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Call for entries: International design competition for ideas responding to sea-level rise in Boston

The City of Boston, The Boston Harbor Association, the Boston Redevelopment Authority, and the Boston Society of Architects are pleased to announce Boston Living with Water, an open international call for design solutions envisioning a vibrant, resilient Boston that is prepared for end-of-the-century climate conditions and rising sea levels.

Launched on October 29 by Boston mayor Martin J. Walsh to coincide with the 2nd anniversary of Hurricane Sandy, the two-stage competition seeks submissions from leading planners, designers, and thinkers that incorporate concepts and strategies, including Living with Water design principles that will increase Boston's sustainability and climate-change resiliency. Selected finalists will further advance location-specific solutions to coastal flood dangers and rising sea levels that are beautiful and replicable.

"The Boston Living with Water competition is a call to action," said Mayor Walsh. "We are asking thinkers, planners, and designers to envision Boston in the year 2100. Our challenge is to evolve with our changing climate and rising seas. Our opportunity is to invest in the future and to become a more resilient, more sustainable, and more beautiful city."

Competition details

The competition asks participants to focus on one, two, or three sites, but multiple entries are also allowed.

Sites

This competition considers the challenges of adapting to climate change and rising sea levels at three sites specifically chosen for their vulnerability and where winning solutions could influence redevelopment activities.

Ranging in scale from Building to Neighborhood to Infrastructure, each site presents challenges that are representational of represent common urban conditions and call for scale-specific solutions. Competition solutions should address the unique aspects of the selected site while being replicable elsewhere.



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Site 1: Building—Typical of the existing historic urban waterfront fabric of Boston, the Prince Building, located in the North End, embodies the challenges facing multiowner residential buildings.

Site 2: Neighborhood—The 100 Acres section of Fort Point Channel is representative of the large urban mixed-use redevelopment opportunities across Boston. It includes development sites, green and blue open spaces, multilevel infrastructure, and existing historic buildings.

Site 3: Infrastructure—Morrissey Boulevard, near the outer harbor and mouth of the Neponset River, provides access to Columbia Point peninsula and a range of residential, commercial, institutional, and open-space areas. It exemplifies the critical transportation infrastructure connecting Boston's neighborhoods.

Eligibility

This is an open competition. Proposals from leading architects, urban planners, urban designers, landscape architects, engineers, academics, and climate-change professionals and thinkers are most welcome.

Schedule

Spanning from October 29, 2014, through June 2015, Boston Living with Water is a two-stage planning and design competition:

- The first stage is an open international call for proposals seeking site-specific planning and design solutions from multi-expertise competition teams. Due: January 29, 2015.
- The second stage is a finalist competition for selected teams to further develop and refine their proposals. Due: May 29, 2015.

Jury members

Mikyong Kim, principal, mikyoung kim design; Stefan Behnisch AIA, Hon. FAIA, principal, BEHNISCH ARCHITEKTEN; Kristina Ford, Columbia University; and Kairos Shen, director of planning, Boston Redevelopment Authority, City of Boston Matthew J. Kiefer, Director, Climate Change Resiliency Task Force Coordinator, Goulston & Storrs, Beverly A. Scott, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer/General Manager, Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, among others.

For full details and to register, visit www.bostonlivingwithwater.org

Social Media: @BostonLwW

The contest has been funded by the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management and the Barr Foundation, and organized by the City of Boston, The Boston Harbor Association, the Boston Redevelopment Authority, and the Boston Society of Architects.

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Organizers

City of Boston

The Boston Harbor Association

The Boston Harbor Association educates, advocates, and celebrates to achieve our vision of a Boston Harbor that connects coastal communities from Winthrop to Hull. The waterfront is both a lively destination for cultural and recreational offerings, and a robust center of maritime economic activities. Boston Harbor's waterfront provides a gathering place and welcoming front yard for everyone. Our people and places are prepared for a rising sea, living with it where possible, and protecting or retreating where necessary. For more information, visit tbha.org.

Boston Redevelopment Authority

As the City of Boston's urban planning and economic development agency, the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) works in partnership with the community to plan Boston's future while respecting its past. The agency's passionate and knowledgeable staff guides physical, social, and economic change in Boston's neighborhoods and its downtown to shape a more prosperous, sustainable, and beautiful city for all. The BRA also prepares residents for new opportunities through employment training, human services, and job creation. Learn more at www.bostonredevelopmentauthority.org, and follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/@BostonRedevelop.

Boston Society of Architects

The Boston Society of Architects (BSA) is committed to professional development for its members, advocacy on behalf of great design, and sharing an appreciation for the built environment with the public at large. Established in 1867, the BSA today consists of nearly 4,000 members and produces a diverse array of programs and publications, including ArchitectureBoston Expo and *ArchitectureBoston* magazine. A chapter of the American Institute of Architects, the BSA is a nonprofit, professional-service organization. Its partner organization, the Boston Foundation for Architecture, supports the civic and public outreach of the architectural community. For more information, visit architects.org or bfragrants.org.

Sponsors

Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management

The Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) is the lead policy and planning agency on coastal and ocean issues within the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. Through planning, technical and grant assistance, and public information programs, CZM seeks to balance the impacts of human activity with the protection of coastal and marine resources. The agency's work includes helping coastal communities address the challenges of storms, sea-level rise, and other effects of climate change; working with state, regional, and federal partners to balance current and new uses of ocean waters while protecting ocean habitats and promoting sustainable economic



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development; and partnering with communities and other organizations to protect and restore coastal water quality and habitats.

Barr Foundation

The Barr Foundation's domestic work focuses on providing quality education, mitigating climate change, and enhancing cultural vitality. Our education and arts investments are focused on Boston. Our climate work includes statewide, regional, and some national investments. Since 2010, Barr has also been exploring opportunities for global investments. The Barr Global team is building a portfolio of projects that delivers measurable improvements in the interconnected areas of livelihoods, health, environment, and education, predominantly in rural areas. Investments are currently focused in sub-Saharan Africa, Haiti, and India. Learn more at www.barrfoundation.org.

