

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SWA Advances to Next Round of Pershing Square Renew Design Competition

LOS ANGELES (Oct. 27, 2015) – The international design competition to reimagine Pershing Square launched by Councilmember José Huizar and Pershing Square Renew took another important step today with the selection of 10 semi-finalist teams that will now submit Proposals, seeking to be one of four finalists in this competition to re-design the nearly 150-year old public square. Councilmember Huizar – who spearheaded the creation of Pershing Square Renew to redesign the park – is pleased with the results so far. “These 10 teams represent an impressive mix of local, national and international talent, and that is great news for Pershing Square and Downtown Los Angeles,” said Councilmember José Huizar. “What started with 80 letters of interests, 54 teams submitting requests for qualifications, and now today’s 10 semi-finalists, will ultimately lead to one winning design team. I am very excited to see this kind of interest from some of the leading design firms in the world and I think the process we’ve put in place gives us the very best opportunity to select a final design that will truly be the gift that Downtown Los Angeles and this nearly 150-year historic plaza deserve.”

The teams that have qualified for the next round of the Pershing Square Design Competition are:

- Agence Ter from Paris, France
- Snohetta from Oslo, Norway
- SWA from Downtown Los Angeles and Morphosis
- James Corner Field Operations from New York City
- W Architecture from New York City
- PWP Landscape Architecture from San Francisco
- Mia Lehrer Associates from Los Angeles with !Melk from New York City
- Petersen Studio + BNIM from Los Angeles
- Rios Clementi Hale from Los Angeles with OMA from New York City
- wHY Architecture from Culver City, CA

These 10 teams have been selected to participate in the next phase of the competition, the Request for Proposals. The teams will present their approach and framework for redesigning the Square to the Pershing Square Renew jury and the general public in December. Following this, four finalists will be selected. In March 2016, the finalists will present to the jury in Los Angeles, with a winner announced later that month.

Located in the heart of Downtown L.A. – at the intersection of the Financial District, and the Historic Core – Pershing Square is the City of Los Angeles’ oldest park, dedicated in 1866 by Mayor Cristobal Aguilar as “La Plaza Abaja” (the Lower Plaza). Pershing Square has been redesigned and renamed multiple times since its inception – the major redesigns occurred in the 1950s and early 1990s.

For more detailed information about the design competition, visit www.pershingsquarenew.com/competition