

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
10am CST - November 16, 2020

A Canadian team led by Indigenous architect Alfred Waugh will design the new central library

Saskatoon, SK - Today, Saskatoon Public Library (SPL) announced the results of the request for proposals for the prime design consultant for the new central library. An award-winning team consisting of Formline Architecture, Chevalier Morales Architectes, and Architecture49 will be designing the new central library design.

The design team, led by Alfred Waugh with Formline Architecture, has the experience, vision, and collaborative spirit to incorporate both Indigenous and non-Indigenous leadership, values, history, and ways of knowing into a state-of-the-art library. The team also demonstrated successful experience designing sustainable, universally accessible buildings and delivering projects on time and within budget.

SPL's CEO Carol Cooley said, "We chose this team because of their expertise and their approach to delivering on the vision for the new central library to embody local First Nation and Métis identities and express the aspirations of the Saskatoon community."

Formline Architecture is 100% Indigenous owned and specializes in culturally sensitive and environmentally responsible design solutions. Waugh is Status and part of Treaty 8 registered with the Fond Du Lac Denesuline First Nation in Northern Saskatchewan. Stephen Chevalier, a founding partner at Chevalier Morales Architectes, specializes in cultural projects, including libraries. He has been awarded numerous architecture awards for his library designs, including two Governor General Awards for Architecture. Architecture49 is a national architecture firm bringing project management expertise to the team.

The design team expressed their vision and commitment to delivering a new central library that is a source of inspiration and pride for all those who call Saskatoon home.

"It is an honour and a privilege to work with the community of Saskatoon to create a new heart in the city centre that bridges the world of Indigenous and Western knowledge," said Waugh. "The new library will play a critical role in addressing reconciliation by weaving Indigenous, Métis and Saskatoon's rich culture into the design. This place will be inclusive and serve as a place of healing, providing a safe environment to come together to exchange knowledge and strengthen the community's spirit. A place where oral tradition, storytelling, and the written word coexist. Our team brings the talent, expertise, and passion for listening carefully to the community's aspirations and bringing forth a design unique to the place and people celebrating Saskatoon's rich culture."

Stephan Chevalier, Chevalier Morales Architectes, commented, "The new Saskatoon Central Library will create a strong sense of identity by relating to the rich history of Saskatchewan. We are convinced that this new public building will be more than a library; it will create a sense of belonging where everyone and every community can relate. It will define itself as a hub, a strong social tool, where we learn about the past, but most importantly, where Saskatonians can project themselves in the future: it offers community services and an opportunity to build a strong and unified community. We have designed many libraries, but this project goes beyond the library program: it carries a strong sense of purpose and meaning for the city, the province and the country."

Victor Kolynchuk from Architecture49 added, "It's a rare opportunity to work on a project with a vision that has the potential to transform its community. We have a team that is aligned with and believes in the bold

vision that has been charted for the new Saskatoon Central Library. Architecture49 is honoured to provide the large building project management delivery expertise required to translate your dreams into a project your community can be proud of.”

SPL issued a Request for Proposals for a prime design consultant on Sep 8, 2020. They received 18 proposals and short-listed four teams.

Broad community consultation is an integral part of the design process to ensure the library reflects the community’s visions and aspirations. These consultations will begin in early 2021, and construction tendering will follow completion of the design work.

Planned to open in 2026, the home of the new central library is 321 2nd Avenue North. The new central library will be a destination for everyone that will inspire learning, discovery and creativity for generations to come.

Interview Details:

Members of the media can speak with the new central library design architects, as well as Carol Cooley (CEO) & Brett Bradshaw (Board Chair) via Zoom at 2 pm CST on Tuesday, Nov 17.

RSVP to Kirk Sibbald (contact information below) to receive a meeting link and password.

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For more information, contact:

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