



# **The Connected City<sup>®</sup>**

THE TRINITY TRUST  
RECLAIMING OUR RIVER



**City of Dallas**

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**DRAFT:**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Dallas CityDesign Studio and The Trinity Trust Foundation Announce  
The Connected City Design Challenge,  
A Call for Urban Design Strategies to Connect Downtown Dallas and the Trinity  
River**

**DALLAS, Texas, April 4, 2013** – The City of Dallas’ CityDesign Studio and The Trinity Trust Foundation held an event on April 3 at the NYLO Dallas South Side to announce the launch of The Connected City Design Challenge, an open call for urban design strategies to connect Downtown Dallas and the Trinity River. The Challenge aligns with the City of Dallas’ Trinity River Corridor Project, a \$2.2 billion public works and urban development project with 20 miles of nature—including the Trinity River—running through central Dallas.

The Connected City Design Challenge will build awareness of urban design solutions capable of shaping Dallas forward, develop a more refined and specific strategy for connecting Downtown Dallas and the river, and assist in securing future public and private investment. By empowering both designers and citizens, The Challenge will work to realize integrated solutions that improve the livability and viability of Dallas.

Larry Beasley, one of the world's top urban planners and the city planner who helped to shape the City of Vancouver as one of the most livable cities in the world, and Urban Design Special Advisor to the CityDesign Studio, will serve as chief curator of The Connected City Design Challenge.

Larry Beasley said, “The Trinity River Plan is a brilliant initiative for the future livability and competitive edge of Dallas. But to make it really sing, we have to find a way to reach across the tough barriers between Downtown Dallas and the river, reconnecting the city’s urban vibrancy with its natural respite. This is urban design as great city building.”



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Brent Brown, director of Dallas CityDesign Studio, said, “In 2009, The Trinity Trust Foundation and the City of Dallas, with support from Deedie and Rusty Rose, established the CityDesign Studio. Our initial focus was timely, working with residents, developers, businesses, and investors to secure an urban structure policy in advance of the opening of the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge connecting Downtown Dallas to West Dallas. Now is the time to focus our attention to one of the most challenging urban design problems in our city—connecting our downtown and our river.

Dr. Gail Thomas, president of The Trinity Trust Foundation, said, “George Kessler, author of the 1911 Dallas Comprehensive Plan, was right when he said, ‘The Trinity River is the biggest problem you have in Dallas today.’ There is no clear physical connection between Downtown Dallas and the Trinity River after the river was moved one mile south. That movement is now exacerbated by freeways, on-ramps, freight rail lines, and a patchwork of industrial and institutional uses. We hope that The Connected City Design Challenge will help us come up with the best solutions from the brightest minds of our time.”

The Connected City Design Challenge is produced by the Dallas CityDesign Studio, an office of the City of Dallas, in partnership with The Trinity Trust Foundation, Downtown Dallas, Inc., and The Real Estate Council Foundation. Sponsors include partners, individuals, various area stakeholders, and landowners. Collaborators include AIA Dallas, Greater Dallas Planning Council, Dallas Architecture Forum, and the Dallas Center for Architecture. Local area initiatives including LINCing Dallas, ForwardDALLAS!, the Downtown Dallas 360 Plan, and the Trinity River Balanced Vision Plan, will serve as the framework for discovering solutions.

The downtown area districts for consideration include Riverfront, Reunion/Union Station, portions of the Dallas Civic Center, and West End. This area is uniquely positioned between the Trinity River, Southside and The Cedars, the Design District, and Victory Park. This area creates one of the most challenging urban conditions in the United States.



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In order to secure the most capable design talent and facilitate a variety of solutions, The Connected City Design Challenge will be structured as a competitive process consisting of two idea streams: a professional stream and an open stream. From the Professional Stream, the jury will select three design teams through a competitive request for qualifications process. Each of the three selected design teams will be awarded \$50,000 to bring their expertise and ideas to the challenge and up to \$10,000 covering travel to Dallas. The Open Stream invites professionals, non-professionals, and students to submit design proposals. By a combination of popular vote and jury selection, four finalists will receive \$5,000 each and participate in the public exhibit and activities.

Public events will include a symposium and lecture series by all three professional teams, along with panel discussions with the open stream finalists. An exhibit and publication is planned to share professional and open stream ideas in both digital and print form.

## **Important Dates for The Connected City Design Challenge:**

April 4	<a href="http://connectedcitydesign.com">connectedcitydesign.com</a> Launches
April 19	Design Challenge Jury Announcement
April 26	Urban Workshop, Exhibit and Lecture Series Announced
May 9	Professional Stream Qualifications Due
May 17	Professional Stream Design Teams Announced
Sept 19	Professional Stream Design Proposals Due
October 3	Open Stream Design Proposals Due

For more information about The Connected City Design Challenge, visit [connectedcitydesign.com](http://connectedcitydesign.com).

For those interested in contributing to this effort, a Dallas CityDesign Studio Fund at the Dallas Foundation has been established to receive support:

Dallas CityDesign Studio Fund

The Dallas Foundation



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### **About City of Dallas CityDesign Studio:**

The CityDesign Studio is an office of the City of Dallas that seeks to convene the municipal, professional, and residential communities in the deliberate public design of Dallas, bring a heightened consciousness of design to the city, and deliver thoughtful design to areas that have been historically neglected in our city. The Studio believes design can improve lives and transform the places where we live, work, and play. In order to do this, the Studio employs a collaborative approach bringing together community leaders, designers, and local residents. More information can be found at [www.dallascityhall.com/citydesign\\_studio](http://www.dallascityhall.com/citydesign_studio) or by emailing [citydesign@dallascityhall.com](mailto:citydesign@dallascityhall.com).

### **About The Trinity Trust Foundation:**

The Trinity Trust Foundation helps the city of Dallas by raising private funds for this \$2.2 billion urban park project. Donations from the private sector will add amenities such as the signature Calatrava bridges, lakes, a central island, a white water course, amphitheaters, and ball fields. The foundation also reaches out into the community to educate citizens about the project with presentations, symposia, and events. More information can be found by calling 214.740.1616, by emailing [info@thetrinitytrust.org](mailto:info@thetrinitytrust.org), or by visiting [www.thetrinitytrust.org](http://www.thetrinitytrust.org).

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