

ULI Carolinas Announces Urban Ideas Competition Winners and Honorable Mentions

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Charlotte (March 24, 2017) — The Urban Land Institute Carolinas district councils—ULI Charlotte, ULI South Carolina, and ULI Triangle—invited multidisciplinary teams from the real estate design and development community to submit visionary proposals for redevelopment of a pre-selected site ahead of the 2017 Carolinas' Meeting in Charlotte March 23-24.

Inspired by the ULI [Hines Competition](#), an annual national student design and development competition, this year's [Urban Ideas Competition](#) was the first in the Carolinas at a regional level. The competition is intended to lead to bold ideas and inquiry into the highest and best use of a site—ultimately arming community leaders with fresh thinking and useable insight into real challenges. The competition did not require proposals to show financial feasibility, but teams were asked to consider market realities and viability.

When determining the scope of the case study, the program committee looked for a site that is part of a larger area in transition or undergoing significant changes in land use patterns and urban design. Ideally, the case study would incorporate issues with impact on communities across the region such as affordable housing, walkability, open space, sustainability, transit, creative placemaking, and public safety. Ultimately, a nearly 45-acre site located on the LYNX Blue Line Extension currently under construction in the University City area was selected. Located just six miles north of Uptown, the greenfield site faces some constraints but offers significant transit-oriented development opportunities with the delivery of light rail in late 2017.

Ten teams with a diverse mix of professionals and students completed the 3-week competition. Two finalists and 3 honorable mentions were anonymously selected from the entries, and the finalists presented their proposals in front of an experienced panel during a general session at the Carolinas' Meeting. After presentations and Q&A with the panel, the audience completed a live poll to select the winning proposal titled "Zoetic." The winner, runner-up, and honorable mentions each received a cash prize thanks to the generous sponsorship of University City Partners. While not all teams could be honored, each proposal offered unique concepts that can elevate industry thinking on how to address challenges facing the region's urban centers.

Winner:

- "Zoetic" (BSB Design Inc., Lincoln Property Company)

Runner Up:

- "Return to Nature" (Gensler, LandDesign)

Honorable Mentions:

- “Open” (UNC Chapel Hill Department of City & Regional Planning students)
- “Tryon Market” (BB+M Architecture, LandDesign, Leon Capital Group)
- “Urban Natural Topology” (Duda|Paine Architects, Stewart, Trinity Partners)

The Jury was comprised of community leaders from a variety of backgrounds and included:

- Gordon Grubb – Founder, Grubb Ventures
- Darlene Heater – Executive Director, University City Partners
- Tom Hund, AIA – Principal, McMillan | Pazdan | Smith Architecture

About the Urban Land Institute

The Urban Land Institute (www.uli.org) is a global nonprofit education and research institute supported by its members. Its mission is to provide leadership in the responsible use of land and in creating and sustaining thriving communities worldwide. Established in 1936, the Institute has more than 40,000 members representing all aspects of land use and development disciplines.