



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Hon. Stephanie A. Miner, Mayor

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**JURY OF EXPERTS, COMMUNITY LEADERS WILL
RECOMMEND TEAM LEAD BY !melk TO DESIGN
DOWNTOWN’S “NEW URBAN SPACE”**

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – On Tuesday, the jury appointed by Mayor Stephanie A. Miner interviewed four semi-finalist teams for the redesign of the former Common Center Plaza and Perseverance Park site. It selected the team headed up by the New York City-based landscape architecture firm !melk. The team will also include public artist Cecil Balmond of Balmond Studios, Tillotson Design Associates, and C&S Companies

“The first step in the transformation of this site into a beautiful new community asset is the selection of an innovative and talented team,” said **Syracuse Mayor Stephanie A. Miner**. “I commend the jury for their hard work. We look forward to working with the design team and the entire community to realize the potential of this new urban space.”

“This was a hard decision. All of the teams were spectacular and each brought something unique to the table, said **George Curry**, Design Advisor to the New Urban Space project. “!melk was selected because of the quality of its portfolio and the strength of its team members, in particular world-renowned artist Cecil Balmond. It is also great to have the local connection through C&S Companies. I am pleased that the jury will recommend the !melk team to Syracuse Urban Renewal Agency for approval.”

“We are thrilled to be part of this visionary project in Syracuse,” said **Jerry van Eyck**, Principal at !melk. “Being able to work again with the multi-talented artist Cecil Balmond is a great pleasure and one that we are excited to share with this great City. We, !melk, together with Balmond Studios and the community of Syracuse will create a transformative place that will put you on the tour-map of world-class public spaces!”

The jury’s recommendation will be presented to the Syracuse Urban Renewal Agency (SURA) board at its next regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, March 24 at 3:00 p.m. SURA, which owns the property, will vote on whether to award the design of the project to !melk. If approved, the team will work closely with the community to develop the design for the space.

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