A Executive Summary

Summary of the task and overarching goals of the competition within the general context.
Envisioning a Sustainable Campus Community at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Canada

Aerial View Fort Garry Campus, UofM

Competition Site Plan
A Executive Summary

A.I | Aim and Objectives

A.01 The University of Manitoba is issuing this open international design competition to develop a vision for the future of the Fort Garry Campus and to engage a team (following the competition’s completion) to produce:

- A new Campus Plan that identifies a physical planning and design framework to guide future growth and development of the Fort Garry Campus across its 279-hectare (690-acre) site. The Fort Garry Campus Plan will form a critical framework through which the University can achieve its objectives in the short, medium, and long terms. The experiential qualities of the campus, the density and massing of buildings, the objectives for open spaces and plazas, the streetscape, and overarching sustainability objectives will all be addressed by the Campus Plan. The University is currently drafting a Space Master Plan for the Fort Garry Campus that will inform the new Campus Plan.

- A 49-hectare (120-acre) Precinct Plan for the former Southwood Golf Course at the northern portion of the Fort Garry Campus. The Southwood Precinct Plan will include a detailed public realm plan, land use program and phasing plan to accommodate up to 4,200 multi-dwelling units and 21,070 square metres (226,800 square feet) of retail and hospitality space, as identified in the November 2012 Market Study Supply and Demand Analysis.

- A Phase One site plan for approximately 8 hectares (20 acres) of the Southwood Precinct. This plan will enable the creation of a dense, vibrant urban village centered on public transit nodes/stations in the Southwood Precinct. It will also include the conceptualization and siting of the first Demonstration Project, consisting of mixed-use, multi-generational developments and public spaces that accommodate students, the wider community, and supporting amenities. This project is anticipated to be timely, with ground breaking occurring within three years. This is consistent with the growth rate potential indicated in the Market Study Supply and Demand Analysis.

A.02 In 2011, the University of Manitoba took the bold initiative of acquiring the former Southwood Golf Course, an eighteen-hole golf course adjacent to the Fort Garry Campus. The University recognizes that the acquisition of this picturesque landscape opens up an unprecedented opportunity to transform the Fort Garry Campus into an exciting live, work, learn, play environment. This transformation will help improve the campus experience for its primary users – students – but also for the community at large.
A.03 The University of Manitoba is a provincially funded medical-doctoral institution with two main campuses in Winnipeg: the Fort Garry Campus, which is the site for this competition; and the Bannatyne Campus, which houses the health sciences faculties and schools, and is located in the Downtown area. Winnipeg and the University of Manitoba are located in Treaty One territory, on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe peoples and the homeland of the Métis Nation.

A.04 Manitoba was founded in 1870 and is one of Canada’s ten provinces. Located in the geographic heart of Canada, it is known as one of nation’s ‘prairie provinces. Manitoba is home to 1,235,000 people. The majority live in the south of the province, with over 760,000 residing in the capital city of Winnipeg and its ten surrounding municipalities. Much of the province is rural, consisting of towns and small cities. The northern regions are more sparsely populated; some remote northern communities are only accessible by airplane in the summer and fall, and frozen ice roads in the winter.

A.05 Winnipeg is situated in the low-lying flood plain of the Red River Valley, and settled around the confluence of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers. It is a city of very distinct neighbourhoods: dense, long-established central residential neighbourhoods surround the major business district and the Exchange warehouse district of downtown, with newer suburban developments located on the peripheries of the city.

A.06 The competition site is 279 hectares (690 acres) in size. It is situated in the southernmost portion of Winnipeg, approximately thirteen kilometres south from Downtown, in an area characterized by suburban neighbourhoods generally built between the 1950s and 2000s. The Red River forms the eastern edge of the campus, while Pembina Highway, a major traffic thoroughfare and commercial corridor, sits along the western edge of the campus.

A.07 The site’s geographic location within the floodplain of glacial lake Agassiz, and the regional climatic context of the prairies results in extreme temperatures that vary between short warm summers and long cold winters, making Winnipeg one of the coldest urban centres in the world.

A.08 The Fort Garry Campus has a student population of over 26,000 and a staff population of approximately 6,000. Along with twenty faculties and schools and three colleges, the campus is also home to numerous student services and amenities, as well as dormitory-style residences.
Core Campus with Administration Building, UofM
A.09 Supporting the endeavour of the competition are several conditions that position the University to succeed in these aims, including:

A.10 The University is currently experiencing significant increases in enrolment, increases that are reflective of the University's aim to attract a broader student base that includes international and Indigenous students. Combined with increased enrolment is the current shortage of available, affordable housing (see Market Study Supply and Demand Analysis in appendices for more information).

A.11 The Phase One site plan and Demonstration Project presents a unique opportunity to address the issue of affordable housing. Increasing growth is not limited to the University's student population; the City of Winnipeg is also experiencing unprecedented population increases after several decades of stagnant growth. Over the next twenty years the city is expected to grow by 180,000 people, which would require an additional 83,000 housing units within over those twenty years.

A.12 Traditionally growth in Winnipeg has been accommodated largely through suburban development, but for the first time in its history the City is recognizing that it cannot accommodate its current growth through such an approach. Instead, it is now contemplating the redevelopment of existing lands, and the Southwood Precinct has been designated as one of eleven redevelopment sites in Winnipeg.

A.13 The Fort Garry Campus is characterized as a 'commuter campus' with most students and staff travelling to and from campus in single-occupancy vehicles on a daily basis (the Campus currently has 5,840 surface parking stalls). Phase Two of the Southwest Bus Rapid Transit Corridor will service the University of Manitoba, and its completion will not only provide a sustainable transportation option but will serve as a catalyst for transit-oriented development.

A.14 Manitoba is a centre of excellence in cold climate energy management. The University's major partner in the competition is Manitoba Hydro, an international leader in sustainable energy design, promotion and use, particularly in cold climates. This natural partnership presents the opportunity to collaborate and demonstrate cold-climate sustainability at a building scale and also at a community scale.

A.15 The University is committed to the creation of an innovative and sustainable campus. The comprehensive engagement process undertaken to generate the competition's principles and design objectives concluded with a strong expectation that the University would be committed to becoming a model for innovative and sustainable environmental design. This will not only help improve the campus experience for the students, faculty, and the wider community; it will also support the University's vision for excellence in innovation, creativity, teaching, and research.
Core Campus with Tier Building, UoM
A.16 The competition is open to international teams and is structured in two design phases. It is intended to generate design solutions that will serve as a foundation for the next steps following the competition’s conclusion. Submissions will be evaluated by a jury of professionals supported by primary stakeholders and technical experts, who will assess submitted work based on the vision and response to this Competition Brief. Up to seven selected finalists will advance to a second, more detailed design phase, and will receive an honorarium of $30,000 (CAD) to fully develop their concept and vision. Anonymity will be maintained throughout both phases until all work is publicly exhibited after the competition has concluded. The top four finalists will receive an additional prize.

A.17 Acknowledging the jury’s recommendations, the promoter will enter contract negotiations with the grand prizewinner to further develop the defined scope of work from preliminary to final design. The professional fees will be competitively based on the defined scope of work required for the three assignments identified in A.01. In light of the complexity of the task, the promoter will also either directly or through a third party, commission one or several of the prize winners (again acknowledging the jury’s recommendation) to further develop his or her demonstration project from conceptual to final design stages.

A.18 Following the completion of the two design phases, prizewinners, including the grand prizewinner, will be announced in October 2013. The competition is a nearly year-long process that preludes an intensive cooperative planning and design process involving the winning multidisciplinary team, the promoter and its representatives.

A.19 It is anticipated that the Campus Planning process will take no more than a year, with ground breaking of the Phase One Demonstration Project occurring within three years, consistent with the growth rate potential outlined in the Market Study Supply and Demand Analysis.

A.20 According to Union Internationale des Architectes (UIA) standards, the competition is conducted anonymously. However, both phases include an online-forum and an on-site colloquium with the participants to fully facilitate the dialogue amongst the competitors and the jury.
Guiding Principles and Design Objectives
A.V | Guiding Principles and Design Objectives


A.22 There is an emphasis on sustainability from an ecological, social and economic standpoint. The University views these three dimensions of sustainability as interrelated and mutually supportive.

A.23 Ecological sustainability includes maintaining and increasing ecological functions, ensuring that natural resources and ecosystems are not utilized beyond their regenerative capacities, transitioning from non-renewable to renewable natural resources and energy, and preserving and enhancing biodiversity. The way we design the built environment has implications for the long term reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. For example, designing a more walkable dense urban environment can reduce car dependency and allow for more land dedicated to the natural systems that both human and non-human species rely on. The University of Manitoba’s vision is to work towards carbon neutrality (see Sustainability at the University of Manitoba: A Strategic Vision for Action in appendices for more information).

A.24 Social sustainability includes the preservation and strengthening of cultural identities; the decreasing of social inequities; the empowerment of marginalized groups; and an emphasis on collaborative, participatory, and inclusive decision-making processes. There is also a particular commitment to social sustainability that builds and expands an Indigenous presence and visibility at the University that will result in improved access, recruitment, retention and completion for First Nations, Inuit and Métis learners. The University’s Strategic Planning Framework is committed to advancing Indigenous education. The University is dedicated to becoming a place where all Indigenous students have a home.

A.25 Economic sustainability necessitates economic decisions that reflect environmental and social effects, and requires prudence and care in creating efficiencies and locating new revenue streams to ensure that resources continue to be available to pursue the University’s overall mission.

A.26 Overall, the University wishes to ensure that its present actions do not decrease the chances for future generations to achieve levels of well-being that are at least as great as those achieved now.