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Winners of the Chicago student BP Design Competition announced

Winning submissions of a local ideas competition for CPS students to be announced at the Chicago Cultural Center on December 15

Chicago, Ill— In recognition of the Chicago Architecture Biennial, a local ideas competition sponsored by BP was launched in partnership with the Chicago Architecture Biennial and Chicago Architecture Foundation (CAF). The competition encouraged CPS students ages 13-18 years, to think outside the box and imagine a pocket park for a Chicago-area neighborhood, and understand how design can activate a space in a way that brings people together. The submissions were reviewed by an esteemed jury of local representatives from the Chicago Park District, Chicago Public Schools, the Chicago Architecture Biennial and BP.

"I am so pleased that more than nearly one hundred Chicago Public School students participated in this design competition sponsored by BP," said Mayor Rahm Emanuel. "This project was a great way for students to get hands-on experience in the world of urban planning and design."

Students ranging from freshman through senior grades from 15 schools around Chicago, submitted projects for review. Sarah Herda, BP Design Competition jury member and co-artistic director of the Biennial, explained, "I am tremendously impressed with the way students approached the topic of designing a pocket park. The submissions tackled elements like community building, safer environments and more progressive, aesthetically pleasing surroundings. Their designs illustrate how invested young people are in their communities, and how creativity and innovation can radically transform our lived experience."

The Chicago Architecture Foundation hosted this design competition to enable young designers to use STEM skills to think about solving real-world design challenges relevant to the communities they live in. The topic of the competition aligns with the Chicago Architecture Biennial's theme, "The State of the Art of Architecture," by providing a public platform for creative young designers to showcase how day to day lives can be transformed by the built environment.

"CAF is the signature education partner for the Chicago Architecture Biennial, which is facilitating radical new ideas about what the built environment should be in the 21st century," said Lynn Osmond, President and CEO of Chicago Architecture Foundation. "At CAF, we are continually developing educational programs that teach, lead and inspire students to explore the built environment. This design

competition encourages Chicago's future designers to do just that by bringing students and professionals together to address current and future issues in the world of architecture and design."

Likewise, BP is committed to cultivating the next generation of scientists and engineers. Sponsoring this design competition is an excellent example of BP's dedication to building excitement around STEM education. "BP has a long history of supporting education and architecture in the Chicago area, which is home to more than 4,000 of our employees," said John Mingé, chairman and president of BP America. "This competition is the latest example of that commitment, and we're honored to play a part in sponsoring such talented students and fostering a continued passion for architecture and design."

The Chicago Architecture Biennial is the largest architectural exhibition ever held in North America. Since its launch on October 3, the Biennial has been met with overwhelming support and positive reviews from locals and tourists alike. Particularly, the Chicago Cultural Center which is the hub of the Biennial and hosts the majority of the exhibition, has welcomed more than 2,000 students from around the city to inspire new ways of thinking towards architecture and design.

First prize winners will receive a \$500 cash prize, recognition by Mayor Rahm Emanuel, a one-year subscription to Black Spectacles, a top architecture and design software, family stay in a Chicago hotel, and other prizes. The winning submissions will be announced during a reception at the Chicago Cultural Center, and the winning designs will be on display at the Design Studio @ CAF following the reception.

The Chicago Architecture Foundation is located at 224 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60604. Current exhibition is *Chicago Model City* featuring a large scale model of Chicago. The Chicago Architecture Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to inspiring people to discover why design matters. The Chicago Architecture Foundation pursues this mission through architecture tours, exhibitions, panel discussions and youth and adult education programs. For further information visit www.architecture.org or call 312.922.3432. Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/chicagoarchitecture and Twitter: www.twitter.com/chiarchitecture.