



Dallas Announces Building Site for Fully Sustainable Square Block: Parking Lot Adjacent to City Hall to Become Off-the-Grid, Self-Sustaining Residential Community

On Friday, Dallas Mayor Tom Leppert greeted participants of a full-day design charrette at City Hall and announced the selected site for development; what he called the "forgotten landscape" across the street from City Hall that takes up approximately 2 square blocks. The full-day "DesignCharrette" was convened by Urban Re:Vision and bcWORKSHOP to examine the necessary framework and community impact of what will become the first fully sustainable, urban square block in the United States.

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Attended by community design and urban planning experts from across the nation, outcomes of the charrette included a series of recommendations which will structure an international design competition to create the actual block. That competition, which kicks off in January 2009, will invite architects and planners from around the world to translate the needs of the Dallas Community into structural designs for the future city block. The Central Dallas Community Development Corporation (CDC) will be the lead developer on the project.

The site's benefits include easy access to public services and transportation, community benefits in walking distance such as the Dallas Public Library and Farmers Market, and an investment opportunity in a downtown corridor which many predict will become a vibrant living community over the next 5 years.

"I think that you are going to have a lot of fun today," said Dallas Mayor Tom Leppert when addressing the group of planners. "Sustainability thinks strategically about how you use spaces and how you use structures. And that goes beyond the green. There are projects we are doing in Dallas that I hope are examples of that."

Additional groups involved include Downtown Dallas, The Real Estate Council, Central Dallas Ministries, The Institute for Urban Policy Planning, Dallas Institute for Humanities and Culture, Enterprise Foundation, Fannie Mae Foundation, Vision North Texas and others. Participants from outside the Dallas area include representatives of the Biomimicry Institute, Architecture for Humanity, ARUP, Organic Architect, United States Green Building Council, and others.

To learn more, visit www.revision-dallas.com

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