A New River Innovation Challenge

CHALLENGE DESCRIPTION

Waterfront Toronto is building a new river in downtown Toronto and we want you to be a part of it.

The $1.25 Billion Port Lands Flood Protection Project (PLFP) will create a new island and new river outlet at the mouth of the Don River to protect 240 hectares of downtown Toronto from flooding, and restore important ecological areas to support diverse fish and wildlife. In order to track progress and measure outcomes of this important work, Waterfront Toronto and our partners have been working to capture a wide array of environmental data on the new river mouth and the natural systems that support it. This information will be used by scientists and engineers within the PLFP project and to inform potential future projects down the road.

Waterfront Toronto sees another important use for this data and we want you to help us come up with the answer: How do we collect, interpret and share environmental data from these new ecosystems to educate visitors and motivate conservation behavior in the wider community?

This is a challenge to develop creative, compelling and innovative ways to communicate this scientific information to the public. The outcome will be to stimulate interest and knowledge about how climate-positive urban development interacts with natural systems, to share this information with the people who will use and enjoy the river valley, and to encourage stewardship of the river's water, wildlife and habitats.

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

Proposals that use a physical and/or digital platform to convey environmental data from the PLFP project to visitors and community members in a way that promotes environmental stewardship and conservation.

Some examples include:

- https://www.ontarioparks.com/parksblog/citizenscience-apps/
- https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/citizen-science/

OPPORTUNITY

$10,000 award for the top three proposals and a $30,000 honorarium for the top team to advance their proposed design.

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE?

This challenge encourages multi-disciplinary collaboration and is open to a wide variety of experts including designers, scientists, engineers, computer scientists and others from private, public or nonprofit sectors.

WHAT IS HAPPENING RIGHT NOW?

For more information about this challenge please visit: portlandsto.ca/a-new-river-innovation-challenge

For more information about the Port Lands Project please visit: https://portlandsto.ca/