

News Release



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Overwhelming Choice

Top Choice in Design Competition for LA State Historic Park Announced to Public

LOS ANGELES – California State Parks’ Director Ruth Coleman announced today that she has accepted the overwhelming recommendation of a Selection Advisory Committee to choose the Hargreaves Associates Team as the winner of the Design Competition for Los Angeles State Historic Park.

State Parks will now begin the process of entering into a contract with Hargreaves to prepare a final design plan for the future park. Today’s announcement was made at a noon press conference at Los Angeles State Historic Park.

“The three finalists must be thanked for the exceptional creativity and innovative thinking they brought to this project,” said Director Coleman. “The Committee and I agree that Hargreaves best proved they can integrate local community needs into a world-class park that attracts a statewide audience. They have a great track record of exceptional and successful urban parks.”

Hargreaves Associates has its headquarters in San Francisco, with offices in Los Angeles. The other two teams were Field Operations from New York City and Mia Lehrer + Associates of Los Angeles.

“We could not be more pleased with the explosion of ideas that came from these design firms,” said Elizabeth Goldstein, President of the California State Parks Foundation, which orchestrated the Design Competition on behalf of State Parks. “These firms rose to the task of providing the “world-class” ideas we wanted and now Hargreaves has the job of taking this to the next level for this community.”

The Design Team Competition was funded through a generous grant from the Annenberg Foundation to the California State Parks Foundation. Leonard Aube, Executive Director, said that the Annenberg Foundation “is pleased to be involved in this groundbreaking process. Our hats are off to the leadership of State Parks and the California State Parks

Foundation for their efforts to bring transparency and a new level of public engagement to the design of the Los Angeles State Historic Park. This process has provided powerful and pervasive public access for normally underserved communities.”

The Selection Advisory Committee held a public charette on October 14, 2006, to hear presentations from each of the three finalist design teams and to get input from the public on all three designs presented and displayed at the meeting. The Advisory Committee then held a day-long evaluation session, examining the design proposals, presentations and public input, using the evaluation criteria established in the Request for Qualification (RFQ) to evaluate all three proposals based on the same fair and balanced criteria. At the conclusion of this process, the Committee reported they had overwhelmingly chosen Hargreaves Associates as their recommendation to State Parks’ Director Ruth Coleman. Coleman then reviewed the recommendation, selecting Hargreaves as the preferred design team.

What comes next is that once a contract is in place, the Hargreaves team will continue the public process through ongoing community involvement to refine a master plan for the park. Meeting announcements are expected early next year.

In addition to the public input, Hargreaves will also follow the guidance of the General Plan for the park that was developed through numerous public meetings. It should be noted that the design submitted by Hargreaves for the Design Competition will likely change as the ideas the public liked in the other plans submitted can be considered for inclusion in the final design.

Reporter Note: Those reporters wishing to know more about Hargreaves Associates, their reaction to this selection and the kinds of projects they have been involved with nationally and internationally, can contact the firm through Mary Margaret Jones, (415) 865-1811. The firm can provide pictures and graphics for other projects.

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. Further information about the Annenberg Foundation may be found on their Web site, www.annenbergfoundation.org.

Background Information

The Design Competition, which was conceived by Coleman as a substitute for State Park's typical process for choosing a design team, began in March of this year when California Department of Parks and Recreation issued a formal request for qualifications, inviting innovative, talented and multidiscipline teams to join the competition to design a concept for Los Angeles' newest, precedent-setting urban park.

A total of 33 design teams from the United States and overseas submitted their qualifications to become a finalist. Each team was comprised of a number of firms and individuals, bringing the total count of entities involved in the competition to near 200.

State Parks coordinated the design competition in partnership with the California State Parks Foundation, which provided organizational support and the financial resources to conduct the competition, including \$25,000 stipends for the three finalists to develop their proposals, without the use of State funds.

As part of the competition, public design workshops were held to gather information, ideas and feedback from the community.

The three finalists teams were chosen by a Selection Advisory Committee comprised of community members and technical experts in fields such as design, historical interpretation and park management. The Selection Advisory Committee was created in collaboration with elected officials such as Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, State Senator Jack Scott, Assemblymember Jackie Goldberg and LA City Councilmember Ed Reyes, all of whom have been intimately involved and supportive of the park since State Parks acquired the site in 2001.

The Selection Advisory Committee, composed of 10 members, was provided with copies of all 33 of the proposals submitted in a review package prior to their meeting. They then met in June to jointly review all the proposals and make their selection of the three finalists. To insure fairness in the competition, this selection process followed the same rules as a bid selection, where sealed bids are submitted in a competitive process for consideration.

California State Parks acquired the property in December 2001, using \$30 million from the Proposition 12 Parks Bond Act of 2000, co-authored by then-Assembly Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa (D-Los Angeles) and Assemblymember Fred Keeley (D-Boulder Creek) and signed into law by then-Governor Gray Davis.

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