



PHS and PHL Present Airport Landscape Concepts

Landscape architecture firms' visions for "Image Maker" landscape at Airport to be showcased at the Philadelphia Flower Show

PHILADELPHIA (March 2018) – Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) will showcase four potential designs for the Airport at the Philadelphia Flower Show as part of the PHL: Image Maker design competition. The winning design, to be announced in April 2018, will offer a new, more welcoming image to the Greater Philadelphia region and demonstrate Philadelphia's prominence as America's Garden Capital.

The goals of the Image Maker design competition are to create an iconic PHL landscape, enhance the environmental sustainability of the Airport, and provide a customer-friendly arrival and departure experience. The focus areas are all landscapes visible to the traveler going to or from the Airport – a scope of approximately 130 acres visible from motor vehicles or from an airplane. The new design will replace the current landscape that features large areas that are both planted and naturalized.

The teams were tasked to develop a thoughtful, creative, environmentally appropriate concept plan and associated budget for the Airport. The winning concept will be used in efforts to identify funds for design development and project implementation.

All four finalist teams will present their designs during the 2018 Philadelphia Flower Show, *Wonders of Water*, from March 3-11 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. Public presentations will take place on March 8 at 5:30 pm in the Gardener's Studio. Visitors can view the displays all week long on the show floor and vote for their favorite concept.

The four contestants are:

James Corner Field Operations. The New York-based firm led the design of that city's High Line elevated linear park and Philadelphia's Race Street Pier. In the firm's RFQ response, director James Corner wrote, "We will ensure the project is environmentally and horticulturally extraordinary, reflective of the diverse identity of the city, feasible, phase-able and achievable."

Mathews Nielsen Landscape Architects. The New York-based MNLA has worked extensively on public and private projects in the metropolitan region. Principal Molly Bourne wrote in the firm's RFQ response, "The MNLA team seeks to celebrate the site's attributes and enhance its natural systems. When visiting PHL in early July 2017, we found that the disturbed, disconnected and invaded landscape affords a unique opportunity to create a bold, new typology rooted in ecological-based landscape design."

OLIN. The Philadelphia-based landscape architecture, urban design and planning firm has created signature landscapes in cities throughout the U.S. and abroad. In the firm's RFQ response, partner Eric Tamulonis wrote that OLIN would seek to portray the connection between "past innovations of our horticultural and civic landscape tradition and Philadelphia's future as a resilient, green city, a metropolis defined by its horticultural excellence."

Phyto Studio. The niche landscape architecture firm is based in Arlington, Va. In the firm's RFQ response, team leader Thomas Rainer wrote, "We have to combine the very best of contemporary ecological science with the boldest and most awe-inspiring artistic and creative vision. All within the context that celebrates Philly's gutsy, gritty, and revolutionary spirit."