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Suisman • Campbell • Rios Selected as Design Team for First Street From Disney Hall to Mariachi Plaza

Project Restore will oversee the team's effort to revitalize Downtown's major east-west civic corridor by integrating the many development projects underway

Los Angeles--The board of directors of Project Restore announced the selection of Suisman•Campbell•Rios as the design team to develop a master streetscape conceptual design for First Street from Bunker Hill to Boyle Heights. The team was one of two finalists in the open selection process, which attracted proposals from a total of nine multidisciplinary teams.

Project Restore is the non-profit organization responsible for the historic restoration of Los Angeles's landmark City Hall, which faces First Street, and is currently working on the restoration of Van Nuys City Hall. Support for the design effort will come from Federal, State, County, and MTA sources, an indication of the interest in the project on the part of elected officials. The project was made possible by a federal grant secured by Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard.

Nabih Youssef, chairman of the board of directors of Project Restore, commented, "The nine proposals were very strong and represented some of the best and brightest people in their fields of discipline. But the selection committee felt that the combined talents of Suisman Urban Design, Campbell & Campbell, and Rios Clementi Hale was the perfect team, at the perfect time, to develop the vision for this important artery."

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The design team will work with all the stakeholders and communities along the 2.4 mile corridor, which includes the Grand Avenue redevelopment project, the Civic Center, Little Tokyo, the Arts District, and Boyle Heights. Nearly \$2 billion of public and private investment is currently projected along the corridor.

Numerous projects have already been completed or are underway, such as Disney Concert Hall, the new Caltrans Headquarters, and several large residential complexes; other projects are still in the planning stages, such as the Gold Line light rail to the Eastside, and revitalization efforts along the Los Angeles River. The team's task will be to conceptually integrate all of those separate initiatives into a unifying vision for First Street.

"First Street has special meaning for Angelenos", said Ed Avila, President of Project Restore. "It has been both a divider and a connector between the east and west sides. We want to strengthen the connections. I can remember riding the streetcar on First Street as a boy, and seeing all of the communities along it, like pearls on a string. We'd like to see that quality brought back."

Team principals Doug Suisman, Doug Campbell, and Mark Rios will lead the collaborative effort. "We've brought together the disciplines of urban design, transportation, architecture, landscape, lighting, public art, and musical programming", said Doug Suisman. "During the design process, we want to make these disciplines available to all the communities of interest. We think everyone's goal is to help First Street evolve into a great east-west civic boulevard, one that really feels 'owned' by the public."

The team's work is expected to begin this summer, with an estimated design period of six months.

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