

Gainesville Neighborhood Eco-Trail

Proposal to the National Endowment for the Arts - "New Public Works" Program
by the

University of Florida Center for Construction and Environment and
City of Gainesville, Florida

Project Description

The University of Florida Center for Construction and Environment, and the City of Gainesville, Florida, are requesting support for a national design competition for elements of the 6th Street Rail Trail, Gainesville, Florida. The 6th Street Rail Trail will be a 2-mile long urban rail-trail, and linear open / green space, through the historic urban core of Gainesville. This trail will be the north-south spine of an urban rail trail network, linked at its southern end to the yet-to-be completed Gainesville-Hawthorne Rail Trail, and intersected by the existing east-west Depot Avenue Rail Trail. This urban alternative transportation network connects major employment and education centers throughout the community, with its hub at an about-to-be renovated, 1907-National Register of Historic Places, train depot and Brownfield site that is proposed as a 38-acre park.

The three neighborhoods traversed by the 6th Street Rail Trail corridor are the historic, and predominantly African American, Porters and Pleasant Street Neighborhoods, and the Grove Street Neighborhood, encompassing approximately 1.5 miles of the trail. As such, the trail's aesthetic and environmental development has significance as a national model strategy for inner city revitalization along rail corridors.

The goal of linking neighborhoods through community design practices, and the trail itself, will result in "pride of place" in these neighborhoods, and promote sustainable urban revitalization. This design competition will engage issues of history, culture, transportation, industrialization, environmental justice, and act as a model of urban green space and rail trail design for integrating and creating sustainable communities. The City of Gainesville will construct the rail trail and amenities using City of Gainesville, and Florida Department of Transportation - Transportation Enhancement Program funds. The design competition results will be used for additional capital funding proposals to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Office of Greenways and Trails - Florida Recreation Development and Assistance Program and Florida Recreation Trails Program.

Competition Process

The competition will be open to invited entrants. The selection process will be in two phases. Invited designers will include Andropogon, Inc., S.I.T.E., Inc., Michael Design Associates, Inc., Randy Hester, and Walter Hood. The jurors will independently review proposals in the first phase to select four finalists. These four finalists will be invited to Gainesville, Florida to make a public community presentation to the jury and the community for selection of the winning design. The public attendance at this presentation will provide additional input to the competition jury and an invaluable design education opportunity.

Community Involvement

Participants in the competition include the City of Gainesville Community Development and Public Works Departments, the University of Florida, historic and environmental advocacy groups, neighborhoods, and major commercial and institutional stakeholders along the rail trail corridor. The initial Scope of Work of the competition will focus on a series of three programming charrettes, one in each neighborhood listed above, in order to develop a competition program that fully expresses the community's culture and needs. The concept of a rail trail design that will convey unique historical, cultural, and environmental attributes while linking neighborhoods, and the environs of

the trail corridor, has already been proposed and well-received by affected neighborhood leaders. In 1999, the City of Gainesville conducted a community design charrette for a portion of W. University Avenue, the major east-west arterial through the city, including the intersection with the 6th Street Rail Trail, with the Miami-based planning firm of Dover, Kohl and Partners, Inc.

Competition Advisor
 Anne W. Spirn
 University of Pennsylvania

Design Professionals
 Steve Luoni, Associate Professor
 School of Architecture
 University of Florida

Bradley Guy, Acting Director
 Center for Construction and Environment
 University of Florida

Possible Jurors

Bob Bendick, The Nature Conservancy
 Linda Crider, Florida Bicycle and Traffic Safety Program
 Maria Edwards, Grove Street Neighborhood
 Nkwanda Jah, Creative Arts Coalition
 Mark Glissen, FDEP Office of Greenways and Trails
 Katie Moss Warner, Disney Imagineering
 Gary Mullins, Ohio State University
 Teresa Scott, City of Gainesville

Schedule for Competition

Grant Award	September, 2001
Community-based Competition Program Development (completion)	December, 2001
Opening Date of Competition (completion)	January, 2002
Closing Date for Entries (completion)	April, 2002
Announcement of Winning Design (completion)	May, 2002
Competition Exhibit (completion)	June, 2002
Development of Winning Design (completion)	September, 2002
Construction of Design Elements	Fall/Winter, 2002

Total Budget for Resulting Project

City of Gainesville	\$665,000
Americorps*NCCC	\$43,200
Proposal Pending FDEP Recreational Trails Program	\$80,000
Percentage of Funds Currently Available for Construction of Design (32%)	\$248,200

Competition Budget

	Request	Match	Total
Salary	23,310	CCE cash - 7,500	30,810
Benefits	2,088		2,088
Consultants / City Staff		City in-kind- 25,000	25,000
Honoraria	10,000	City cash - 15,000	25,000
Travel / Expenses	7,374	CCE cash - 2,500	9,874
Indirect Costs	7,228		7,228
Total	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$100,000