



CHICAGO  
ARCHITECTURE  
BIENNIAL

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Danish Arts  
Foundation

## Danish Arts Foundation and Chicago Architecture Biennial Open Call: Site and Project Details

### Content

<b>Project Details</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Thematic Framework</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Scope</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Community Engagement</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Site Location: North Lawndale, Chicago</b> .....	<b>4</b>
Lots in Chicago.....	4
Site Details.....	4
Installation Guidelines and Restrictions.....	7
Resources for more knowledge on North Lawndale, The Available City and Chicago.....	8
<b>Partner Information</b> .....	<b>8</b>
About <i>The Available City</i> .....	8
<b>Information sessions and public programs</b> .....	<b>9</b>
Panels.....	9
Info Sessions.....	9
<b>Evaluation and jury</b> .....	<b>10</b>
Jury.....	10
<b>Process and timeline</b> .....	<b>12</b>

## Project Details

- The Danish Arts Foundation and the Chicago Architecture Biennial are collaborating on the creation of a community-focused design and architecture project on one vacant, city-owned lot in Chicago
- The project will be the official Danish contribution to the fourth edition of the Chicago Architecture Biennial in 2021 and a main site for the event
- The site is a vacant piece of land in the North Lawndale neighborhood in Chicago
- Proposed projects will be developed in close collaboration with community-based organizations and residents in North Lawndale and should respond to the surrounding context including architecture, landscape and community input as well as the history and the cultural identity of North Lawndale
- Project proposals should also include a plan for workshops and community engaged programming as a part of the design development process (there are additional funding beyond the overall project budget for programming including honorarium for participant, program expenses, and materials which are managed by Chicago Architecture Biennial)
- This programming shall be developed in collaboration with the Chicago Architecture Biennial and David Brown as a key community representative
- Proposed projects should be for public spaces that can be used by the community and add value to the site
- Proposed projects should consider the history and context of Chicago and North Lawndale (this information is introduced below and will be expanded upon through information sessions hosted by the Chicago Architecture Biennial)
- The overall budget for the project is DKK 1,200,000.00 (approx. \$190,000.00)
- The project will open to the public in September 2021 along with the Chicago Architecture Biennial and will remain open for the duration of the Biennial which ends in January

## Thematic Framework

The collaboration between the Danish Arts Foundation and the Chicago Architecture Biennial is aligned with the theme and title of the 2021 edition of the Biennial, *The Available City*. The framework for *The Available City* is a long-term research and design project of the 2021 Chicago Architecture Biennial Artistic Director David Brown by the same name. *The Available City* is rooted in community engagement—the fundamental approach brings together design thinkers with community stakeholders, residents, and students to chart new, impactful uses for design and architecture. Conceived of as an urban design approach that responds to the reality of the existing city fabric, *The Available City* is designed to support the work of multiple players—designers, architects, community members, and local organizations. Through sustained and deep collaboration, opportunities emerge to reimagine and remake the city through design interventions. Since its inception, *The Available City* has focused on identifying uses for vacant lots owned by the city of Chicago. These unused sites—which currently number more than 10,000—are concentrated in the city's most under resourced neighborhoods on the West and South Sides. In aggregate, these sites represent an area larger than Chicago's central business district. The project demonstrates how communal spaces can and do shape cities and the role of architecture and design as a tool that can be used by both neighborhood residents and architects to reimagine communities and cities. The Danish Arts Foundation and Chicago Architecture Biennial collaboration will bring together the methodology of *The Available City* with the design concept of the winning artist or artist team to create a new, shared space for residents of North Lawndale.

## Scope

Proposals should suggest strong concepts for creative ways to transform a vacant piece of land within a Chicago neighborhood from empty and unused to vibrant and welcoming. Concepts should include

designs for landscaping and physical elements, but also community programming and engagement. We encourage submissions to consider smaller interventions or semi-permanent structures.

Proposals must be submitted based on constraints and details for a generic city lot.

## Community Engagement

Proposals should present a strong concept for reimagining or transforming the site while maintaining space for flexibility based on community needs and feedback. The design will be shaped and finalized by the winning artist or artist team in close collaboration with David Brown and community members from the North Lawndale neighborhood before it will be realized on the site in North Lawndale.

Collaboration and community engagement will be developed through a series of workshops and public programs organized by the winner, David Brown, and Chicago Architecture Biennial. A larger program of workshops for both adult and youth audience held by the biennial will engage neighborhood residents around ideas of shared space and reimagining their community and city. Events and workshops held both during project development and once the Biennial has opened to the public will invite audiences from across Chicago, and beyond, to understand the design process, contribute ideas for additional shared spaces and see *The Available City* come to life.

Information about a selection of community organizations that work in various locations across North Lawndale is included below. The winning artist or artist team will work with some of these organizations (one of them being YMEN, please see more at Site Details below) in shaping and finalizing the design with respect for the artistic vision. The community organizations will be chosen after the winning artist or artist team is announced to make the strongest match possible. Similarly dependent on the winning artist or artist team, the amount of involvement in workshops and public program will be determined in dialogue with Chicago Architecture Biennial after the winner is announced.

## Community organisations in North Lawndale:

- **YMEN (Young Men's Educational Network):** The mission of YMEN is to prepare young men and women in North Lawndale for leadership by helping them grow in their faith and character, develop a love for learning, and use their talents to serve the community and strengthen our families.
- **CCA Academy:** CCA Academy is a high school in North Lawndale. The school has a special program that engages students in learning around urban agriculture, ecology, and sustainability. Through this program, CCA is developing a community garden in a vacant lot across from their school and near the potential site for the DAF collaboration.
- **North Lawndale Community Coordinator Council (NLCCC):** The NLCCC is committed to revitalizing North Lawndale through bold, community-driven initiatives.
- **Gardeneers:** Gardeneers gives Chicago students in food insecure communities equal access to healthy food and food education through school and community-based programs and gardens. They manage several community gardens (vegetable and ornamental gardens run by and for members of a community) in North Lawndale.
- **Under the Grid:** Under the Grid is a project led by artist Haman Cross with the goal of transforming lots under the elevated railroads connecting four train stations in Lawndale into a continuously evolving art exhibit and walkable greenway connecting different parts of the city.
- **MLK Exhibit Center:** The MLK Exhibit Center aims to commemorate Dr. King's fight against housing inequality and redlining. "The MLK" is one of the prominent cultural spaces in the North Lawndale community.
- **Fire House Community Arts Center:** The mission of the Fire House Community Arts Center is to interrupt the cycle of violence among youth and young adults in North Lawndale through the power of the arts and faith.
- **Principle Barbers:** Principle Barber shop is a barbershop and gathering space for community members in North Lawndale.

## **Site Location: North Lawndale, Chicago**

The project will be constructed on one vacant lot in the North Lawndale (also sometimes referred to as Lawndale) neighborhood in Chicago. North Lawndale is a neighborhood on the West Side of Chicago—an area of the city that, along with the South Side, has been historically underserved. A lack of investment in education, housing, public safety, and community resources have led to a number of challenges facing North Lawndale today. Today, the neighborhood is predominantly Black; it was historically occupied by European and Jewish immigrants who had largely moved North by the 1950s. North Lawndale has a significant number of historic buildings, particularly residential greystones, as well as a large public park. Douglass Park (formerly Douglas Park) was designed by William Le Baron Jenney in 1871 with additional improvements made by Danish landscape architect Jens Jensen in the early 20th century. The neighborhood has a large network of community-based and faith-based organizations that drive social, economic and cultural efforts. North Lawndale is home to more than 30 community gardens.

## **Lots in Chicago**

A vacant lot is an area of land within an urban setting that is not built on. Chicago has a large number of vacant lots, largely the result of demolition in the 1980s and 1990s of homes that were lost due to foreclosure. Of the huge number of vacant lots in Chicago, more than 10,000 are owned by the City. There are an equal number of privately owned vacant lots across the city. Both City and privately owned lots are concentrated in some of the most underdeveloped and economically challenged neighborhoods on the South and West Sides. Through various programs, some lots have been transformed into small parks or community gardens, but the majority remain vacant. These lots are rough and raw spaces with limitless potential.

## **Site Details**

The proposed site for this project is made up of five adjacent and vacant city lots located at the corner of W 13<sup>th</sup> St. and S Pulaski Road in North Lawndale. Submissions should plan to fill the area of one of these lots. The site is currently being managed by the Young Men's Educational Network (YMEN), an organization that works with young people in the North Lawndale community. YMEN is in the process of identifying uses for the site of the five adjacent lots, and the winning artist or artist team will work alongside them to identify the optimal placement of the project. Currently, the site has a shipping container on it that is being used as a bicycle repair station. The shipping container is approximately 6 meters long, 2.6 meters tall, and 2.4 meters wide.

Because the site is city-owned, the final project site is subject to change. In this case, the winner will be provided with an alternate site in a nearby location and with similar attributes. A final site will be determined before the winner is announced in January 2021.

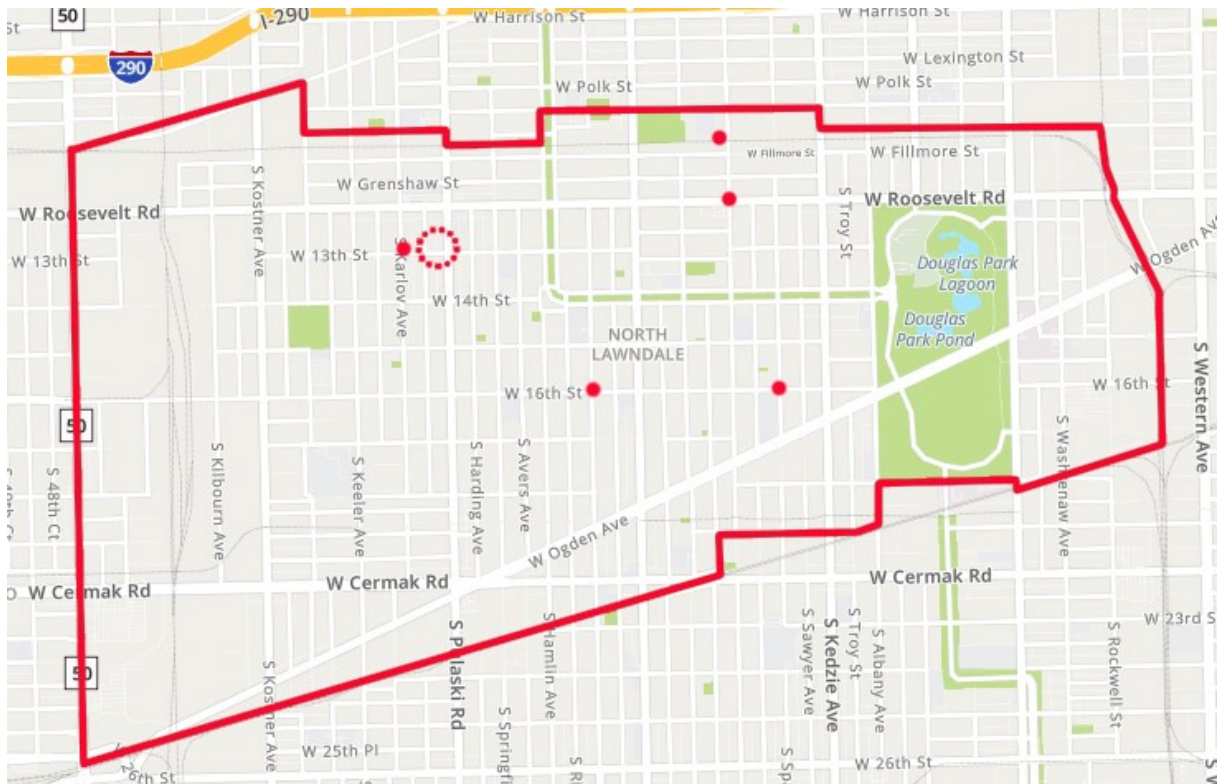
## **Dimensions and Scaling:**

One standard Chicago city lot measures 25 feet x 125 feet (approx. 7.5x38 meters).

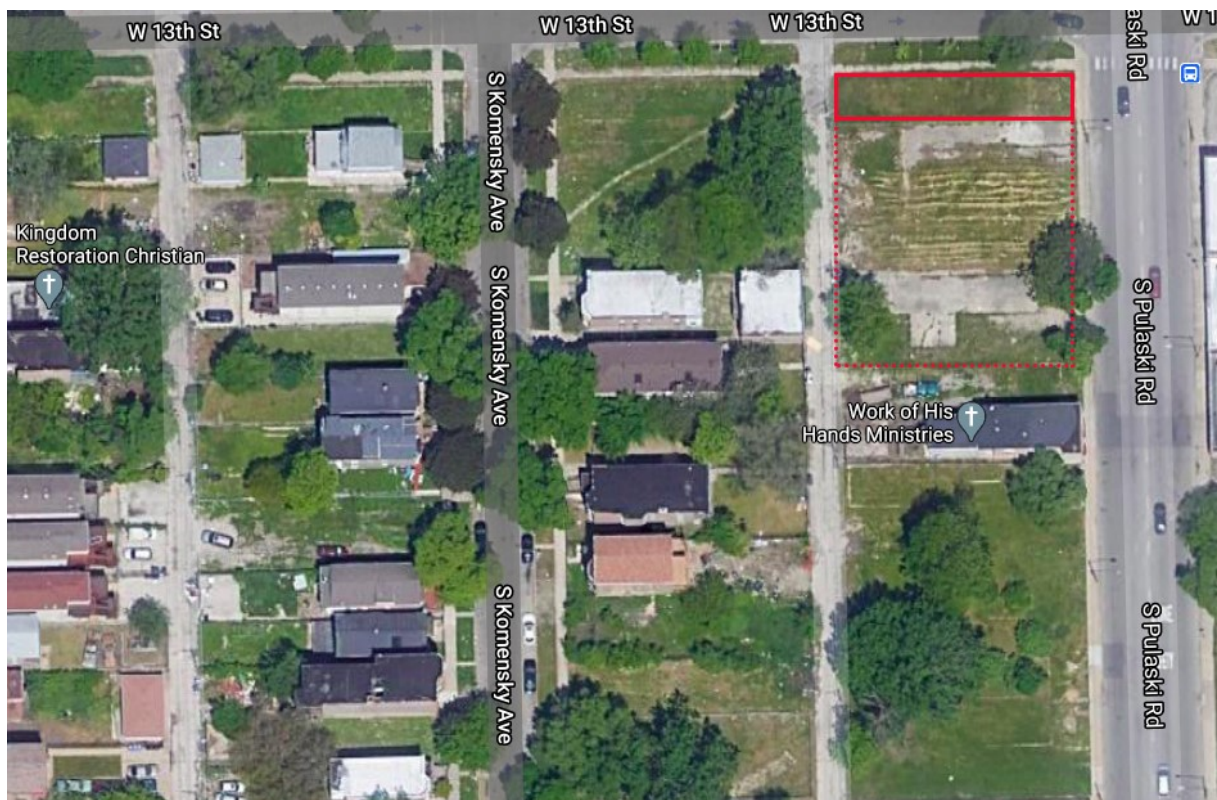
## **Location:**

The site will be located between 1300-1316 S Pulaski Road in the North Lawndale neighborhood of Chicago. A map outlining the limits of the neighborhood and indicating the site is included below. Applicants are encouraged to research North Lawndale, explore the neighborhood through Google Maps, and attend information sessions hosted by CAB to learn more about the context for the project.

**Images:**



Map indicating the outline of the North Lawndale neighborhood with a dotted circle indicating the potential project site and dots indicating other communal spaces (gardens and parks) created by and with community residents. Up is north.



Overhead photo indicating the scale of a single city lot (outlined with a solid line) within the full potential project site of a total of five lots (outlined with a dotted line). Up is north.





Street view of the project site of the five adjacent lots. Facing southwest.



Street view of the project site of the five adjacent lots. Facing west.



A shipping container similar to the one being used by YMEN on the site currently. This container is located at a community garden in North Lawndale. The shipping container is approximately 6 meters long, 2.6 meters tall, and 2.4 meters wide.

### Installation Guidelines and Restrictions

- The site will be cleared of any large obstructions; the site will likely require some landscaping which can be done before or as part of the project.
- The site will have no permanent access to water or power (aside from that required for the construction process).
- Designs should fit within the constraints of the 125' x 25' (approx. 7,5x38 meters) standard city lot size
- Design must align with US Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards for Accessible Design.
  - Items to consider include the inclusion of ramps and sufficient means of egress
  - A link to current accessibility standards may be found here:  
<https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/2010ADASTandards/2010ADASTandards.htm>
- Projects must be designed to withstand weather conditions including heat, cold, wind, and precipitation.
  - Chicago summers (June-August) are generally hot and humid. Temperatures range from 23°C to 38°C. Winter (December-March) temperatures can fall below -18°C. Snow and high winds are typical weather patterns throughout the winter months. Spring (April-May) and Fall (September-November) temperatures are mild and range between 7°C to 23°C, with periods of rain storms and high winds.
- The site will not be occupied or guarded on a daily basis, therefore:
  - All materials and/or structures (including furniture) should be secured to the site.
  - All materials should be durable and easily maintained, keeping in mind the potential for vandalism.

## Resources for more knowledge on North Lawndale, The Available City and Chicago

The proposed project must show a sensibility to and a consideration of the specific context, both in regards to the physicality of the lot as well as the local community, and work to strengthen the history and cultural identity of North Lawndale and Chicago.

- **Learning from North Lawndale: Past, Present + Future Exhibition Guide (curated by David Brown):** <https://www.slideshare.net/scschnell/learning-from-north-lawndalepublicationfall-2006-43471846>
- **North Lawndale Quality of Life Plan:** <https://nlcccplanning.org/home-3/north-lawndale-the-next-chapter-quality-of-life-plan/>
- **Neighborhood Housing Services North Lawndale Spotlight:** <https://nhschicago.org/live/north-lawndale/>
- **Encyclopedia of Chicago: North Lawndale:** <http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/901.html>
- **“The Grid helps Chicago navigate the city’s streets-and its history” Reader article:** <https://www.chicagoreader.com/chicago/alleys-grid-urban-planning-development/BestOf?oid=22604823>
- **Articles profiling the North Lawndale community in *Block Club Chicago*:** <https://blockclubchicago.org/author/pascal-sabino/>

**Note:** Additional resources and information about Chicago and North Lawndale will be provided during two information sessions for potential applicants.

## Partner Information

The chosen winner will work in close collaboration with community residents and partners in North Lawndale.

### About *The Available City*

*The Available City* is the title and theme for the 2021 edition of the Chicago Architecture Biennial. A concept that was incubated during the inaugural Chicago Architecture Biennial in 2015, Brown’s long-term body of research forming the basis for *The Available City* began with an inventory of vacant city-owned lots across Chicago—currently numbering more than 10,000 sites concentrated on the city’s South and West Sides. Over more than a decade of work, Brown developed this research into an ongoing urban design proposal that connects community residents, architects, and designers to work together to create spaces reflecting the needs of local neighborhoods. For the 2021 edition, Brown will explore the framework of *The Available City* on a global platform, engaging both local and international projects and practices that reflect new concepts for shared space and collective agency in the city. Conceived of as an urban design approach that responds to the reality of the existing city fabric, *The Available City* is designed to support the work of multiple players—designers, architects, community members and local organizations. Through extensive community engagement, the fundamental approach brings together innovative design thinkers with community stakeholders to chart new, impactful uses for design.

### About David Brown

David Brown is a Chicago-based designer, researcher, and educator. Brown investigates non-hierarchical, flexible, and variable approaches to urban design within *The Available City*, an ongoing speculation on the potential of Chicago’s city-owned vacant land. Brown’s work with *The Available City* has been exhibited in the Venice Architecture Biennale (2012), the Chicago Cultural Center’s Expo 72 (2013), the Chicago Architecture Biennial (2015), and received a grant from the Graham Foundation in 2011. Writing includes the book *Noise Orders: Jazz, Improvisation, and Architecture* (University of Minnesota Press, 2006) and essays “Curious Mixtures” in *Center 18: Music in Architecture—Architecture in Music* (Center for American Architecture and Design, 2014, Michael Benedikt, ed.) and “Lots Will Vary in The Available City” in *The Oxford Handbook of Critical Improvisation Studies* (Oxford University Press, 2016, George Lewis and Ben Piekut, eds.). Brown has lectured on his work at



Columbia University's Center for Jazz Studies and the Politecnico di Milano and has taught at Florida A&M University and Rice University. He is currently a Professor in the School of Architecture at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC).

### **About Chicago Architecture Biennial**

The Chicago Architecture Biennial is 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to creating an international forum on architecture, design and urbanism. Through exhibitions and programs, The Chicago Architecture Biennial advances design and architectural innovation and thinking by engaging practitioners, students and the public to re-imagine the built environment both globally and locally. The Chicago Architecture Biennial is committed to envisioning a future for architecture that is community-driven, sustainable and equitable.

Founded in 2014, the Chicago Architecture Biennial was the outcome of a City of Chicago comprehensive cultural plan developed by Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, under the leadership of Michelle T. Boone, that envisioned a major international architectural event for Chicago. Since the first edition in 2015, CAB has welcomed more than 1.5 million visitors to exhibitions and programs at the Chicago Cultural Center and throughout the city. In addition to the biennial exhibition, CAB produced year-round educational and cultural programs and initiatives.

Artistic Directors Joseph Grima and Sarah Herda curated the inaugural 2015 biennial entitled *The State of the Art of Architecture*. The second edition in 2017 was led by Artistic Directors Johnston Marklee and was titled *Make New History*. The most recent biennial in 2019, title *...and other such stories*, was led by Artistic Director Yesomi Umolu and Co-Curators Sepake Angiama and Paolo Tevares. The 2021 edition, titled *The Available City*, will be developed with Artistic Director David Brown. Across three editions CAB, the largest architecture and design exhibition in North America, has showcased over 350 projects from 50 cities across 30 countries.

### **Information sessions and public programs**

The potential applicants will get a chance to know more about the project through information sessions and panel sessions hosted by the Chicago Architecture Biennial:

#### **Panels**

- **Program I: October 27, 11pm-12pm (5:00 – 6:00 PM CST)**  
This program will feature Chicago Architecture Biennial 2021 Artistic Director David Brown in conversation with McArthur Fellow and 2019 CAB contributor Walter Hood about their respective practices including Brown's long-term research and design project based in North Lawndale. For more information visit the biennials website:  
[https://chicagoarchitecturebiennial.org/engage/walter\\_hood\\_in\\_conversation](https://chicagoarchitecturebiennial.org/engage/walter_hood_in_conversation)  
To register visit: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_dEIBtPLcSxaPlxiTZyp6wQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dEIBtPLcSxaPlxiTZyp6wQ)
- **Program II: November 17, 1am-2am (6:00 – 7:00 PM CST)**  
This panel discussion with current collaborators of *The Available City* will explore the development of two projects located in North Lawndale and developed along with community residents and partners.  
More details and registration information will be available soon on the Chicago Architecture:  
[www.chicagoarchitecturebiennial.org/engage/public\\_programs](http://www.chicagoarchitecturebiennial.org/engage/public_programs)

The programs will be hosted on Zoom. While attendance may not be possible, the sessions will be recorded and available at Chicago Architecture Biennial's website. For more information and registration details, please visit [www.chicagoarchitecturebiennial.org/engage/public\\_programs](http://www.chicagoarchitecturebiennial.org/engage/public_programs)

### **Info Sessions**

CAB will host two digital information sessions before the application deadline included representatives from the Danish Arts Foundation and Chicago Architecture Biennial sharing information about the project site and context and answering any questions about the site or application details.

During Information Session I the Danish Arts Foundation and Chicago Architecture Biennial will answer any immediate questions regarding the project. Before Information Session II you have the possibility to ask additional questions via email before answering these plus any new questions during information session II.

All questions should be submitted by email to [info@chicagoarchitecturebiennial.org](mailto:info@chicagoarchitecturebiennial.org) with the subject line 'DAF Info Session' on or before 15 November.

We will update the FAQ on our website during this process, and making the information from the sessions available on our website.

- **Information Session I: November 5, 5pm-6:30 pm (10:00 – 11:30 AM CST)**

[Watch Zoom recording here](#)

- **Information Session II: November 18, 5pm-6:30 pm (10:00 – 11:30 AM CST)**

- Registration link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86348781972?pwd=TXkxd0VURVZQck1jNnB6TytDYnROQT09>

Webinar ID: 863 4878 1972

Passcode: 825935

Please submit questions for inclusion in this session by November 15

The information sessions will be hosted on Zoom and will be recorded and available on Chicago Architecture Biennial's website.

## **Evaluation and jury**

Applications will be assessed by a jury made up of members appointed by the Danish Arts Foundation and the Chicago Architecture Biennial. In the week before a winner is announced, a group of finalists will be identified for interviews with the committee.

Finalists will be interviewed during the first weeks of January between 3pm-5pm (8-10 CST) in Denmark

## **Jury**

### **Chicago Architecture Biennial Appointed Committee Members**

#### **Sarah Herda**

Sarah Herda is the director of the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts. The Graham Foundation is the only private foundation in the US committed to providing project-based grants to individuals and institutions working to address issues related to architecture and the built environment. In addition to the funding program, Herda oversees a public program of exhibitions, lectures, and publications produced at the foundation's headquarters in the historic Madlener House in Chicago. Previously, she was the director and curator of the Storefront for Art and Architecture, a non-profit exhibition space in New York City. She served as the inaugural Artistic Director of the Chicago Architecture Biennial in 2015. Herda is active in the design community and serves on numerous advisory boards and review panels in architecture, art, design and related fields.

#### **David Brown**

David Brown is a Chicago-based designer, researcher, and educator. Brown investigates non-hierarchical, flexible, and variable approaches to urban design with his project *The Available City*, an ongoing speculation on the potential of Chicago's city-owned vacant land. Brown's work has been exhibited in the Venice Architecture Biennale (2012), Expo 72 (2013), the Chicago Architecture Biennial (2015), and received a grant from the Graham Foundation in 2011. Writing includes the book *Noise Orders: Jazz, Improvisation, and Architecture*. Brown has lectured on his work at Columbia University's Center for Jazz Studies and the Politecnico di Milano and has taught at Florida A&M University and Rice University. He is currently a Professor in the School of Architecture at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

**Craig Stevenson**

Craig Stevenson is a visual designer, educator and arts advocate. A Chicago native, he is currently exploring the systematic empowerment of sustainable communities through design and alternative health. Stevenson has worked as a design consultant with the Oak Forest Hospital and the Christ Universal Temple. His work has appeared in publications including *New Vision in Business* and *Post Black*. Stevensons has taught at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and through youth programs at Project Osmosis, High Jump, and North Lawndale College Prep. Stevenson was part of the inaugural class of Latino Policy Forum's Multicultural Leadership Program.

**Danish Arts Foundation Appointed Committee Members****Anne Blond**

Anne Blond is Chair of the Danish Arts Foundation's Committee for Design and Craft. She is the project manager of the association for the establishment of a museum for renowned Danish designer Hans J. Wegner. She is also member of the board of the Nolde Foundation in Germany. She has worked as a curator at the Art Museum in Tønder, has done several exhibitions, and written an extensive amount of articles on the subject of art and design.

**Ellen Braae**

Ellen Braae is Chair of the Danish Arts Foundation's Committee for Architecture. She is a Professor of Landscape Architecture Theory and Method at University of Copenhagen, Denmark. She is heading the research group 'Landscape Architecture and Urbanism'. Her current research focuses on 'welfare landscapes' and the role of public space leading the IRFD funded Reconfiguring Welfare Landscapes and the EU HERA funded Public Space in European Social Housing Estates. She is the author of *Beauty Redeemed: Recycling Post-Industrial Landscapes* (2015) and (with H. Steiner) *Routledge Research Companion to Landscape Architecture* (2018).

**Kathrin Susanna Gimmel**

Kathrin is a member of the Danish Arts Foundation's Committee for Architecture. She works as an architect and partner at JAJA Architects where she is involved in all aspects of the studios work including design development and management responsibilities. Among many other projects she has been responsible for the parking house and urban playground Konditæg Lüdgers, the affordable housing project Almenbolig+ and Streetmekka Aalborg. Besides JAJA, Kathrin is curious to explore and contribute to the architectural profession through advisory work and teaching. In 2019 she headed a studio at the summer school W.A.Ve at IUAV in Venice and she has previously been tutoring at the studio "Urbanism and societal change" at The Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen, Denmark, where she co-edited the book *Atlas of the Copenhageners*.

**Mads Quistgaard**

Mads Quistgaard is member of the Danish Arts Foundation's Committee for Design and Craft. He is an architect and designer and founder and director of Design at Urgent Agency. Mads is a specialist in connecting design practice and strategy and has been driving a broad range of design and branding projects. He has 15 years of professional experience, including 3 years as a Creative Director at Kontrapunkt. He is an honorary Associate Professor at the Design School Kolding, board member at The Danish Design Council and member of The Royal Danish Academy in Copenhagen, Denmark. He has among others received Knud V. Engelhardt Memorial Scholarship, Danish Design Award, Red Dot – Best of the Best, Creative Circle Gold Award, and Total Publishing Prize. His designs are exhibited at the Danish Design Museum in Denmark and are included in various publications.

## Process and timeline

<b>2020</b>	October 26	Open Call released
	October 27	CAB Lecture: Walter Hood & David Brown
	November 5	Info Session I with potential applicants
	November 17	CAB Lecture: <i>The Available City</i> Projects
	November 18	Info Session II with potential applicants
	7 December	Application deadline
<b>2021</b>	Early January	Finalists identified and interviewed
	January	Winners announced
	February	Winners begin work on project
	Spring	Residency in Chicago (pending travel restrictions)
	May	Design and budget review
	July	Design finalized
	August	Construction / build out of site
	September	CAB and site open to the public
	September - November	On-site visits and programming
	January-February	Project evaluation and review
<b>2022</b>	Spring	De-installation (TBC, project may stay in place if structure and community input allows)