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11th Street Bridge Park Selects OMA + OLIN Design

Press conference 10 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 16, 2014

Washington, D.C. — The 11th Street Bridge Park is thrilled to announce the selection of OMA + OLIN as the selected design team for Washington D.C.'s first elevated park over the Anacostia River.

When: Thursday, Oct. 16, 2014; 10 am

Where: Building Bridges Across the River at THEARC. 1901 Mississippi Ave. SE, Washington DC 20020

Who: OMA Partner Jason Long and OLIN Partner Hallie Boyce, District Department of Transportation Director Matthew Brown, 11th Street Bridge Park Director Scott Kratz

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Renderings of the selected design concept can be downloaded [here](#). More information about the 11th Street Bridge Park is at www.bridgepark.org.

At **10 a.m. on Thursday, October 16**, OMA Partner Jason Long and OLIN Partner Hallie Boyce will present their community inspired design concept and vision for the 11th Street Bridge Park. District Department of Transportation Director Matthew Brown and 11th Street Bridge Park Director Scott Kratz will provide opening remarks.

After a seven-month nationwide competition, the OMA + OLIN design was unanimously selected by the competition jury. The design team was asked to transform an aged-out freeway bridge into a one of a kind new civic space over the Anacostia River.

"The 11th Street Bridge project is a special precinct in the structure of the City" said competition Juror Harry G. Robinson III, FAIA, Professor of Urban Design and Dean Emeritus, Howard University. "It is at once both a crossing and *place*. In its purest role it is a hyphen that connects and celebrates the physical and cultural histories of two historic and vibrant Anacostia shoreline communities, while establishing a civic expression of democracy."

Juror Dr. Howard Frumkin, Dean, School of Public Health, University of Washington added, "The 11th Street Bridge project is enormously exciting, not only as a means of building community and improving quality of life, but also as a strategy for promoting health. It will promote physical activity, access to healthy food, contact with nature, socializing—all proven prescriptions for better health. What a giant step for the health of the people of our nation's capital!"

"The OMA + OLIN concept is simply brilliant in the way they captured ideas we heard from residents on both sides of the river and from across the city" said 11th Street Bridge Park Director Scott Kratz. "These thoughtful designers – some of the best architects and landscape architects in the world – have taken community driven ideas and created a compelling new space that will connect two historically divided parts of the city while adding a new shape to the capital's iconic monuments."

In addition to a unanimous jury selection, OMA + OLIN's inspirational design received the highest marks from the competition's "Design Oversight Committee" comprised of community stakeholders and the most votes in a public poll of over 1,100 participants.

"Our design creates a literal intersection and a dynamic, multi-layered amenity for both sides of the river," commented OMA Partner-in-Charge Jason Long. "It simultaneously functions as a gateway to both sides of the river, a lookout point with expansive views, a canopy that can shelter programs and a public plaza where the two paths meet. The resulting form of the bridge creates an iconic encounter, an "X" instantly recognizable within the capital's tradition of civic spaces."

Hallie Boyce, OLIN's Partner commented, "The 11th Street Bridge Park project is an incredible opportunity to contribute to the civic fabric of Washington, D.C. through the design of an iconic, multi-functional landscape which promotes the health of the river and its adjacent communities acting as a model both nationally and globally."

The 11th Street Bridge Park is a collaborative effort of the D.C. City Government and the Ward 8 based non-profit "Building Bridges Across the River at THEARC."

About the competition

Informed by over 400 community meetings organized by 11th Street Bridge Park staff, the four final design teams were asked to create an iconic new civic space supporting the community's environmental, economic, cultural and physical health. These four teams were selected by the Bridge Park's Jury of national experts for their creativity, energy and vision from more than 80 firms who submitted proposals in March, 2014.

The four final teams were:

- Balmori Associates / Cooper, Robertson & Partners
- OLIN / OMA
- Stoss Landscape Urbanism / Höweler + Yoon Architecture
- Wallace Roberts & Todd (WRT) / NEXT Architects

The Bridge Park's Jury is made up of noted experts in the fields of landscape architecture, architecture, urban design, community engagement and public health, and includes:

- **Howard Frumkin**, M.D., Dr.P.H. Dean, School of Public Health, University of Washington
- **Toni L. Griffin**, Founding Director of the J. Max Bond Center for the Just City, Spitzer School of Architecture, City College of New York
- **Carol Mayer-Reed**, FASLA, Partner in Charge of Landscape Architecture and Urban Design, Mayer/Reed
- **Michaele Pride**, AIA, NOMA, Associate Dean for Public Outreach and Engagement, School of Architecture and Planning, University of New Mexico
- **Harry Robinson III**, FAIA, AICP, NOMA, Dean Emeritus and Professor of Urban Design, School of Architecture and Design, Howard University
- **Patricia Zingsheim**, AIA, CPM, Associate Director of Revitalization and Design, D.C. Office of Planning (Alternate Juror)

- **Donald J. Stastny** FAIA, FCIP, Design Competition Advisor

Additionally, a Design Oversight Committee of experts from across the region representing the arts, environmental, design, recreation and public health provided pivotal feedback to the Jury during the seven-month process.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Visit www.bridgepark.org

Competition Fact Sheet

- **Stage 1** – March, 2014. Call for entries open to United States-based designers. Over eighty design firms representing forty-one teams submitted qualifications and essays describing their design methodology. Jury selected six landscape architect / architect teams to assemble larger interdisciplinary teams including structural engineers, lighting designers and other experts for in-person interviews.
- **Stage 2** – May, 2014. Jury selects four design teams to advance to the final stage. Each team is provided a \$27,500 stipend to create full design renderings that will be juried and evaluated for cost and constructability.
- **Stage 3** – September 29th and 30th, 2014. Jury meets to hear team presentations and select the final concept for the 11th Street Bridge Park, which will be announced at a press conference scheduled for the morning of October 16, 2014.

About the 11th Street Bridge Park

As the old 11th Street traffic bridges that connect Washington, D.C.'s Capitol Hill and historic Anacostia neighborhoods aged out, the District government and a local nonprofit organization, Building Bridges Across the River at THEARC, will transform the aged infrastructure into the city's first elevated park: a new venue for healthy recreation, environmental education and the arts.

The 11th Street Bridge Park will be a place unlike any other in Washington, D.C. – one that supports the community's physical, environmental, cultural and economic health. Funding for the Bridge Park is provided by a \$1 million pre-capital campaign from public and private donors. The Washington D.C. City Government recently committed an additional \$14.5 million toward the project. With the selection of a final design, a capital campaign has been launched to match these funds.

Additional support is provided by the Educational Foundation of America, the Horning Family Fund, the Prince Charitable Trusts, LISC DC, the Fetzer Memorial Trust, Autodesk, Grosvenor, Forest City Washington, Urban Land Institute Washington, Urban Land Institute Foundation, Justice and Sustainability Associates, Industrial Bank, Irene and Alan Wurtzel, Nick and Gardiner Lapham, Pendragwn Productions, PRR, Goulston & Storrs, JBG, Susan Clampitt, David Schwarz, Melissa Hook, Anacostia Business Improvement District, 4Site, Cerami & Associates, Corporate Offices Property Trust and the Beacon Hotel and Corporate Quarters.

About OMA

OMA is a leading international partnership practicing architecture, urbanism, and cultural analysis. OMA's buildings and masterplans around the world insist on intelligent forms while inventing new possibilities for content and everyday use. OMA sustains an international practice with offices in Rotterdam, New York, Beijing, Hong Kong, and Doha. Responsible for OMA's operations in the Americas, OMA New York was established in 2001 and has overseen the successful completion of several buildings – including Milstein Hall at Cornell University, Seattle Central Library, the IIT Campus Center, and the Prada New York Epicenter. The New York office is currently working on a number of large scale masterplans including a new civic center in Bogota, Colombia and a comprehensive urban water strategy for Hoboken, New Jersey designed for a post - Hurricane Sandy initiative led by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. The office is also overseeing the construction of multiple cultural projects, including the National Beaux Arts museum in Quebec and the Faena Arts Center in Miami Beach. Most recently, OMA New York has also been commissioned to design a number of residential towers in San Francisco, New York and Miami, as well as a mixed-use complex in Santa Monica.

About OLIN

OLIN creates distinguished landscapes and urban designs worldwide. Our work is predicated upon social engagement, craft, detail, materiality, and timelessness, and our appreciation of the urban environment is paramount. We approach each project individually, basing design decisions upon the underlying expressive power of a particular site in conjunction with specific programmatic requirements. In all of our work, we carefully assess the distinguishing spatial characteristics of a site, its connections to surrounding areas, local traditions and history, the natural environment, and social and cultural conditions.

OLIN has offices in both Philadelphia and Los Angeles and works throughout North America, Europe and Asia. Our portfolio stretches across myriad scales and typologies, including celebrated projects like Bryant Park in New York City, the J. Paul Getty Center in Los Angeles, and the grounds of the Washington Monument in Washington, DC. In each instance, our multi-disciplinary design staff create environmentally advanced, technical projects, promoting greater social engagement and ecology for every effort.

About Building Bridges Across the River at THEARC

The 11th Street Bridge Park is a project of the Town Hall Education Arts Recreation Campus (THEARC), a \$27 million, 110,000 square-foot campus located east of the Anacostia River in Washington, D.C.'s Ward 8. The mission of THEARC is to improve the quality of life for residents of Washington D.C.'s East of the River community, a key goal of the future 11th Street Bridge Park. THEARC is a home away from home for the many underserved children and adults of East of the River, enabling them to participate in dance classes, music instruction, fine arts, academics, continuing education, mentoring, tutoring, recreation, medical and dental care, and other services at a substantially reduced cost or no cost at all. On-site non-profit partners include Washington Ballet, Levine School of Music, Children's Medical Center and eight other organizations.

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