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BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group; Rendering of Roof Terrace Proposed for the New Kimball Art Center in Park City, Utah

Kimball Art Center Announces BIG-Bjarke Ingels Group as the Winner of Architectural Design Competition for Its Renovation and Expansion

BIG's Design for Kimball Art Center Projected for Completion by Mid-2015

Park City, UT—[The Kimball Art Center](#) announces that [BIG-Bjarke Ingels Group](#) (New York, NY, and Copenhagen, Denmark) has been selected by a jury as the winning firm in its architectural design competition for its renovation and expansion project. The project comprises an interior renovation of the existing Kimball Art Center (KAC), located on the corner of Park Avenue and Main Street in Park City, Utah, and the construction of a new building directly adjacent to the original. This phased project is expected to begin in mid-2013, and be completed in mid-2015.

BIG-Bjarke Ingels Group proposed a new Kimball Art Center made of massive stacked timber elements reclaimed from train track piles from the Great Salt Lake—just one of many green solutions in the innovative plan—enclosing a spiral staircase, exhibition spaces, a restaurant, and topped by a terrace. For the historic Kimball Art Center building, BIG proposed that it be renovated into an educational hub with a rooftop sculpture garden. BIG will partner with local firm, Architectural Nexus (Salt Lake City, UT), which has a proven record of designing and building in mountain areas similar to that of Park City. Other local consultants include Dunn Associates, Van Boerum & Frank Associates, Envision Engineering, and Big D Construction.

In addition to BIG, the five finalists in the competition included Brooks + Scarpa Architects (Los Angeles, CA),

Sparano + Mooney Architecture (Salt Lake City, UT), Will Bruder + Partners Ltd. (Phoenix, AZ), and Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects (New York, NY).

Robin Marrouche, Executive Director, Kimball Art Center, explains, "BIG built the strongest case for the continuity of Park City's history—a bold, poetic new landmark to resurrect the spirit of the Coalition Mine Building that burned down in the 1980s. The design concept supports our mission to present engaging exhibitions, education, and events, and enhances the natural flow between the three in a uniquely free-form way. As the Kimball Art Center expands in scope and reputation, embracing both the local community and a growing group of international visitors and art collectors, BIG's design sets a course for the future."

BIG Founder & Partner Bjarke Ingels, comments, "The raw charm of Park City and the Kimball Art Center is rooted in a culture of appropriating the structures of past industry to accommodate spaces for cultural life and leisure. With our design for the new Kimball Art Center, we seek to continue this tradition by using the construction technique of the old mines and the railroad trestles that have marinated for decades in the Great Salt Lake to create a raw spacious framework for the art and artists of Park City—a traditional material and technique deployed to produce a highly contemporary expression."

The determination of the winning architect by the jury involved a rigorous evaluation of the designs, including how the architect would partner with the Kimball Art Center in moving the project to reality. Explains jury member Maurice Cox, "It was hard for the jury to choose between the five excellent finalists. BIG won the competition by proposing an iconic building that honors the spirit of Park City's past and looks ahead into the 21st century. BIG's design boldly reinterprets the Kimball Art Center's place in the city skyline with this amazing new structure for the arts."

In addition to the jury vote, visitors to the Kimball Art Center—including those who recently attended the two-week Sundance Film Festival in January—were invited to look at models and designs of the five proposed buildings, and weigh in on their favorites via an online poll at <http://www.kimballartcenter.org/transformation-project>, where links to the [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) discussion pages are accessible. Comments could also be sent to feedback@kimballartcenter.org, or tweeted with hashtag #kimballtransformationproject. These comments were shared with the jury.

Don Stastny, Competition Advisor, comments, "The Kimball Art Center and Park City have begun a great journey together, one that has engaged both the local community and its many visitors through a thoughtful process that was transparent and interactive. The New Kimball will invite exploration, reward discovery, and deliver inspiration."

Details of BIG's Design:

The building footprint and lower gallery face Main Street and the city grid, and as the building rises, it turns to greet visitors entering the city via Heber Ave. It will be an iconic yet contextual building at the city's doorstep. Referencing Park City's mining heritage, the façade of the building is constructed of massive stacked timber elements. The twisting façade encloses a continuous spiral staircase that leads visitors from the ground floor to the roof terrace. In between two galleries is a restaurant, which spills out onto a sculpture garden on the rooftop of the existing, historic Kimball Art Center building. That building is converted into an educational hub. At its heart is a flexible, double-height auditorium. The roof of the existing building is equipped with solar thermal panels concealed by indigenous plants. An outdoor sculpture garden loops around the perimeter of the roof.

The new Kimball Art Center takes advantage of Park City's climate, with an objective to meet a LEED platinum rating by harnessing sources of natural heat, using natural daylight, maximizing ventilation, and recycling rainwater. Generous skylights and large ribbon windows flood the building with diffused natural light, greatly reducing energy costs for lighting. Operable skylights trigger natural stack ventilation. A ground-coupled heat exchanger is drilled deep into the ground in non-built areas. The heat pumps either extract heat from the circulating water (heating mode)

in the winter, or reject heat (cooling mode) in the summer.

About BIG:

BIG is a New York and Copenhagen based group of architects, designers, and thinkers, operating within the fields of architecture, urbanism, research, and development. BIG has created a reputation for completing buildings that are as programmatically and technically innovative as they are cost- and resource-conscious. Its architectural production demonstrates a high sensitivity to the particular demands of site context and program. BIG's recently completed projects include The Danish Pavilion at the Shanghai World Expo (2010), and The 8 House in Copenhagen, Denmark (2010)--which in 2012 received an Honor Award from the American Institute of Architects (AIA). BIG received The Wall Street Journal's Innovator of the Year Prize in late 2011. In addition to the Kimball Art Center, BIG has two other projects in North America, both in New York City: the 600-unit West 57th Tower designed for Durst Fetner Residential which will break ground in the Spring of 2012; and the interactive Valentine's Heart Sculpture currently on display in Times Square. www.big.dk

Selection Process:

The design competition kicked off in fall of 2011 with letters of invitation going out to architects around the world. Five architectural firms were chosen by a jury to compete, out of 18 who were invited, and those five submitted their final proposals on December 21, 2011. Models of the five designs were presented at the Kimball Art Center, from December 22, 2011, through January 12, 2012. They were then replaced by photographs and videos of the models using HP's Aurasma augmented reality technology during the Sundance Film Festival, January 19-29, 2012, when the Kimball Art Center becomes Sundance House Presented by HP. In early February 2012, after the public had its chance to weigh in on the designs, the jury voted for BIG as the winner of the competition.

The voting members of the jury were:

- **Maurice Cox**, Urban Designer, Professor of Architecture at the University of Virginia, a former mayor of Charlottesville, Va., and Director of Design for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).
- **Prescott Muir**, Principal and Founder at Prescott Muir Architects and Director of the School of Architecture, University of Utah.
- **Tina Lewis**, the first Director of the Park City Arts Festival, who has served on the board of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, The Kimball Art Center and the Sundance Institute Utah Advisory Board.
- **Joanne Shiebler**, Collector and Art Enthusiast, Board of Directors Utah Museum of Fine Arts and Utah Symphony/Utah Opera and Rome Chamber Music Festival.
- **Jim Gaddis**, Utah property developer, Founding Member of Alf Engen Ski Museum, and has served on the boards of the Utah Ski Archives housed at the University of Utah Marriott Library and the National Ability Center.

The following ex-officio members advised the jury, but did not vote:

- **Robin Marrouche**, Executive Director, Kimball Art Center
- **Phyllis Robinson**, Community and Public Affairs Manager, Park City Municipal Corporation

Donald J. Stastny, FAIA FAICP is the Kimball Art Center Transformation Project Design Competition Advisor. Stastny, a founder and CEO of StastnyBrun Architects, Inc., has been a practicing architect and urban planner for over 30 years, rebuilding communities physically and culturally and has facilitated over 40 national and international design competitions.

The Kimball Art Center:

Known as Kimball Corner, the original building on the property operated as a livery stable built to serve Park City's tiny mining community. In 1929, the site transformed into the Kimball Bros garage and for 43 years served Park City's automotive needs. In 1976, arts enthusiast Bill Kimball and friends transformed the dilapidated garage into a nonprofit community center for the visual arts. Bill Kimball wanted a gathering place for the community to enrich their lives and experience the transformative power of the arts.

The Kimball Art Center (KAC) is the heart of Park City's historic and vibrant arts community. It is a non-profit center for the arts, committed to engaging individuals of all ages in diverse and inspiring experiences through education, exhibitions and events. For more information, go to www.kimballartcenter.org.

Press release and PDF available online at: <http://www.kimballartcenter.org/transformation-project/competition-winner>

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