

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Community Foundation uses May 5 event for two purposes: Announcing more than \$400,000 for long-term tornado recovery & top ideas for Prize2theFuture**

The Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham balanced two responsibilities for the community at a special event tonight at the Alabama Theatre – announcing gifts and grants to support community needs in the wake of April 27 tornadoes and recognizing top ideas chosen in Prize2theFuture, as the end of the first phase of this international, on-line idea contest.

### **\$400,000+ TOTAL available for long-term recovery efforts locally and around our state through the Community Foundation. This includes:**

- **\$200,000** dedicated by the Community Foundation for unmet needs in the affected areas of greater Birmingham – Jefferson, St. Clair, Blount and Walker counties – through the Emergency Response Fund at the Community Foundation, plus almost \$10,000 so far from individual donors.
- **\$215,000** for tornado recovery across our state donated through the new Alabama Tornado Recovery Fund created in collaboration with 10 community foundations across Alabama -- a lead gift of \$100,000 from Birmingham-based Medical Properties Trust and a matching \$100,000 gift from another business (name not yet announced), plus \$15,000 so far from donors across the country in gifts ranging from \$25 to \$2,000.

### **Prize2theFuture top winners:**

- First place: **One Birmingham Place: An Eight-Part Celebration of Community and Social Reengagement**, submitted by Colin Coyne
- Second place: **The Stockyard**, submitted by Josh Westerhold.
- Third place: **Magic City Station**, submitted by a team of Grant Gramstad, Dave Smith and Larry Hudson.
- The remaining seven ideas in the top 10 also were honored on stage at the Alabama Theatre and all are shown in an on-line Idea Gallery at [prize2thefuture.org](http://prize2thefuture.org).

Community Foundation officials thanked the City of Birmingham for providing access to the prize site, one city block next to Railroad Park, and acknowledged the 55 individuals and families whose gifts to Community Catalyst Funds support the Prize2theFuture. Also recognized were all the participants who made the idea contest a success.

“We recognize the tremendous talent and creativity represented by these top 10 ideas,” said Community Foundation president Kate Nielsen. “If we had 200 submissions, this would have been considered a success. Because we had 1,115 entries and so many from the Birmingham area, the contest became a true community workshop.

“The fact that nine of our 10 finalists and all three of our top winners are from greater Birmingham validates what people in our community think is important. Every one of these ideas includes elements that can be considered in the design phase of the competition.”

Karen Rolen, Senior Vice President Grants & Initiatives, who has been overseeing Prize2theFuture, outlined common themes identified by Prize2theFuture judges and validated in so many contest entries:

- A multi-use facility that brings people together, featuring indoor and outdoor elements
- Environmentally friendly, LEED designed, sustainable, with material reuse
- Very high tech using light and sound
- Focus on food, with restaurants, cafes and markets)
- Focus on railroad, including many tributes to the Terminal Station

**More details on the 10 finalists chosen by 38 national and community judges:**

**1st Prize, \$50,000: One Birmingham Place: An Eight-Part Celebration of Community and Social Reengagement, Colin Coyne, Birmingham.** Subtitled “an eight-part celebration of community and social re-engagement,” this multi-use facility has eight detailed sections, including a computer lab, performance venue, outdoor projection wall, café and “HUB” for collaboration between community organizations.

**2nd Prize, \$10,000: The Stockyard, Josh Westerhold, Birmingham.** A public open-air plaza uses stackable re-purposed shipping containers and rail cars to shape a path leading from Railroad Park toward Sloss Furnaces and to provide seasonal space leases for food, arts, entertainment and offices.

**3rd Prize, \$5,000: Magic City Station, Grant Gramstad, team leader, with Dave Smith and Larry Hudson, Birmingham, Alabaster and Trussville.** A three-part concept includes a space for shopping and dining that evokes images of railroad history, an entertainment venue using the curved ceiling as a screen and an environmentally-responsible energy production system.

**Finalists, \$1,000 each (alpha order):**

- **The Bazaar at Railroad Park, Jill Ceitlin, Washington, D.C.**
- **The Magic Wheel, Mandy Lamb Meredith, team leader, with Sharon Colgin and Anne-Laura Cook, Birmingham.**
- **Parkside Market, John Gill, Birmingham.**
- **sPark: A Social Good Park & Project, Robert Thuston, team leader, with Richard Pigford Sr., Jay Pigford, Sean Palmer and Sarah Louise Smith, Birmingham and Clay.**
- **Stacks and Tracks, Joel Blackstock, team leader, with Stephen Allen, HB Brantley, Mark Elgin and Joel Eliason, Birmingham.**
- **The Station, James Ponseti, team leader, with Anthony Smith, Homewood.**
- **THE STATION, Carol Misner, team leader, with Cherri Pitts, Birmingham.**