



# ROBSON REDUX

## INFORMATION SESSION | Q&A

On January 12, 2015, VIVA Vancouver held an in-person information session aimed at those interested in learning more about the 2015 Robson Redux Design-Build Competition. Here's a summary of some of the key points we talked about that evening. Thanks again to everyone who came out and made the evening such a success!

### Entering the Competition

**1. Do I need to have my entire team assembled before I register?**

No, you can register before your team is finalized, but your team should be assembled by the submission deadline: February 13<sup>th</sup>.

**2. Is the registration deadline different from the submission deadline?**

Yes, the registration deadline is different from the submission deadline. The deadline to register is January 30<sup>th</sup> (11:59pm). The submission deadline is February 13<sup>th</sup> (11:59pm). All deadlines are firm.

**3. If there isn't an artist on our team, can we still enter?**

A team that doesn't include an artist can still enter the competition; however, the competition encourages design teams with diverse skill sets to submit joint entries. In 2015, the priority is to include both artists and designers on the team.

**4. How are you defining "artist"?**

We are looking for different ways of thinking materially and structurally that come from the different practices of design and art. An artist is someone who:

- a. Has a practice of making objects or images and a history of exhibitions in recognized art venues; and,
- b. Is acknowledged as a practicing artist by peers in the field; and,
- c. Has training in visual art (formal or through mentorships, etc.)

**5. What will happen to our design panels if we put the names of team members on it?**

Your team's submission will be disqualified and will not be reviewed by the jury.

**6. How do I submit the design panels?**

Please submit your entire package electronically through the competition website ([vivadesigncomp.ca](http://vivadesigncomp.ca)) using the login you were given at the time you registered. If you experience any technical difficulties while submitting the boards, please contact [vivavancouver@vancouver.ca](mailto:vivavancouver@vancouver.ca)

## Sponsorship and Materials

**7. If our hard costs are greater than \$40,000, can we find sponsors or other sources of funding? And, can we use the sponsor's logo on our design?**

Yes, teams are permitted to find additional funds/sponsorship for the structure; please include these costs and your source funding on your budget form.

Yes, a sponsor may be recognized on the installation; however, design teams are not entitled to promise potential sponsors large scale on-site recognition. The size and placement of a sponsor's name/logo is subject to City approval.

**8. Can we include names of people on the installation, like donors?**

Yes, the names of donors may be included on the installation, subject to City approval. However, please keep in mind that the specific names of donors should not appear on the design panels.

**9. What happens if donated material, such as furniture, is requested back by the donor?**

VIVA is open to having materials temporarily donated for the duration of the installation's life on Robson Street. The specific conditions for the temporary donation would have to be worked through as part of the design refinement phase.

**10. Who can we talk to at the City about the availability of donated materials we can reuse from construction/demolition projects?**

One avenue would be to call 3-1-1 and ask for the Sustainability Office. The biggest challenge your team will face is the tight timeline available to you to explore what material is available.

**11. Can we include names of groups or organizations that we would like to sponsor as part of our design?**

Please mention the incorporation of other groups as part of the street experience your team is trying to create, but please keep that information anonymous on the panels.

**12. Are there tables and chairs available through the City that we can include and use as part of our design? And, is there additional budget available for using them?**

Yes, we have some tables and chairs that could be available. However, any costs associated with using the tables and chairs, for example having them taken in at night and brought out in the morning, would need to be covered by the \$40,000 project budget.

**13. Other than the possible use of tables and chairs, is there anything else that the City can give us, like tools, equipment, or construction space?**

No.

## Design of Installation

**14. Past designs have focused on benches. Are you encouraging or requiring benches?**

No, benches are not a requirement. The theme of the competition is "social connection"; it is up to you and your team to interpret this theme and have it reflected in the design. Ultimately, the goal is to have people who are passing through the space slow down, pause and stay a while.

**15. Do we need umbrellas?**

No, umbrellas are not a requirement. However, it can get very hot on the street during the summer and the creative provision of shade may make the space more attractive to some people.

**16. What is your stance on liability for moving parts?**

It depends. Liability and public usability is a factor. Teams should think about how much oversight is needed on site every day in order for the installation to be used/experienced safely.

## Judging and Selection

**17. How does team information play a part in the selection process?**

Tip: Be clear about your team's overall experience and capacity in your package; your team's experience may prove more critical than your credentials!

**18. Does the City have the final say in the selection?**

The City looks to the jury to make a selection based on the criteria, which includes feasibility. On the day that the jury meets, an expert from the City will be available for clarifying feasibility questions.

## Installation Site – 800-block Robson Street

**19. Are we allowed to exceed the installation space as indicated in the AutoCAD file?**

It is *highly* recommended to work within the space indicated in the file. A design may, however, exceed the space, but there are certain areas that are off-limits, including the sidewalk.

**20. How will the proposed construction of the UBC areaways affect the site and installation?**

There is currently no confirmation as to whether or not the proposed construction of the UBC Robson Square areaway will be moving forward this summer or not. We are working under the assumption that we have access to the entire block.

However, if construction does go forward this summer, it is likely that the majority of the construction will occur off-site. The eastern portion of the street (towards Howe St) is where crews will be accessing the construction sites. We would provide updates as more information comes to light, including the timing of construction.

**21. Is there access to power on site?**

There is access to power for installation and removal only. Those wishing to consider lighting options should explore alternative power options.

*Please note:* it is not an option to use the power from the overhead trolley lines.

**22. Is there a minimum or maximum height that the installation needs to be?**

There is no required minimum height for the installation.

Note, however, that minimum trolley wire height is 5m from the ground; clearance of 1m from the overhead trolley wires must be maintained at all times, including reach to the trolley wires. Under no circumstances should a person be able to reach within the 1m clearance, even if the trolley wires were to be de-energized for the installation.

**23. Whose financial responsibility is it to de-energize the overhead trolley wires, if required?**

The cost would need to be covered by through the \$40,000 project budget; it costs approx. \$5,000 to de- and re-energize the overhead trolley wires.

VIVA generally recommends designing something that doesn't require de-energizing the trolley wires, as it adds a significant cost to the project. Safe operating procedures need to be considered during the installation and removal of the project as well, including the type of equipment used during these periods.

## Project Costs

**24. How much were the insurance costs for past designs?**

Approximately \$500-\$1,000.

**25. Do we need to take into account the costs related to engineering and documentation as part of the \$40,000 award?**

Yes, the award includes costs related to design refinement, structure engineer review, documentation, fabrication, storage, etc.

**26. How will the \$40,000 award be allocated over the length of the contract?**

Typically, there are 3 payment phases, with the winning team submitting an invoice at the end of each phase. However, the City recognizes that it is not always feasible for design teams to pay all costs up front and wait for reimbursement. So the City may take a flexible approach. For example, last year, in order to make completion of the project feasible, the City paid several of the material suppliers directly vs. reimbursing the design team for out of pocket costs at a later date.

**27. Will the winning team be responsible for storage if there is a lag in time between removal and the relocation of the installation for reuse?**

The City will work with the winning team on storage, if needed.