

# PRESS RELEASE



## COMPETITION FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

FAST-PACED FINALS EVENT TO UTILIZE INNOVATIVE 'LIGHTNING' FORMAT

HOUSTON - January 13, 2010 Nine finalist teams competing in one of three design challenge categories in the Houston Land/Water Sustainability Forum's Low Impact Development Design Competition have been chosen and will make their presentations to a finals jury panel on Wednesday evening, January 27 at the Rice Hotel's Crystal Ballroom, in downtown Houston.

The finals event will feature a fast-paced 'lightning' presentation format, requiring presenters to use no more than 20 automatically advanced PowerPoint slides and to complete their presentation in 7 minutes or less. Attendees and Jury panel alike can expect each presentation to be lively, entertaining and thought-provoking.

The competition was designed to underscore the economic, environmental and quality of life gains to be had by adapting Low Impact Development and other sustainable development practices to local conditions. The HLWSF expects this competition to accelerate the speed with which these practices are adopted and implemented in the Houston area and it is expected that the finals presentations will demonstrate why, in dramatic fashion.

[Click here for list of finalists, ticketing information and event details.](#)

The finals Jury Panel, whose names will be released soon, is made up of important leaders in the development, construction, political and civic communities in the Houston area.

### DESIGN CHALLENGE CATEGORIES AND SPONSORS

The finals Jury Panel will select \$15,000 prize winners in three categories:

#### SUBURBAN RESIDENTIAL

Prize money sponsored by Mischer Investments, LP

#### URBAN REDEVELOPMENT

Prize money sponsored by Architecture Center Houston Foundation (ArCH)

#### GREEN ROADWAY

Prize money sponsored by American Society of Civil Engineers, Houston Chapter (ASCE-Houston)

The finals event is underwritten by the Bayou Preservation Association (BPA) and civic leader and Board Member Terry Hershey. Challenge property donors include Harris County Precinct 2, City of Houston TIRZ 15 and Mischer Investments, LP.

#### STAGE ONE EXPERT JUDGES

Finalists were selected by the panel of expert judges listed below. Their backgrounds, experience and expertise were invaluable in making the selections. The task of judges in stage one was exceedingly difficult given the overall high quality of the entry submittals.

##### CIVIL ENGINEERING

Arthur L. Storey, PE

Executive Director, Harris County Public Infrastructure Division

##### LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Dana Nunez Brown, ASLA

Principal, Brown + Danos Landdesign Inc., Baton Rouge, LA

##### LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT

Larry Coffman

President, Stormwater Services Group, Chesapeake Beach, MD

##### ARCHITECTURE

Greg Papay, FAIA

Principal, Lake|Flato Architects, San Antonio, TX

##### HYDROLOGY

Stephen Costello, PE

Principal, Costello Inc. and City Councilman, Houston, TX

##### RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

Ted Nelson

Regional President, Newland Communities, Houston, TX

“The design competition has far exceeded our expectations in terms of interest and participation,” says Robert Adair, Houston Land & Water Sustainability Forum steering committee chairman and President at Construction EcoServices. “We had 22 integrated design teams involving more than 225 individuals submit design challenge solutions. They represent the ‘best and brightest’ from 48 of the top design firms in our area and include civil engineers, hydrologists, architects, landscape architects, land planners and environmentalists, among others. The quality of the submittals was outstanding.”

“The rapid-fire presentation format we’ve chosen for the Finals event levels the playing field and forces the presenters to make concise, understandable and exciting presentations that will appeal to the judges and the audience. It is actually quite a challenge to communicate and explain the attributes of a LID design project in seven minutes,” says Adair.

The finals event is expected to draw more than 250 attendees from the local design, planning, development and construction communities. The general public is also invited.