ADOBE CREEK PEDESTRIAN & CYCLIST BRIDGE
2014 Design Competition
Palo Alto, California

City of Palo Alto Public Art Collection. By James Moore, titled, "Bliss in the Moment." Commissioned in memory of bike advocate Bill Bliss who was instrumental in the creation of the Bay Trail and many of the bike safety initiatives that have been implemented in the bay area. Photo courtesy of the City of Palo Alto.
Innovation
DESIGN
nature
structure

City of Palo Alto Public Art Collection: Byxbee Park - ambitious land art collaboration with Peter Richards and Michael Oppenheimer. Photo courtesy of the City of Palo Alto.
The City of Palo Alto, California is located in the heart of Silicon Valley in northern California. Home to hundreds of technology and research based companies and Stanford University, this city of 66,000 boasts some of the nation’s most highly educated people.

Palo Alto is crossed by several creeks that flow into San Francisco Bay. Adobe Creek and Barron Creek converge near the southern boundary, Matadero Creek is a short distance from the Adobe/Barron confluence and San Francisquito Creek is Palo Alto’s northern boundary.

More people in Palo Alto choose to walk or bicycle on streets or trail systems compared to almost any other city or town of a comparable size. These activities occur despite a number of major barriers that bisect Palo Alto, including the US Highway 101 corridor that separates much of Palo Alto from its largest open space land area, the Palo Alto Baylands and San Francisco Bay Trail. The desire to create better access to this important open space land area and connect citizens with employment opportunities has led the City of Palo Alto to prioritize the funding and construction of a new, year-round bridge over Highway 101 at Adobe Creek.
“We want a bridge that balances engineering with art, and efficiency with beauty, while recognizing the integration with our Baylands.”

-Palo Alto Mayor Nancy Shepherd

The proposed Adobe Creek Bridge would replace an existing underpass that is functional for only a part of the year due to seasonal flooding, and it would complement an existing overpass that is 1.25 miles distant. The existing overpass is not compliant with the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The City of Palo Alto seeks teams of architects, engineers and landscape architects to submit qualifications for the design of a bridge that would connect much of Palo Alto with this important natural preserve. Based on the strengths of their qualifications submittals, three respondents will be awarded $20,000 each to develop their separate conceptual design proposals for a public presentation to the competition jury, the Architectural Review Board and the community. An exhibit of the final conceptual design proposals will be held at the Palo Alto City Hall and at a Palo Alto Public Library.
Design Brief

Design concepts will be judged by the competition jury based on the following principles:

**Guiding Design Principles**

- **Innovation** – inspire and engage the community with a current-era design, incorporating creativity, originality, functionality, technology and education, that is also identifiable as a landmark in the heart of Silicon Valley
- **Versatility** – achieve a balance between engineering and art, efficiency and beauty, diversity of users and functionality, while conforming to the project’s construction budget
- **Interconnectedness** – respect the delicate ecosystem of the Baylands; recognize the integration with nature, connection to the bay trails and importance of viewing nature while accommodating walkers/bikers/commuters, and enhancing the human experience and universal accessibility
- **Conservation** - incorporate state-of-the-art bird-friendly design science and guidelines and develop innovative approaches to management of native and non-native predator species
Competition Process
The Adobe Creek Bridge competition consists of two phases:

In Phase 1, design teams are invited to submit their qualifications per instructions below. Design teams will be asked to submit statements of qualifications and interest. The competition jury will meet in public to review Phase 1 submissions and select three finalists to advance to Phase 2.

In Phase 2, invited teams will be asked to develop conceptual design proposals. Each of three finalists will be awarded $20,000 to develop their separate proposals. The finalists will participate in a public presentation to the competition jury, the Palo Alto Architectural Review Board and the community. Following these presentations, the competition jury will select a winner of the competition.

The competition jury chair will present the jury’s recommendations to the Palo Alto City Council who will have final approval of subsequent contracts with the design team.

Competition Jury:
Judith Wasserman, AIA
Cathy Deino, Blake, ASLA
Steve Burrows, SE, CBE
Susan Chin, FAIA
Additional juror information at the City of Palo Alto website
others to be announced
Submittal Requirements
Phase 1:
Cover letter and statement of interest

Design teams should submit a cover letter and statement of interest of no longer than four pages. The letter should identify the firms and key personnel who make up the design team and should discuss why the team is interested in participating in the competition.

The Design team must include a licensed architect, licensed landscape architect and licensed civil engineer. The lead architect and/or the civil engineer must have completed the design and construction of at least one bridge within the last ten years (completed after September 1, 2004.)

The letter should also address the team’s anticipated approach to the competition’s design challenges.

Design teams should submit a description of relevant projects completed or in progress by members of the design team. Responses should be limited to a total of ten projects, with no more than one page dedicated to each project. At least one project must be a completed bridge project. Be sure to include a summary of the project, credit any artist collaborations, and describe the firm’s role in the project.

Phase 2:
Three finalists will be asked to develop and submit conceptual design proposals, which will include the requirements outlined below. Design teams must follow the design guidelines. Additional information may be provided prior to the beginning of Phase 2.

Due: 12/05/2014 by 4:00 PM PST:
1. Three design boards 24 x 36 inches delivered to Palo Alto City Hall (250 Hamilton Avenue, 6th Floor, Palo Alto, CA 94301, Attn: Elizabeth Ames, Senior Project Manager).
2. Electronic copy of full submittal which will be posted on City of Palo Alto website.
3. YouTube video of 3-5 minutes in duration, describing the design intent of the team.
4. Conceptual construction cost estimate of proposed design (construction budget of $7.2 million without contingencies).

In Addition:
5. Participation at public meeting of jury and Palo Alto Architectural Review Board on 12/16/2014 or 12/17/2014. A 20 minute presentation will allow each finalist to provide an overview of the design and to be interviewed following the presentation.

Notes for Design teams and Post Competition Information:
At the end of this competition, the City may negotiate a contract with a design team. The preferred concept design will be developed further in accordance with the environmental assessment conditions and other constraints as determined in the preliminary design phase of the project. The design documents will comply with the Santa Clara Valley Water District and Caltrans requirements and the City of Palo Alto’s Site and Design process. The team selected to advance a design concept through design and construction will be expected to follow the City of Palo Alto’s professional services agreement template.

For information or questions, please contact:
Margie O’Driscoll, Hon. AIA
paloaltobridgecompetition@aiacc.org
Phase 1:
9/29/2014
Design Competition Instructions posted on City of Palo Alto website and American Institute of Architects websites

10/27/2014 10:00 am PST
Statement of Interest/Qualifications Due

11/01/2014
Competition jury meets and selects three finalists

11/03/2014
Phase 2 Finalists (three) notified
Supplemental information, if needed, is issued

12/05/2014 4:00 PM PST
Submittals due. Design Boards, Supplemental Information and YouTube videos posted

12/08/2014
Technical Advisory Panel meets and reviews submittals; provides comment for jury

12/16/2014 or 12/17/2014
Design teams present concepts to competition jury and Architectural Review Board at public meeting
Competition jury ranks concepts

1/14/2015
Palo Alto city staff and jury chair present jury findings to Planning and Transportation Commission

1/27/2015
Palo Alto city staff and jury chair present jury findings to Parks and Recreation Commission

2/09/2015
Jury Chair and winning design team present design to City Council
Additional Information
The City will host an exhibition of bridge ideas in conjunction with the competition inviting young artists and designers to be a part of the process by creating posters and/or models of a Highway 101 bridge that represents their vision of Palo Alto. This Bridge Art Showcase will be displayed on the City of Palo Alto’s website leading up to the competition. All youth participants will be recognized at a future City Council meeting and will receive a certificate of achievement.

Environmental Review:
The bridge project is subject to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Alignment 1 has been informally vetted with regulatory agencies and the community and is the focus of this competition. A draft environmental assessment is planned to circulate in Spring, 2015 and the final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Environmental Assessment (EA) are anticipated to be certified in Winter, 2015.

Reference Documents:
1. Baylands Master Plan
   http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/gov/depts/pln/advance/area/baylandsmp.asp

2. Palo Alto Comprehensive Plan
   http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/gov/topics/projects/landuse/compplan.asp

3. Draft Design Guidelines, Soil Reports, Vicinity Map, Draft 15% Adobe Creek Reach Trail, Draft 15% Bridge Alignment, Catenary Survey, Percent for Art policy:
   http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/101

Photo courtesy of the City of Palo Alto.
Open Space

FRESH AIR

community

breathe

Photo courtesy of the City of Palo Alto.