

## **Smith Promenade Urban Design Competition**

### **Ville de Montréal reveals names of finalist firms**

**Montréal, December 15, 2011** – The Ville de Montréal is pleased to announce the names of the finalist firms chosen in the urban design competition to develop the Smith Promenade, in the Peel-Wellington portion of the Griffintown neighbourhood.

After studying the 25 proposals submitted, the jury has selected four finalists. They are:

- Atelier Ville Architecture Paysage (VAP)
- Groupe IBI/DAA/CHBA
- NIP Paysage
- The Commons Inc

“I congratulate the four finalists in this first stage of the design competition for the redevelopment of Rue Smith,” said Richard Deschamps, Ville de Montréal Executive Committee Vice-President responsible for Economic Development and Major Projects. “Their talents will contribute to the creation of an exceptional site providing Montrealers with new, high-quality public spaces, and to the repurposing of this district, currently undergoing a renewal boom.”

Added Helen Fotopulos, Executive Committee Member responsible for Culture, Heritage, Design and the Status of Women: “In opting for a design competition, Montréal, in its capacity as a UNESCO City of Design, seeks to encourage participation by professional practitioners in the future of the city and to foster development of innovative, creative approaches to the renewal of the Smith Promenade.”

### **Composition of the jury**

The jury tasked with choosing the finalist proposals included a representative of Griffintown residents as well as professionals in architecture and design:

- Georges Adamczyk, jury Chair, full professor, School of Architecture, Université de Montréal;
- Georges Baird, architect, urban designer, professor at John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design, University of Toronto;
- Eric Bunge, architect, n-architecture, New York;
- Dominique Côté, landscape architect, representing Sud-Ouest Borough;
- Wade Eide, architect, AADU, representing the Direction du développement économique et urbain, Ville de Montréal;
- Bernard Girard, citizen, representing Griffintown residents;

- Peter Soland, architect, landscape architect, urban designer, Urban Soland.

**Next step**

In Stage 2 of the competition, the finalist firms will complete their project teams and refine their proposals. In March 2012, citizens will be invited to a public presentation of the teams' final proposals, and the jury will announce the winning firm in April.

"It is essential that we map out a coherent vision of Griffintown's redevelopment, and one way to achieve this is by building vibrant public spaces on a human scale," explained Benoit Dorais, Mayor of Sud-Ouest Borough. "I salute the finalists, who through their creativity will make a major contribution to the revitalization of this unstructured area, ahead of the detailed planning exercise on Griffintown to be carried out by the Office de consultation publique de Montréal."

**About the Smith Promenade Urban Design Competition**

The area targeted by this cross-Canada competition encompasses the length of Rue Smith, running from the railway arches at Rue Ann to the Lachine Canal, and including Gallery Square.

The Smith Promenade Urban Design Competition is part of the larger project to revitalize Griffintown's public areas. That project aims to address the deficit of public spaces in an area in the midst of renewal, ensure the comfort and safety of pedestrians, and breathe new life into a neighbourhood of great significance both from a built heritage and a city planning standpoint.

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Source: Martine Painchaud  
Office of the Mayor and Executive Committee  
514 872-9998

Information: François Goneau  
Public Affairs Division  
514 868-5859