

Weisman Art Museum
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Images available upon request.



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COLLABORATIVE DESIGN MEETS PUBLIC SPACE

Weisman Art Museum announces winner in the
Plaza Design Competition on the University of Minnesota Campus

MINNEAPOLIS – The Weisman Art Museum (WAM) at the University of Minnesota announced that VJAA (Jennifer Yoos and Vincent James), working with HouMinn Practice (Marc Swackhammer and Blair Satterfield), and artist Diane Willow, associate professor at the University of Minnesota, is the winner of the design competition recently conducted by the Target Studio for Creative Collaboration. The competition focused on the bridge plaza at the east end of Washington Avenue Bridge. It is a thoroughfare for bikers and pedestrians. Students, staff, faculty and visitors to the Twin Cities Campus use this important public space. Notable for its magnificent views of the Mississippi River and access to the west bank campus as well as the new Science Teaching Student Services building and WAM, more than 20,000 people pass through this space on a daily basis. The goal of the Target Studio for Creative Collaboration is to bring together cross-disciplinary teams for intense periods of collaboration to imagine alternative futures.

The WAM Target Studio for Creative Collaboration accepted proposals from interdisciplinary teams with experience in the design of public spaces. All teams included an artist and have prior public space design experience. Four teams were selected from the proposals: 4RM+ULA, working with artists Roger Cummings, Satoko Muratake, and Seitu Kenneth Jones; SEH Planning and Urban Design, working with EE+K, Steve Dietz, and artist Christopher Baker; VJAA (Jennifer Yoos and Vincent James), working with HouMinn Practice and artist Diane Willow; and Coen + Partners, working with artist Rafael Lozano-Hemmer.

The competition was juried and creative products from each team are on display in the Target Studio at WAM. The jury was comprised of four public space experts and five community stakeholders from the University and WAM community. The next phase of this project will be to hold meetings with the winning team and the campus community in the Target Studio to refine the design and implement the plan. “The design competition challenged the four competing teams to create ideas that will transform the plaza into a more artful and meaningful experience for its users,”

said Target Studio director Craig Amundsen. “The new plaza should be representative of our times, yet able to evolve.”

The Target Studio leverages the intellectual resources of the University of Minnesota and provides opportunities for involvement of collaborators from the community. Students and other museum visitors have a chance to view the process of collaboration and learn skills transformational to their future perspectives.

ABOUT WAM AND THE EXPANSION

Since its origin in 1934, the Weisman Art Museum has been a teaching museum for the University of Minnesota. Today, education remains central to the museum’s mission to create art experiences that spark discovery, critical thinking, and transformation, linking the University and the community.

The Weisman Art Museum completed construction of an 8,100 square-foot expansion designed by internationally renowned architect Frank Gehry in 2011. This visionary architect is also responsible for the original design of this landmark facility. The expansion nearly doubles the size of the galleries for the permanent collection and enhances the museum’s role as a cultural resource for the University, students, and community.

The Weisman Art Museum is located at 333 East River Road, Minneapolis, on the University of Minnesota campus. Admission to exhibition galleries is always free. For more information, visit wam.umn.edu.

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