

News Release



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Next Step for Los Angeles State Historic Park

State Parks Announces Competition to Select Designer for Newest Los Angeles Downtown Park

LOS ANGELES – California State Parks today announced a search for a design team capable of creating a world-class conceptual plan for Los Angeles State Historic Park. The formal request for qualifications was issued by State Parks for the area formerly known as the Cornfield. Its purpose is to invite innovative, talented and multidisciplinary teams to join the competition to design a concept for Los Angeles' newest, precedent-setting urban park.

“The community surrounding this park has clearly said they want something unique and special on this site,” said Ruth Coleman, Director of State Parks. “We are looking for a design team that is capable of integrating the community involvement with the most ingenious designs to create an iconic park. We are looking for a sustainable design that captures the major historical and archeological significance of the site.”

According to Coleman, a selection committee comprised of well-known and respected professional and community representatives will soon be created. The committee will review the submitted qualifications and select three design teams that will compete for being selected as the final design consultant. Each finalist will receive a stipend of \$25,000 to enable them to create their conceptual proposals.

As part of the competition, public design workshops will be held to gather information, ideas and feedback from the community. Using this information, the committee will rank the designers and make its recommendation to Director Coleman, who will have the final decision on which team is selected. State Parks will then negotiate and award the design contract to that team. The value of the concept design contract is anticipated to be between \$400,000 and \$500,000.

The competition is open to all interested candidates, and there is no entry fee. Bids are due no later than 5 p.m., April 17, 2006. Detailed information on the project, design and selection criteria, and the competition process may be found at: www.cscr.dgs.ca.gov/cscr.

State Parks Foundation Supports Funding for Competition

State Parks will coordinate the design competition in partnership with the California State Parks Foundation, which will provide organizational and financial resources to conduct the competition, including the \$25,000 stipends, without the use of state funds. The State Parks Foundation, in turn, has received generous support from the Annenberg Foundation specifically for this project. Further information about the Annenberg Foundation may be found on their Web site, www.annenbergfoundation.org.

California State Parks Foundation President Elizabeth Goldstein said, "This is a special park project that will become a show-place as the front-porch of Los Angeles. With that in mind, we anticipate the location and history of our newest State Historic Park will lead to considerable public interest in the selection process and we want to strongly encourage design teams to participate in this effort."

The 32-acre site of this new state park is linked to the long and varied history of the city and its diverse people. The site has historic significance and associations at many levels to the Los Angeles story. This includes its very existence as a state park, thanks in large part to the efforts of one of the most diverse coalitions of local citizens, activists, and environmental justice advocates ever assembled. The story of this community effort to protect the land from industrial development and save it as a public park reflects not only the statewide significance of the site, but its opportunity to become a venue for study, celebration, civic engagement, and recreation for the residents and guests of the City of Los Angeles.

Elected Leaders Support Vision for New Park

California State Assemblywomen Jackie Goldberg (D – Los Angeles), who represents the district in which Los Angeles State Historic Park is located, commented, "This project is an opportunity to create a new model for a state park set in an urban area. If we can create a successful model, State Parks can increase its ability to promote meaningful visitor experiences that not only educate but encourage active participation in Los Angeles' diverse cultural history."

Los Angeles Councilman Ed Reyes, who represents the community surrounding Los Angeles State Historic Park added that the park, "... is a cornerstone in the Los Angeles River revitalization plan and presents a 'once-in-a-century opportunity' to develop connections and linkages that will transform this historic site and former brown field into a multidimensional public space for the community and future visitors from around the State."

About California State Parks Foundation

The California State Parks Foundation is the only statewide organization dedicated to protecting, enhancing and advocating for California's 278 State Parks. Since its inception in 1969, the Foundation has raised more than \$116 million in land, funds and artifacts for State Parks. The Foundation's support comes from its 65,000 members, corporate partners and foundations. For more information, please contact the California State Parks Foundation at 415-258-9975 or visit www.calparks.org.

About the Annenberg Foundation

The Annenberg Foundation exists to advance the public well-being through improved communication. As the principal means of achieving its goal, the Foundation encourages the development of more effective ways to share ideas and knowledge. The Annenberg Foundation has offices in Radnor, PA and Los Angeles, CA.

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