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Designers list narrowed for Ike Memorial

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WASHINGTON – A preliminary short list of prospective designers for the National Eisenhower Memorial in Washington, D.C. has been selected, according to officials.

Community Calendar

Out of 44 submissions, seven designers and their associated firms will continue to the next stage of evaluation in the designer selection competition. Three firms are from Los Angeles, two from Illinois and one each from New York and Massachusetts.

The memorial honors Abilene's Dwight D. Eisenhower, the nation's 34th president. The memorial will recognize his contributions as military leader, president and world's statesman.

The National Eisenhower Memorial is being developed under the direction of the Eisenhower Memorial Commission, a congressionally chartered agency. The commission, in conjunction with the General Services Administration, is selecting a memorial designer by means of GSA's Design Excellence Program. The selection incorporates evaluation by design peers, GSA architects and representatives of the Eisenhower Memorial Commission.

"After eight years of effort, we are pleased to be at this stage of memorial development with a superb short list of designers," said Rocco Siciliano, chairman of the Eisenhower Memorial Commission. "They represent the highest level of American design today and demonstrate the significance of this national tribute to Eisenhower."

The first of three stages of evaluation was completed on Oct. 16, resulting in the preliminary selection of design firms, officials said.

The second stage of evaluations is scheduled for early December and will include a review of the lead designer and his design team. The team evaluated at the second stage includes an architect, landscape architect, lighting designer and information designer, as well as a project manager. The final designer selection will be made in the third stage, now scheduled for late March 2009.

The 4-acre site for the memorial is between Fourth and Sixth Streets at the nation's Capitol near the Department of Education, Department of Health, Education and Welfare and National Air and Space Museum.

"Eisenhower deserves a truly iconic memorial," said Carl Reddel, executive director of the Eisenhower Memorial Commission. "His legacy of leadership, service and integrity is an example to all Americans."

Reddel spoke in Abilene earlier this month about the memorial plans. Officials hope to have the memorial open around 2014.



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