

RE-THINK DUPONT CIRCLE



DUPONT
UNDERGROUND



DUPONT UNDERGROUND DESIGN COMPETITION #2

Building on the success of our first international competition, the Dupont Underground is launching a second competition: Re-Think Dupont Circle. One of the key public spaces in Pierre Charles L'Enfant's famous urban plan for the nations capital, Dupont Circle was not built out until the late 19th century and has not seen a significant redesign since the 1940's when the automobile was ascendant. We feel it's well past time to rethink Dupont Circle as a social, human-centered, public space.

The Dupont Underground is a 501(c)3 non-profit, cultural organization committed to developing multidisciplinary platforms for contemporary art and design. We occupy a long-abandoned 75,000 square foot subterranean streetcar station under Dupont Circle and have become a venue for creative exchange and ongoing conversation about the future of the District of Columbia. There is no other venue like it in the District.

In the spring of 2016 we built the winning entry of our first international design competition, Raze:Raise by Hou de Sousa, a maze of stacked cubes composed of 27 balls each, built-out by hundreds of volunteers. The installation used 650,000+ 3-inch plastic balls repurposed from THE BEACH, an interactive installation built the previous year by Snarkitecture at the National Building Museum.

This year's competition, the second of what we hope will become a series, will be community-focused encouraging the entrants to envision a better, more habitable, urban destination with the construction of a key element of the winning concept.



THE BRIEF

The competition covers the immediate urban area of Dupont Circle (the exact scope is at the discretion of each participant) and takes place at two scales — macro and micro — that must be interwoven through concept and design. We encourage entrants to thoroughly read and research the history of the Dupont Circle.

1. Macro:

This portion calls for entrants to speculate how Dupont Circle can be re-designed as a contemporary urban space. While the Circle's design has not changed since the 1940's, today the area looks its age: out-of-date, isolated by surrounding traffic lanes, lit like a crime scene at night, and inadequate to its potential as a great public space. As a landmark within the city and common meeting place for residents, we ask entrants to speculate on potential new urban scenarios which facilitate social exchange, community activities both day and night, public protest, and free citizen interaction so critical to healthy, democratic life.

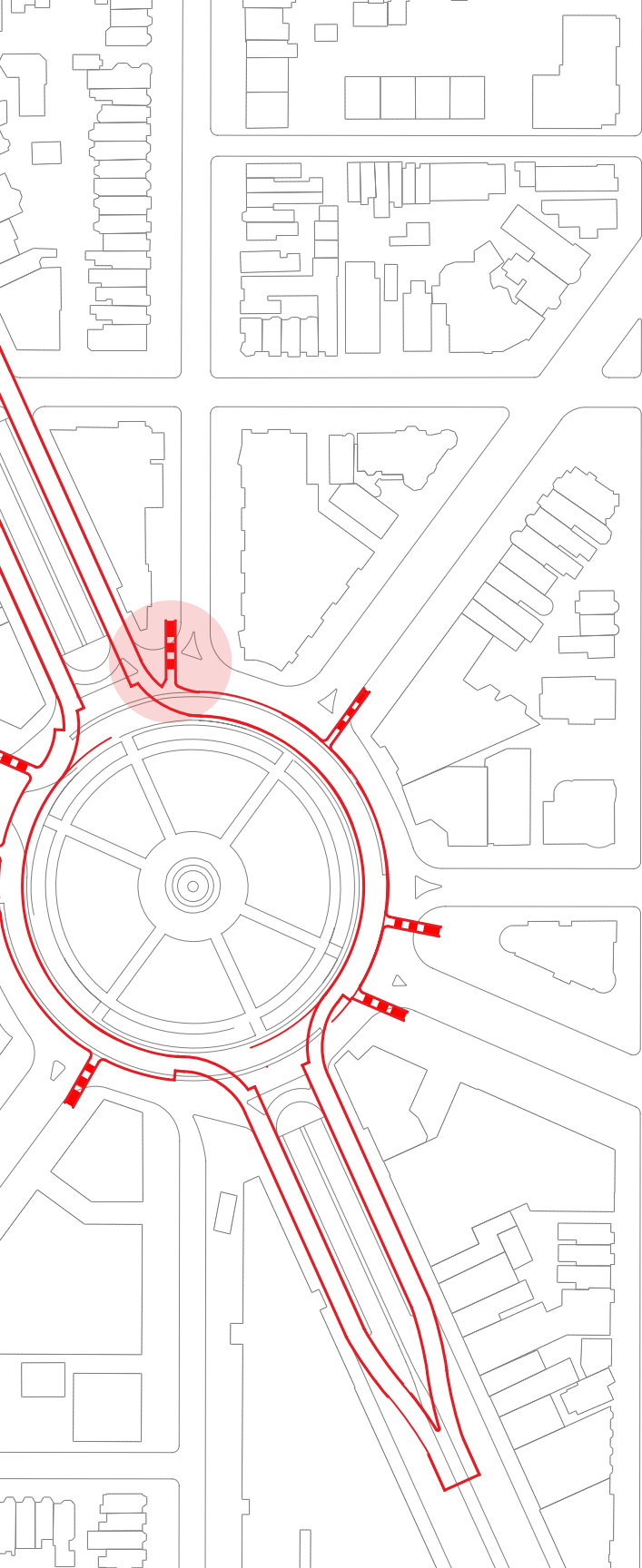
2. Micro:

The “Micro” element of the competition focuses on the space over the main entry stair to the Dupont Underground on 19th Street and it’s immediate surroundings. Specific to the spatial relationship of the Dupont Underground galleries to the park above, the design should:

- Mediate the transition from outside to inside
- Alert the public to the galleries below grade
- Shelter the stair from the elements
- Design a lighting system
- Provide a mechanism for closure
- Distinguish it from the nearby metro entries
- Improve the adjacent sidewalk and patio area
- Refer to the larger “Macro” concept.

This stair entry design is to become a landmark within This stair entry design is to become a landmark for Dupont Circle and a “proof-of-concept” for the other seven stair entries that could ultimately frame the Circle in a further series of competitions. The design should focus on the area above the stairs and include suggestions to improve the site from the sidewalk to the building face as indicated by the dashed lines in the photo.





The objective of both the large-scale proposal and the small-scale “element” is to highlight the need for well-designed public space. With the issue of “public space” in the growing debate on democratic participation, the proposal should expand on the design principle of the “propinquity effect” to facilitate communication and understanding through all levels of society. In the words of Masha Gessen, participation means committing to the reinvention “of institutions, of what politics means to us, and of what it means to be a democracy, if that is indeed what we choose to be.”

COMPETITION FORMAT

The competition is a single-stage competition, with a first prize, a runner-up, and five honorable mentions. If the winner is unable to proceed with the installation for any reason, the runners-up will be called upon in order of selection by the jury. The jury will select the winning submissions based on design excellence, response to the problem, spatial relationship to the site, and appropriateness of construction. **The deadline for submissions is 11:59:59 p.m. (EST) on Friday, December 4, 2020.**

Winning entrants will be notified by January 29, 2021 and requested to subsequently help develop construction drawings for submission to the Dupont Underground for technical review. Design development will involve input from the organization to ensure that construction is feasible and within budget. The Dupont Underground will provide a small construction team, to be directed by the organization and the winning designer. The Dupont Underground will also assist in recruiting contractors as needed to see the project to completion. Upon completion of the technical review, the winning design team will be asked to help prepare final construction drawings for necessary design review and permitting for the buildout of the “micro” element at the main stair.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Entries must be uploaded as one, single PDF file not to exceed 10MB. The naming convention should follow:

TeamLeaderName_RethinkDupontCircle_Submission_16x9.pdf. Each entry must contain the following documents, written in English:

Part One: Design Proposal

Requirements: 16:9 ratio, 300 ppi.

- **Page 1:** Project Essay An essay describing the “Macro” urban concept and how the “Micro” build-out is an expression of that concept. We believe that design includes an ability to explain the sources, influences, and intellectual framework that drives the design and want to give enough space for each participant to fill-out that often hidden background. The essay should be composed in a 12-point font and may include supporting images.
- **Page 2 and 3:** “Macro” Urban Concept. The participants are free to express the “Macro” concept as they see fit to most effectively present their ideas for improving the public space of Dupont Circle.
- **Page 4 and 5:** “Micro” Element

As this “element” is to be built: Four (4) main views or elevations, or an axonometric drawing of the installation. Indicate dimensions and specify structure and supplementary materials (entrant is free to choose the scale).

A perspective showing the installation in its entirety. The entrant is free to rearrange the order of these elements to best represent their project.

Part Two: Team Information

This information will be withheld from the jury until the final selection of winners.

- **Page 6 and 7:**
 - Names and addresses of each team member with a brief CV
 - Name of contact person, including contact coordinates
 - Description of the team, highlighting its focus and strengths
 - Name, location, and date of recent projects, publications, exhibits, or performance
 - Any professional memberships on the part of team members relevant to the project
 - Four images of selected projects for which team members have been responsible, followed by a brief description of each project

The deadline to receive proposals electronically is 11:59:59 p.m. (EDT) on Friday, December 4, 2020. Proposals may be presented as part of an online exhibition. By taking part in the Re-Think Dupont Circle competition, entrants authorize the Dupont Underground to make public, exhibit, and disseminate their proposals. All copyrights remain with the entrants.

The selected project will be announced to the public on **Friday, January 29, 2021**. The architect or designer will oversee the design and construction of the installation in collaboration with the project manager assigned by the Dupont Underground. The entrants chosen to participate in the competition agree to work to the schedule established by the Dupont Underground.

HONORARIA AND BUDGET

The budget for the creation and construction of the installation is US \$100,000 for the purchase of additional materials and/or the employment of consultants necessary for the realization of the project. This budget is managed jointly by the Dupont Underground and the designer.

First-place prize: US \$3,500 (We expect to raise +/- \$100K for the build-out.)

Runner-up prize: US \$500

Benedetta Tagliabue

Founding principal Miralles Tagliabue EMBT, and jury member of The Pritzker Architecture Prize. EMBT won the international competition for the new Scottish Parliament, and is known for designs that are sensitive to their context and yet still experimental in their approach to forms and materials.

Joshua de Sousa & Nancy Hou

Hou de Sousa, is a New York based studio that promotes innovative, culturally progressive and environmentally responsible design solutions. The team has designed and built art installations, public sculptures, restaurants and private residences both domestically and abroad.

Michael Marshall

is Design Director and Principal of MMD, leading each project in design excellence and managing every stage of the firm's architectural projects with a keen sensitivity to context and environment. His creative design sense and artistic perspectives are integrated into each of the firm's projects. For 22 years, Marshall was the founder and principal of his own architectural firm in Washington, D.C

Vesela Sretenović

Joined The Phillips Collection in January of 2009, and she initiated its Intersections series, for which she invites contemporary artists to present or create new work in response to the permanent collection or/and the museum's architecture.

Craig Cook

Founded Archotus in 2015 is an architect based in Washington DC and designs, curates, and advises where architecture and public art meet.

Lucrecia Laudi & Julian unt

As founders of Dupont Underground, the work of Hunt Laudi Studio is clearly influenced by their 10 years in Barcelona, with a specific dedication to the question of public space.

REGISTRATION

The competition is open to students, architects, designers, urbanists, engineers, artists, makers, activists and anyone interested in the transformation of contemporary urban space. Participants can join the competition either individually or with a team. Please [click here](#) and follow the instructions.

Registration Fees

Early registration: \$100: Monday, August 17, 2020 to Sunday, September 20, 2020 - 11.59 PM EST

Standard registration: \$150: Monday, September 21, 2020 to Sunday November 22, 2020 - 11.59 PM EST

Late registration: \$200: Monday November 23, 2020 to Friday, December 4, 2020 - 11.59 PM EST

QUESTIONS

All the questions related to the competition can be mailed to us at:

dupontcompetitions@gmail.com with the subject line:

"Questions – Re-Think Dupont Circle" Answers to all questions will be published on the FAQ online section, which will be regularly updated.

SCHEDULE

Competition launch
August 20, 2020

Close of entries
December 4, 2020

Jury Review
January 11 – January 18, 2021

Finalist notifications
January 22, 2021

**Technical review and
design development**
January 25 – February 12, 2021

Winner Announcement
February 15, 2021

