

For Immediate Release

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St. James Park Imagineer Finalists Chosen *Historic Park Design Closer To Becoming Reality*

SAN JOSE, Calif. – The Oohs and Ahhs are getting closer for historic St. James Park, in Downtown San José. Four finalists to envision a new future for St. James Park have been selected by the city. Nationally recognized for their stunning work, CMG Landscape Architects, !melk-free, Meyer + Silberberg, and Wallace Roberts & Todd will contribute their creative and extensive experience to develop plans to transform St. James Park into a vibrant and awe-inspiring public space.

Design competition jurors had the difficult task of selecting from among 14 creative and high caliber proposals to select the four finalists. Based on a number of factors, a design competition jury selected four firms that demonstrated a unique combination of technical abilities and innovative imagination.

“You see this work in magazines and now we’ll get to see it in San José,” said Rick Holden, one of the jurors and the President, Friends of Levitt Pavilion San Jose.

The eight-member jury consisted of Danny Harris of the Knight Foundation; Alan Hess, San Jose Mercury News Architecture Critic; Mia Lehrer of Mia Lehrer & Associates Landscape Architecture; Raul Peralez, District 3 Councilmember; Angel Rios, Jr., Director of Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services; David Walker of Peter Walker Partners Landscape Architecture; Sharon Yazowski of the Levitt Foundation; and Holden.

Key elements of the design will include a new performance venue (Levitt Pavilion) and inspired elements that respond to community needs while ensuring the historic setting of the park is integrated into the final design. The city will provide finalists with a \$25,000 stipend to support further design efforts that will ultimately be judged by a jury comprised of design professionals and local representatives.

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Finalists will have an opportunity to tour the park and meet with community members on August 26, 2016. The four design teams will present their park designs to the jury and the public on October 15, 2016.

With a final design selection scheduled to take place in late Fall of this year, the city plans to start the project in late 2017 or early 2018.

More information can be found on the St. James Park Design Competition webpage (<https://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=5027>).

About the Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department

The City of San José Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) has one of the most diverse service models of any agency of its type. The recreation, social services and outdoor spaces serve not only San José's million plus residents, but individuals from surrounding cities and communities, as well. They remain committed to building healthy communities through people, parks and programs and to be a national leader in cultivating healthy communities through quality programs and dynamic public spaces. For more information, please visit <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/prns>.

About the City of San José

Known as the Capital of Silicon Valley, San José is the nation's tenth largest city and the largest city in Northern California, with an ethnically diverse population of more than one million. San José was founded in 1777, once served as the state capital of California, and now encompasses 180 square miles. Facts about San José can be found here: <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/780>. The City's website is www.sanjoseca.gov.

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