

Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library Foundation
Cathilea Robinett, Chair
Melani Walton, Chair, Design + Architecture Committee
Edward F. O’Keefe, Chief Executive Officer

May 20, 2020

Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library Foundation Selects Henning Larsen, Snøhetta, Studio Gang for Architectural Design Competition

MEDORA, NORTH DAKOTA — The Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library Foundation named three finalists to compete for the commission of design architect of the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library. Renowned architectural firms Henning Larsen, Snøhetta, and Studio Gang were selected after an extensive search and interview process.

“These architects share our vision and values,” said Melani Walton, chair of the Design + Architecture Committee, “They want to listen and spend time with the community, study the ecology of the Badlands, and embrace the complexities of Theodore Roosevelt’s life.”

Henning Larsen, Snøhetta, and Studio Gang were selected from 12 firms that affirmatively responded to the T.R. Library Request for Qualifications (RFQ), which was made public in April. One of these three architects will work alongside an executive architect and construction management team that will be based in North Dakota.

Design concepts are due July 17 and any digital or model renderings are due by August 3. Designs will be made public on August 10 and the TRPLF is scheduled to hold their next board meeting in Medora, North Dakota, on August 17-18. Ken Vein, director of design + construction, is working with city officials in Medora and the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation to facilitate safe working sessions in Medora by each architectural and design team in June.

“The world needs T.R. now more than ever,” said Edward F. O’Keefe, Chief Executive Officer of the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library Foundation. “I have been asked frequently what Theodore Roosevelt might do were he with us during these challenging times; my answer is simple: T.R. endures. He would persevere, and so that’s what we are going to do.”

“The board has been working incredibly hard to reach this milestone,” said Cathilea Robinett, chair of trustees, “We are on the cusp of seeing three brilliant designs for what the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library will be. The board looks forward to many productive conversations with the community of Medora, the leadership in Billings County, and people across North Dakota and the world.”

“This is an exciting next step in creating not just the T.R. Library but also an economic stimulus for North Dakota,” said Ken Vein, “The project is an investment in construction and jobs, and the T.R. Library will add to our state’s economy for generations to come.”

Henning Larsen — Brief Biographical

Michael Sørensen, a partner at Henning Larsen, offered his thoughts:

“We’re deeply honored to be part of this historic opportunity, and are looking forward to immersing ourselves in the majesty of the Badlands. This project could not be conceived anywhere else, it could not belong anywhere else. We’re standing on the shoulders of giants. Theodore Roosevelt was one to push up his sleeves and take on the job at hand – a legacy shared by generations of North Dakotans. We look forward to going there, working with the community, and being part of a historic design process to shape a historic future.”

Henning Larsen is an internationally recognized architecture practice with a Scandinavian ethos. With primary studios in New York and Copenhagen, their work is driven by context and rooted in place. Their architectural goal is to challenge, shape, and transform spaces into generous places that are shaped by the people who use them. Our work culture is defined by a spirit of collaboration and debate, a tradition that allows for new ideas to emerge not only from site-specific research, but from dialogue and shared knowledge.

Henning Larsen has been recognized by significant awards such as Praemium Imperiale and, most recently, the European Prize for Architecture. Significant works include Moesgaard Museum in Aarhus, Denmark, Eystur Town Hall in the Faroe Islands, and Harpa Concert Hall in Reykjavik, Iceland – winner of the European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture. They are supported in the design competition by Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects, an internationally recognized design practice whose work includes The Aga Khan Garden in Alberta Canada, President Thomas Jefferson's Monticello and President James Madison's Montpelier, and the Flight 93 Memorial in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

Snøhetta — Brief Biographical

Craig Dykers, founding partner of Snøhetta, said of this honor:

“Theodore Roosevelt overcame many challenges in his life and translated his experiences into a deep appreciation for the value of our natural resources and the power of our landscapes. His conservation ambitions have even greater relevance today and we are so proud to be a part of fulfilling his vision. For the past 30 years, our design studio has carried these same principles of caring deeply and thinking boldly throughout our practice. All of us at Snøhetta look forward to offering our passion and expertise to make the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library a transformative and inspirational experience.”

Snøhetta, headquartered in Oslo and New York, places personal and social experience at the center of their design process. The firm's transdisciplinary approach has manifested in work that ranges from the reconstruction of Times Square to the Oslo Opera House, from the Willamette Falls Riverwalk to the Alexandria and Calgary Libraries, and projects as small as dollhouses and beehives.

Snøhetta is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Aga Khan Award, the Mies van der Rohe Award, the AIA New York Medal of Honor, and the European Prize for Public Space. With seven studios globally, the practice integrates architecture, landscape architecture, interior design, graphics, branding, and product design into memorable and inclusive environments around the world.

Studio Gang — Brief Biographical

Jeanne Gang, founder and principal architect at Studio Gang, reflected on her experiences in the Badlands as a child:

“Studio Gang is driven by the desire to connect people with each other and their natural surroundings,” said Studio Gang Founding Principal Jeanne Gang, FAIA. “I have personally been inspired both by Teddy Roosevelt's pursuit of conservation, but also by the Badland's majestic landscape and ecology. I look forward to working with OLIN and our team to realize a Presidential Library that unfolds his story as a means to connect visitors deeply with nature and to foster a new generation of citizens and leaders.”

Studio Gang is an international architecture practice founded and led by Jeanne Gang. Based in Chicago, Studio Gang was named *Fast Company's* #1 Most Innovative Architecture Company in 2020. The daughter of a civil engineer, Jeanne Gang is a MacArthur Genius grant recipient – one of only five in the field of architecture to receive the honor since its inception. Gang was named *Architectural Review* Architect of the Year in 2016 and was named one of 2019's most influential people in the world by *TIME* magazine. They will be joined in the competition by OLIN Landscape Architects whose work includes the

J. Paul Getty Center, Museum of the American Revolution, and the National Veterans Memorial and Museum.

The Studio's award-winning work ranges from community-centered cultural institutions such as Writers Theatre to tall buildings like Aqua Tower and Solar Carve that act as good neighbors. Upcoming projects include an expansion to the American Museum of Natural History; a new United States Embassy in Brazil; a unified campus for California College of the Arts; and the Global Terminal at O'Hare International Airport. A new monograph of their work, *Studio Gang: Architecture*, will be published by Phaidon in June.

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