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DESIGN TRUST FOR PUBLIC SPACE ANNOUNCES CALL FOR PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE NEW YORK CITY'S PUBLIC SPACES

New York (February 23, 2009) - The Design Trust for Public Space announces the release of its 2009-10 Request-for-Proposals. New York City public agencies and community groups are invited to submit applications for research, design, and planning projects that would improve New York City's public realm and benefit from private-sector expertise. **Project proposals are being accepted until May 1, 2009.** Download the RFP from the Design Trust website: <http://www.designtrust.org/about/proposals>

Proposals that meet the Design Trust's minimum requirements will be presented to a jury comprised of independent experts and Design Trust board members. During each award cycle, the jury selects one to three projects for Design Trust assistance. The most recent project selection jury included: John Alschuler, President, HR&A Advisors, Inc.; Laurie Kerr, Senior Policy Advisor on Sustainability, Mayor's Office of Operations, City of New York; Bill Menking, Editor, The Architect's Newspaper; Sylvia Smith, Principal, FX FOWLE Architects; and Claire Weisz, Principal, Weisz + Yoes.

Since its founding in 1995, the Design Trust has undertaken more than two dozen projects that have improved New York City's streets, plazas, parks and public buildings. From the High Line, to green construction, to the yellow cab, Design Trust projects engage the nation's most accomplished private-sector professionals to quickly, effectively, and skillfully advance the quality of New York's public spaces.

In the 2007-08 RFP, the jury selected two projects for Design Trust partnership:

- *Reinventing Grand Army Plaza*, in partnership with Brooklyn's Grand Army Plaza Coalition (GAPCo), worked to catalyze the rebirth of the historic Brooklyn traffic circle. An open, international ideas competition was held to attract visionary new designs that were exhibited at the first-ever outdoor exhibition in the center of Grand Army Plaza in September 2008.
- *Park Design for the 21st Century*, in partnership with the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation, will bring the city's 29,000 acres of parkland into the new millennium. This project culminates with the publication in late 2009 of the *High Performance Landscape Guidelines* for sustainable park construction. These guidelines will become Parks' standard specifications, and will revolutionize how every New York City green space is conceived and constructed.

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