



Design Competition

HOUSTON ENDOWMENT

Malcolm Reading Consultants (MRC) specialises in achieving outstanding design for clients with capital projects. Expert in all methods of selecting and appointing architects, we believe in the power of design to act as an inspiration.

Whatever the commission – cultural or commercial, high-profile or discreet – MRC creates a unique search strategy around it. We devise original intellectual and visual content for our project briefs in order to engage designers and attract the best minds.

We are the leading independent organiser of design competitions based in the UK, with a dedicated global following and an unrivalled reputation for finding new talent.

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Houston Endowment (HE), a leading philanthropic organisation based in Houston, Texas, U.S. launched a two-stage global search for an outstanding design team of architects and landscape architects for the philanthropy's new headquarters in June 2019.

The circa 40,000 sq foot new center will be the organisation's new public face and will provide dedicated space for its team and community partners, including healthy workspaces, accessible and inspiring meeting spaces, and flexible and innovative engagement facilities.

The US\$20 million initiative will strengthen the endowment's work bringing people together from public, private, non-profit and philanthropic sectors to achieve lasting positive change for low-income and under-served sections of the local population.

Houston Endowment does not actively fundraise; its funding is financed by an endowment, currently valued at US\$1.8 billion.

Ann Stern, President and CEO, Houston Endowment, said:

This is an exciting moment for us, enabling us to establish a presence and identity at ground level in the city. It will also allow us to continue in the tradition of our founder Jesse H. Jones, who earned the nickname 'Mr. Houston' – in part for his contributions to building and developing our city.

No design is required at the competition's first stage – rather, designers will make submissions on approach, experience and relevant skills.

At the second stage at least four teams will be shortlisted; these will receive an honorarium of US\$50,000 for their design work when the fast-track competition concludes in late 2019.

The Shortlist

To be announced

Won by

To be announced