmented environment and new ways of understanding it through information. They acknowledged the need for more diversity of spaces and people—thinking beyond physical environment. Partnership with Context Labs is promising. Their analytical and database approach is intriguing. Their project examples, including Battery Park streetscapes, were relevant and supported their project understanding.

Lesley Bain, FAIA (Framework Cultural Placemaking)

Bio excerpt from submittal:

A passionate and successful advocate for urban life, Lesley Bain has found in her native Seattle a fertile laboratory to influence new models of urban life and provide the kind of leadership that is increasingly needed from the architecture community. The palette of opportunity runs from working with communities to transformation of the small nooks of neighborhoods and alleys to working with city and state agencies on bold moves of new urban infrastructure. Her work includes award-winning mixed-use architecture that breathes life into the edges of the public realm, and brings the activities of street life into and through their site. She has written policies, guidelines and master plans that put the public realm at the heart of design.

Comments from the Jury:

The description of cultural placemaking was clear and relevant to Kendall Square. She addressed transcending the office park character and making a connection to the waterfront. Her philosophy of the street as a behavioral setting was strong. She demonstrated a good understanding of multi-generational uses and event programming as a way of animating public space. Her project examples, specifically around Lake Union, were extremely relevant and made an explicit comparison to Kendall Square.

**Sebastian Mariscal (Sebastian Mariscal Studio),
Stephen Stimson, FASLA (Stephen Stimson Associates),
Jason Turgeon, Dan Sternoff Beyer (New American Public Art), & and Tom Stohlman**

Bio excerpt from submittal:

Sebastian Mariscal has a diverse range of projects in contrasting locations such as Boston, New York, Los Angeles, San Diego, and Mexico. He explores the integration of Architecture, Landscape, and Art as one organism with an active community engagement. Sebastian's interests include zero parking developments with car sharing and bike parking for a zero-vehicle community market. Open-Green spaces, public and private, are one constant in his designs to reactivate the human relations with nature-art and ourselves.

Stephen Stimson, FASLA, who founded Stephen Stimson Associates in 1992, was born and raised on a 10th generation dairy farm in central Massachusetts. His regional work is deeply rooted in an agrarian sensibility that is reflected through the use of local materials and simple patterns. Over the past decade his practice has grown increasingly diverse, expanding from intimate gardens to academic campuses and urban parks across the country.

Jason Turgeon is a national expert on the ins and outs of energy efficient sewage treatment, anaerobic digestion, and the complexities of modern waste management in a rapidly changing world. Outside of his work for the EPA, he has fallen into a community of artists, makers, and doers. He believes that these are the people who make Boston an incredible place to live and work. He has humbly been accepted into this community of people who are infinitely talented. With this enthusiastic, admirable approach, he has made his contribution by organizing events for them to show off their skills.

Dan Sternof Beyer leads and guides interactive installations across Boston's arena with New American Public Art, a collaboration of studio designers, architects, engineers, programmers and artists who develop beautiful, interactive public space. Their work is more than physical form: it is the social curiosity and interaction of the public with the place. The work isn't static; it is a dynamic experience of participants engaging with each other, exploring their environment, and forming social bonds.

Tom Stohlman is a professional architect. He earned his Master of Architecture degree from MIT. He is active in civic affairs in Cambridge, MA with a particular interest in community participation and urban design. One of his current projects has been to further develop The Technology Trail that ties together many historical and public sites within the Kendall and Central Square area. His vision for the city of Cambridge has been a driving force to implicate and sustain the accessibility of this area through the means of wayfinding and linking of open spaces in Kendall Square, the Charles River and beyond Boston parameters.

Comments from the Jury:

Their approach emphasized different disciplines as leaders, not a singular point of view. Public art was included in a meaningful role within the team leadership, and projects in their portfolio included supporting examples of integrating, curating, and advocating art. They provided a different perspective by focusing on the four potential park spaces. With community engagement as a key philosophy, they demonstrated a strong understanding of the local context.

Evan Rose, Assoc. AIA, Laura Crescimano, & Eleanor Pries (SITELAB urban Studio)

Bio excerpt from submittal:

Evan Rose is an Urban Designer with a 24-year track record of successful and innovative projects, and is a founding partner of SITELAB urban studio, a full-service urban design, planning, and strategy firm. Prior to 2008, he was a Principal at SMWM in San Francisco and New York where he led the urban design practice for 11 years and built the New York office. Evan leads a broad and diverse urban design practice that has focused on urban design, public realm design and programming, and place-making for signature urban projects.

Laura Crescimano is Principal and co-founder of SITELAB urban studio. As an urban designer and strategist, Laura's work for over 15 years has focused on the public realm – through public and private projects, research, and teaching. Laura's work investigates the social and political power of space. She has written on temporary urbanism as a blogger for SFGate's City Bright column, and her research on the future of work and the urban impacts of the corporate campus has been published in SPUR's journal, The Urbanist.

Eleanor Pries is has designed for our cities' essential sites since 1999. A design principal and partner at SITELAB urban studio, she is widely trained in urban design, architecture, landscape, and planning. As an Urban Designer, she brings expertise on projects where multi-disciplinary teams unite on complex sites. Eleanor sees from macro to micro—from strategizing sustainable open space systems to designing Parklets (mini parks) that enhance activity and community on downtown streets for public-private partnerships.

Comments from the Jury:

The strategies described were clear and emphasized the connection to the waterfront, community, history, and streets as public space. They recognized the significant planning foundation provided by the ECKOS and K2C2 Studies. A fresh look at the issues was provided with a strong focus on programming and transforming streets. Their discussion of reaching out beyond traditional public realm design for team collaborations was persuasive.

Richard Burck, FASLA, FAAR (Richard Burck Associates, Inc.)

Bio excerpt from submittal:

Since founding Richard Burck Associates, Inc. in 1985, Richard (Skip) Burck has led a team of landscape architects and designers in the conception and construction of spaces ranging from urban and mixed-use to institutional and residential. He formed RBA as primarily a master planning and project design firm for public and private institutions, secondary schools, colleges and universities. Skip received his Master of Landscape Architecture from the Graduate School of Design (GSD) at Harvard University, where he returned the following year to teach studio design. Skip was awarded the Rome Prize Fellowship in Landscape Architecture at the American Academy in Rome in 1982, and is a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Comments from the Jury:

His statement and supporting diagrams demonstrated analytical thoughtfulness in the approach to Kendall Square. He focused on embracing the river and local life in the neighborhood, and provided a strong emphasis on programming and the market context. His projects demonstrated practical solutions, which could achieve positive outcomes—especially for projects where it is not clear who will pay for improvements.

Alex Krieger, FAIA, Alan Mountjoy, and Kelly Lynema (NBBJ)

Alex Krieger has combined a career of teaching and practice, dedicating himself in both to understanding how to improve the quality of place and life in our major urban areas. Alex is a frequent advisor to mayors and their planning staffs, and serves on a number of boards and commissions, including Director of the NEA's Mayor's Institute in City Design, 1994-1999; Founder and co-director of the Large City Planners Institute, 1999-pr.; Boston Civic Design Commission, 1989-1987; National Design Peer, General Services Administration, 2002-pr.; Historic Boston Incorporated, 2004-pr.; Joseph Riley Institute, Charleston, 2000-pr.

Alan Mountjoy is the Manager of Urban Design projects at NBBJ Boston. Before joining the firm in 1997, he served as a project manager for the Metropolitan District Commission's New Charles River Basin project in Boston. Alan has over 25 years of national experience in the fields of architecture, master planning and urban design. In his role as urban design manager, he coordinates diverse teams of professionals in architecture, landscape architecture, real estate economics, transportation planning, and environmental engineering.

Kelly Lynema is a senior planner and project manager at NBBJ. Prior to completing her education, Kelly acquired more than ten years of professional experience in communications, writing and design. She has since been involved planning assignments for a number of middle-sized cities in New England and the Midwest, including Hartford, Connecticut, and Worcester, and has worked on a number of campus planning projects in Massachusetts. Her career has also included substantial experience in the areas of community advocacy and participatory planning.

Comments from the Jury:

Their analysis of the problem was clearly on target—making Kendall Square greater than the sum of its parts. They described the public domain effectively and justified its importance to the project. Their strategy for realizing the opportunity presented by the wide streets was intriguing. Strong design leadership and relevant experience is reflected in their portfolio. Specifically, their work on the Anacostia Framework Plan is analogous to Kendall Square.

Next Steps: Stage II

The eight selected Team Leaders will assemble complete Teams that are capable of creating an open space Framework Plan. The City of Cambridge will host a Design Team Meet & Greet on September 18, 2014 for the purpose of connecting Team Leaders with potential team members. No later than October 2, 2014, the Teams will submit qualifications of the key members that are appropriate to fulfill the project approach proposed in Stage I. Key members of the Team will participate in an interview with the Jury on October 6-7, 2014. The submittal prior to the Interview will include resumes and examples of work. The Interview will include a presentation by the key members of the Team followed by a conversation with the Jury that will be structured to address specific project criteria. The presentation/conversation is intended to help the Jury further understand the Team's approach and to establish the capabilities of each Team to present a comprehensive and innovative solution to the framework for the open space /public realm of Kendall Square. The Jury will select a maximum of four Teams to participate in Stage III.