

# RAIL CORRIDOR IDEAS COMPETITION -

## “JOURNEY OF POSSIBILITIES”

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### OVERVIEW

**“Journey of Possibilities” – Ideas Competition for the Rail Corridor** is organised by the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Singapore (URA).

The return of the railway land on 1 July 2011 to the Singapore Government not only marks a significant milestone in Singapore’s history, it also presents an unprecedented opportunity for the public to come together to collectively envision the future use of the Rail Corridor.

The Rail Corridor has the potential to be turned into a signature public space and extraordinary trail that spans the length of the country from north to south that all can enjoy.

The rediscovery of the Rail has been marked by widespread public interest. From the feedback we have received, it is clear that there are many more who would like to make tangible contributions towards the envisioning of the Rail Corridor’s future.

“Journey of Possibilities” presents a window of opportunity for all to participate. The Competition runs from 30 November 2011 to 9 March 2012, and participants may submit ideas in the “Open” or “Youth Challenge” categories

### *OBJECTIVES*

“Journey of Possibilities” (comprising the “Open” and “Youth Challenge” categories) hopes to draw innovative and fresh new ideas from the public in addressing some of the key challenges and issues in planning for the future use of the Rail Corridor.

We welcome participants to be bold and creative to envision “possibilities” for transforming the Rail Corridor into a truly extraordinary trail with multiple landscapes and experiences to be enjoyed by all.

Useful ideas and concepts from the competition may be distilled into design principles and the brief for the Rail Corridor Design Competition that is being considered currently.

### *THE CHALLENGE*

In the “Open” category, we invite participants to develop visionary and compelling ideas for the Rail Corridor in response to five key issues which have been identified over the course of the extensive public engagement process.

We also welcome young participants (secondary 1-5 students) to come up with exciting new ideas for the Rail Corridor. See the “Youth Challenge” category for more information.

## THE SITE

The site today comprises a main rail line that runs approximately 25.3km from the north to the south of Singapore, from the Kranji coastal mudflats to Tanjong Pagar district which sits at the fringe of the CBD. It passes through multiple, varied landscapes, ranging from residential, industrial uses to nature reserves.

The railway corridor can range up to 175m in width and is only interrupted by five at-grade crossings. Two significant cast iron bridges carry the former rails over major arterial roads at Bukit Timah and Upper Bukit Timah roads. It is possible to walk the length of the line through the city without encountering vehicular traffic for the most part.

The Jurong Line formerly served the Jurong industrial estates but has since long been abandoned. A 1.9km stretch of this line which spurs off from the main line off Bukit Timah Railway Station to Ulu Pandan Canal is also included in this competition. This stretch is almost completely overrun with lush tropical vegetation today.

There are two rail stations along the Rail Corridor. The Tanjong Pagar Railway Station, which has been gazetted as a National Monument, marks the end of the Rail Corridor in the South; the Bukit Timah Railway Station, which has been conserved, marks an entryway to the Rail Corridor from Bukit Timah Road.

The plan for the entire Rail Corridor is available for download at the following website:

[http://www.ura.gov.sg/railcorridor/ideas\\_comp/Ideas\\_Com\\_Plan.pdf](http://www.ura.gov.sg/railcorridor/ideas_comp/Ideas_Com_Plan.pdf)

Photographs of the Rail Corridor may be found at the following website:

<http://www.ura.gov.sg/railcorridor/gallery.html>

A video clip of the Rail Corridor is available on YouTube filmed by NUS Architecture students:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o4pVLu\\_M9Ew](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o4pVLu_M9Ew)

## ABOUT THE COMPETITION

### “OPEN” CATEGORY

The “Open” Category in the Ideas Competition seeks to identify ideas for future development of the Rail Corridor in response to 5 key issues:

- Bio diversity and sensitive development
- Inclusiveness, accessibility and resolving conflicts
- Community ownership, pride and sense of well-being
- Heritage
- Extraordinary & Innovative Ideas for a Great Public Space **\*UPDATE\***

These issues/challenges were distilled from the feedback and suggestions that we received from the public and are key considerations that would need to be addressed in planning for the Corridor. The public is invited to choose the issue/s or challenge/s that they would like to address and propose innovative solutions and ideas for these areas.

Each entry may be formulated in response to more than one issue. However, **participants in the "Open" Category are required to indicate the predominant issue among the above 5 key issues** that their submission intends to address.

In the event that participants intend to comprehensively address all 5 key issues in their proposals, they should indicate “Extraordinary & Innovative Ideas for a Great Public Space” as the predominant issue for their submission. However under this Category, besides addressing the 5 key issues, we would like to encourage participants to propose fresh new ideas that are innovative and even extraordinary (out-of-the-box) that will allow all to experience the Rail Corridor in surprisingly new and different ways. “Journey of Possibilities” presents the opportunity to create something fresh and innovative for The Rail Corridor that is uniquely Singapore’s, and differentiated from the other rail trails around the world.

*NB: The evaluation of all submissions will be based on the categorization of the predominant issue stated by the participants. Submissions will be disqualified from consideration if the “predominant issue” is not indicated in the submission.*

#### *WHO MAY TAKE PART*

Anyone can take part in the “Open” Category.

#### **“YOUTH CHALLENGE” (For Secondary 1 – 5 only)**

A youth-centric competition, targeted at secondary school students, will be conducted in parallel with the main “Open” Ideas Competition. We challenge secondary school students to come up with exciting new ideas and proposals that will surprise and excite us.

The ideas, concepts and proposals should reflect the interests and aspirations of the younger generation, and how the Rail Corridor could be especially meaningful to them. The youth’s views on how the Rail Corridor may support promotion of the family unit and meet the wider interests of society will be a welcome added dimension in response to this competition.

Join us on these first steps of the Journey, to dream up Possibilities that one day may be transformed into Reality.

#### *WHO MAY TAKE PART*

Only students from Secondary 1 – 5 may participate in “Youth Challenge”.

## 5 KEY ISSUES

### **A) *Bio diversity and sensitive development***

How can bio-diversity and the built development be integrated such that the green experience and bio-diversity of the Rail Corridor are not compromised, even when there are developments alongside and on the corridor itself?

How can we make the Rail Corridor an even more delightful place to visit and enjoy in future; an even better place and experience tomorrow than today?

### **B) *Inclusiveness, accessibility and resolving conflicts***

Who should we plan for as users of the rail corridor?

Should it be accessible to all irrespective of physical abilities?

Can it be designed to be “all inclusive” and not compromise on the rustic feel that we have today?

How do we safely cater for different kinds of movements and activities, eg cycling and more leisurely pursuits like walking and trekking?

### **C) *Community ownership, pride and sense of well-being***

Who are the community and stakeholders with immediate access to the Rail Corridor?

How can we plan it such that this community will use it, take pride in it and embrace the Rail Corridor as their personal and community space?

How can the Rail Corridor enhance the sense of well-being and healthiness among the residents living near the corridor?

**D) *Heritage***

How do you celebrate the heritage of the rail corridor such that it becomes part of the experience?

How do you retain the memory of the place?

How can you use the heritage buildings meaningfully, particularly the Tanjong Pagar Railway Station and the Bukit Timah Railway Station?

**E) *Extraordinary and Innovative Ideas for a Great Public Space***

*\*UPDATE \**

How do you get people to use and enjoy the rail corridor in a surprisingly new and different way?

Can this be an opportunity to create something completely fresh, innovative and even extraordinary (out-of-the-box) that is uniquely Singapore's and differentiated from other rail trails around the world, which Singaporeans can be proud of?

## SUBMISSION FORMAT

### *REGISTRATION PROCESS*

Participants are required to register for the competition before submitting their entry. Registration may be done online at [http://www.ura.gov.sg/railcorridor/ideas\\_comp/register.html](http://www.ura.gov.sg/railcorridor/ideas_comp/register.html).

Upon completion of online registration, participants will immediately receive their registration confirmation and **registration number**. The registration number must be printed out and attached to the back of the submitted panel and CD. **Please do not include any personal identification on the panel and CD. Panels and CD that are marked with personal identification will be disqualified.**

### *SUBMISSION FORMAT (“OPEN” AND “YOUTH CHALLENGE”)*

**Each entry must be submitted as a single foam mounted A1 panel (0.594m x 0.841m), oriented in portrait, together with a CD containing the soft copy of the proposals in .pdf or .jpg format at a resolution of 300 dpi.** The entries do not have to be limited to printed material, but must adhere to the prescribed dimensions. The presentation board should clearly indicate the issue/s (for Open) or idea/s (for Youth Challenge) that the participant is submitting.

There will be no restrictions on the medium: drawings, sketches, diagrams and photographs are welcome. While accompanying written narratives can be included to supplement the illustrations, the entries should not be wholly limited to prose.

## *SUBMISSION AND DEADLINE*

Mail or hand-deliver entries to:

“Journey of Possibilities”

Ideas Competition for the Rail Corridor

45 Maxwell Road

The URA Centre

Singapore 069118

Entries must reach by 9 March 2012, Friday, 5.00 pm. This is not a postmark deadline. The actual board and CD must be received by the given day and time.

For hand delivery, staff will be stationed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> storey at URA Centre to receive the submissions between 10.00am to 5.00pm on 9 March 2012 (Friday) at the above address. On the day itself, please refer to the signages from the lobby space that will direct you to the submission counter.

## **JUDGING AND AWARDS**

Judging panels, comprising subject matter experts, representatives from the public and private sectors, as well as Rail Corridor Consultation Group members will be formed for each of the five issues and “Youth Challenge”.

Under the “Open” Category, three top prizes will be awarded for each issue, with cash values of SGD \$2,000, \$1,000 and \$500 respectively.

Under the “Youth Challenge”, three top prizes will also be awarded cash values of SGD \$1,000, \$500 and \$250 respectively.

The judging panels reserve the right not to award certain prizes depending on the quality of submissions received.

In addition, other excellent or interesting entries may be selected by the panels to be featured in an exhibition following the competition.

The decisions of the judging panels are final.

## **RULES**

Everyone involved with this competition must comply with the conditions laid out in this section. Failure to do so will lead to immediate disqualification.

### *ELIGIBILITY*

The “Open” Ideas Competition is open to anyone.

However, the “Youth Challenge” is intended only for students from Secondary 1 – 5 to participate.

All employees and staff of the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) are not eligible for participation in this competition.

### *ANONYMITY*

The sponsors of this competition will protect the integrity of its process vigorously. Competitors must not communicate with any member of the judging panel about the competition in any way until a public announcement of the winners is made. Any competitor or member of the judging panel found in active violation of this rule will be disqualified immediately.

All entries must be submitted without any marks, logos, insignia, or writing on the display surfaces that identify their authorship. Failure to comply with this rule will lead to immediate disqualification.

### *RETURN OF ENTRIES*

All competition materials will become the property of the URA and will not be returned.

### *OWNERSHIP AND COPYRIGHT*

All drawings, photographs, photocopies, and other physical materials submitted to the competition will become the property of the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) and may be retained for archival purposes and possible exhibition and publication. Each participant will retain copyright of all their materials unless otherwise assigned.

### *EXHIBITION AND PUBLICATION*

The Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) will exhibit a selection of competition entries, including all award winners in a public exhibition following the competition. In joining this competition, the participant unreservedly agrees to allow URA to retain ownership of all competition materials and have the right to use them in any publication or promotional endeavour in perpetuity, and without compensation.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

*How is the ideas competition different from the ideas forum on the URA Rail Corridor website?*

The Ideas Competition is a one stage competition held to solicit ideas and designs from the public in response to 5 key issues, which were derived from discussions and forums such as the URA Rail Corridor website. While the ideas forum remains a channel for anyone to put his / her idea(s) forward for discussion, the competition is intended to bring the discussion one step forward by inviting responses from the public on the key issues that have surfaced thus far, in the form of a drawing, sketch or diagram with an accompanying narrative.

*Will there be a design competition for the Rail Corridor, other than the Ideas Competition?*

The plans for the Design Competition have not been firmed up at this point in time.

*Am I only allowed to design within the territorial boundaries of the Rail Corridor outlined in the downloadable plan?*

The boundaries of the railway area are only for reference. You are free to relate your proposals to the surrounding context.

*Am I allowed to submit multiple entries?*

Yes. Your chance of winning is based on the best entry you submit.

*What if I intend to address more than one "Key Issue" in my proposal? Should I then submit under the category "Extraordinary & Innovative Ideas for a Great Public Space" (Issue 5)? \* NEW \**

Under the category "Extraordinary & Innovative Ideas for a Great Public Space", we are looking for schemes with new, innovative and even extraordinary (out-of-the-box) ideas where people could enjoy the Rail Corridor in a surprisingly new and different way that is uniquely Singapore's. As stated in the competition brief, proposals submitted under Issue 5 should comprehensively address all five Key Issues critical to the planning of the Rail Corridor.

Hence, if you intend to address more than one but not all the five Key Issues, you may wish to consider separating your entries and submitting them under the respective categories or registering under a predominant Key Issue that you consider is the most impactful among your ideas.

*Who can participate in "Youth Challenge"?*

Only registered students in Secondary Schools (Sec 1 to 5) may participate under this category.

*Am I allowed to participate in the "Open Category" if I am a registered student in a Secondary School?*

Yes. However, your entry will be judged together with all other submissions received for the Open Category.

*I am enrolled in a local Junior College. Am I allowed to participate in "Youth Challenge"?*

No. "Youth Challenge" is only open to registered Secondary School students.

I am enrolled in an International School in Singapore and am a student in a grade equivalent to Singapore's Secondary 1 to 5. Am I allowed to participate in the "Youth Challenge"?

Yes. We do not make a distinction between students from our local schools and international schools.

*Am I allowed to visit the Rail Corridor?*

The stretch from the former Bukit Timah Railway Station (BTRS) and railway land extending 1.4km southwards from the steel bridge along Bukit Timah Road (near BTRS) is open to the public since 16 Sep 2011. Other portions of the former railway land will also be progressively opened up to the public as the removal works are completed.

*How many members can a group entry comprise?*

There is no limit to the number of group members that can be involved in one submission.

*If I am overseas, can I still participate?*

Yes. Registration and submission should adhere to the instructions given in this brief and panels (including CD) will be presented anonymously to the judging panels for evaluation. If you are mailing your submission from overseas, please ensure that the submissions (panel and CD) are received in Singapore at the stipulated address by the specified deadline (Singapore local time). You may also authorise a local representative to submit the panel on your behalf at the given location by the given deadline.

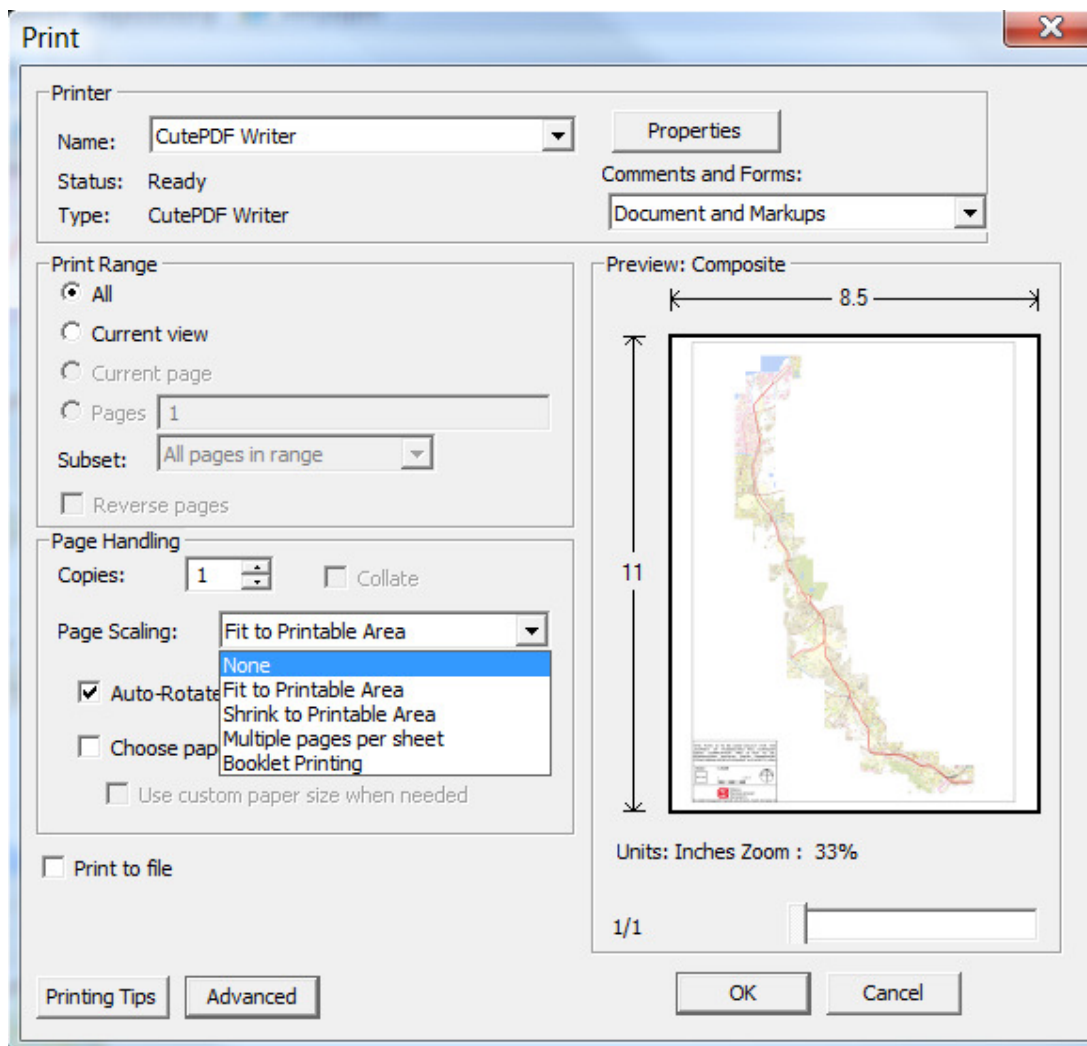
*Will URA be giving participants the option of submitting my panel electronically?*

No. We will only be able to accept hard copy submissions. If you encounter any problems making a hard copy submission, please email us

at [ura\\_railcorridor@ura.gov.sg](mailto:ura_railcorridor@ura.gov.sg). We will be happy to help with suggestions on how you can make your submissions.

*How do I print a to-scale plan of the Rail Corridor?*

The 1 : 25,000 scale plan prints out to A1 size (0.841m by 0.594m). If you are printing from a pdf-viewer, select “None” under page scaling (do not select “Fit to Printer Margins”) and ensure that the paper output is set at “A1”.



*What happens to my panel after the competition is over?*

The winning entries and selected submissions will be exhibited following the competition. More details on the exhibition will be announced at a

later date. Please note that the panels will not be returned and all materials submitted to the competition will become the property of URA, and may be retained for archival purposes and possible exhibition and publication. Each participant will retain copyright of their materials unless otherwise assigned. Please refer to the sections on *Ownership and Copyright, Exhibition and Publication*.

*I still have unanswered queries, where do I direct my questions to?*

Please email us at: [ura\\_railcorridor@ura.gov.sg](mailto:ura_railcorridor@ura.gov.sg)

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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## **USEFUL LINKS**

URA’s Rail Corridor Website:

<http://www.ura.gov.sg/railcorridor/>

Official website of the Friends of the Rail Corridor:

<http://www.thegreencorridor.org/>

URA on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/URASingapore>