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FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2009

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# Architects vie to put new face on King Eddy



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Check out other sketches for the Cantos Music Foundation's new national music centre

**RENATO GANDIA**  
Sun Media

Whittled down from 66 original bidders to five, architects are slated to wow Calgarians and a selection committee for the chance to spruce up the rundown King Eddy.

The 104-year-old King Edward Hotel is undergoing a \$75-million facelift, part of redevelopment of East Village, which over the years was a haven for crime and homelessness.

Chris Ollenberger, chair of the Calgary Municipal Land Corp. (CMLC), charged with cleaning up the community that will be named the Rivers District, said it's exciting to come to this point.

"CMLC is really pleased with the amount of efforts and time and the quality of the process they put together," said Ollenberger.

Cantos Music Foundation will try to recapture the hotel's history, from the ragtime piano that entertained the establishment's patrons in its early years, to the blues that made it famous in the 1980s and 1990s.

Cantos will get help from one of the five design firms, including Montreal's Saucier + Perrotte, Portland's Allied Works Architecture, Paris' Jean Nouvel Workshop, Los Angeles' Studio Pali Fekete Architects and New York's Diller Scofidio and Renfro.

"Once we looked at the design concept, we have to consult with our advisory committee and make sure that each plan is on budget and that the building works with our program, meaning it's a functional building," said Mosker.

Ollenberger said all five competitors are "did a good job, they embrace the King Eddy heritage, the music and the passion."

He said he expects the process to inspire Calgarians' imaginations.

"We need architecture to provoke opinion, provoke discussions."

Calgarians can submit their comments on what they think of the designs on Cantos website at [cantos.ca/kingeddy](http://cantos.ca/kingeddy) beginning Monday.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

This is one of five artists' renditions of what a new-and-improved King Eddy hotel could look like to anchor area redevelopment.