

July 28, 2004

**Press Release**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:**

Jonathan Cohen-Litant  
[jclitant@vanalen.org](mailto:jclitant@vanalen.org)  
212-924-7000 x3

**Lower Manhattan Looks Beyond the Kiosk for its Information-Rich Future:  
Four finalists selected to design a CIVIC EXCHANGE installation**

Van Alen Institute: Projects in Public Architecture and The Architectural League of New York in cooperation with the Hugh L. Carey Battery Park City Authority have selected four finalists for a design competition for a "Civic Exchange" for Lower Manhattan. The competition is funded by the National Endowment for the Arts with additional funding provided by the Stephen A. and Diana L. Goldberg Foundation.

Underscoring the critical role of innovative design thinking in the regeneration of downtown, the project calls for designs that will 1) provide information and generate interaction; 2) stimulate place-based education; and 3) enhance the appearance, perception, and experience of public space.

The finalists were selected from responses to an earlier Request for Expressions of Interest and were evaluated by project partners and advisers including: Janet Abrams, Director, Design Institute, University of Minnesota; Kadambari Baxi, Partner with Martin/Baxi Architects and principal of imageMachine; and Tucker Viemeister, President, Springtime-USA. They noted the extraordinary quality of the submitting teams, and that the finalists include leaders in information, industrial, graphic, and architectural design- teams highly qualified to go "beyond the kiosk" in envisioning a prototypical installation for the people who live, work, and visit Lower Manhattan.

**Finalist Teams:**

**ANTENNA DESIGN**

Award-winning partners Masamichi Udagawa, an industrial designer and associate professor at New York University's Interactive Telecommunications Program, and Sigi Moeslinger, a product and digital/interactive designer and educator, who has taught at programs including Rochester Institute of Technology, California College of Arts, and Syracuse University, have an extraordinary range of realized design projects, including the MTA/NYCT MetroCard vending machines, the Jet Blue self-service check-in kiosk, the MTA/NYCT R142 Subway Car, and a range of art and design installations including Power Flower, an interactive public installation at Bloomingdale's, New York (a Häagen-Dazs Cultural Initiative). For more information on this team see:

[www.antennadesign.com](http://www.antennadesign.com)



Image: Project: Power Flower; Design: Masamichi Udagawa and Sigi Moeslinger, Antenna Design; Photo: Ryuzo Masunaga.

## LEESER/StoSS/LEVIN

Architect Thomas Leeser, an Assistant Professor at Columbia University (who has also recently taught at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Pratt Institute, and Parsons School of Design), is designing the expansion of the *American Museum of the Moving Image*, and was a finalist in the internationally-acclaimed *Eyebeam Atelier* competition. Chris Reed, a landscape architect now teaching at the University of Pennsylvania, and principal in the award-winning StoSS landscape

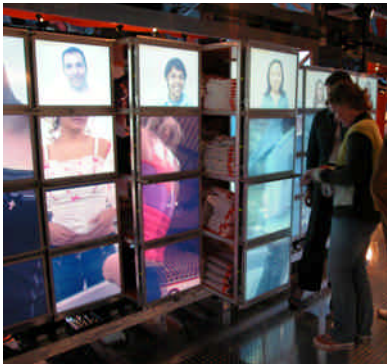


urbanism firm, is designing the Mystic Gateway and Perkins Park in Somerville, Massachusetts. Golan Levin, a professor at Carnegie-Mellon University, is a world-renowned new media artist known for pieces including *Dialtones*, a *telesymphony* (concept, direction, performanceware). For more information on this team see: [www.leeser.com](http://www.leeser.com); [www.stoss.net](http://www.stoss.net); and [www.flong.com](http://www.flong.com)

Image: *DIALTONES* (A TeleSymphony), by Golan Levin (concept, direction, and performanceware).

## LOCAL NETWORKS

This team pulls together a range of disciplines and expertise: Inbar Barak for interactive design; Jake Barton, head of Local Projects, for interactive design; Claudia Herasme for urban design; Dan Shifman, a researcher and educator at *ITP-NYU* for interactive programming; Rosten Woo, co-director of the Center for Urban Pedagogy, for urban participation design; and Guy Zucker for architecture; as well as the participation of Sarah Henry, Steve Zeitlin, Marci Reaven, and Steve Romalewski. Among the key projects that team members have participated in are the *City of Memory* with the Museum of the City of New York (Jake Barton/Local Projects); StoryCorps



interview project for Sound Portraits Productions and NPR in Grand Central Station (Jake Barton/Local Projects, interaction design); and DIM: Mobile Retail Unit: Architecture: Lot-Ek, with Project Architect: Guy Zucker; Interactive Design: Inbar Barak; Hardware and Software: Jake Barton/Local Projects.

For more information on this team see: [www.localprojects.net](http://www.localprojects.net); [www.inbarbarak.com](http://www.inbarbarak.com); [www.shiffman.net](http://www.shiffman.net); and [www.anothercupdevelopment.org](http://www.anothercupdevelopment.org)

Image: DIM: Mobile Retail Unit interior: Architecture: Lot-Ek, with Project Architect: Guy Zucker; Interactive Design: Inbar Barak; Hardware and Software: Jake Barton/Local Projects.

## MESH/ORG

Eric Liftin, architect and founder of *MESH Architectures* has joined with David Reinfurt graphic designer, founder of *ORG inc.* and adjunct associate professor at *ITP/NYU*. They have worked together on projects including the mobile recording studio for the StoryCorps interview project for Sound Portraits Productions and NPR in Grand Central Station (MESH, architecture; *ORG*, environmental graphics), and between them have designed projects across a range of temporal, wireless, and information experiences. Liftin is a former Fellow of the Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University and Reinfurt was a senior interaction designer for IDEO. They are



joined by internationally exhibited artist Leo Villareal (a former member of the research staff at Interval Research), and architectural historian Nina Rappaport, now teaching at the City College School of Architecture. For additional information on this team see: [www.mesh-arc.com](http://www.mesh-arc.com); [www.o-r-g.com](http://www.o-r-g.com)

Image: StoryCorps, Grand Central Station, MESH Architectures: architecture; *ORG inc.*: Environmental Graphics. Photo: Christopher Weil Photography

**Next Steps:**

Each team will be awarded a \$10,000 stipend to develop their project proposals. A jury, including **John Maeda** (Media Artist/Computer Scientist, and Co-Director of the SIMPLICITY Consortium at MIT's Media Lab) and **Michael Rock** (Designer and Partner, 2x4 -a multidisciplinary design studio) will evaluate and select one of the four finalist schemes this fall. The project partners are working with public agency, civic organizations, and technology initiatives to carry the project forward.