

GUIDELINES for CONSULTANT SELECTION

(Architects and Engineers)



BOARDS and COMMISSIONS

- Advertise request for proposals
- Evaluate Proposals
- Prepare List of Approved Firms (Long List)

OWNER AGENCY

- Evaluate Long List
- Establish Short List
- Interview Short Listed Firms
- Rank Firms

ARCHITECTURAL & ENGINEERING AWARDS COMMISSION


- Schedule public meeting to consider Agency request / recommendations
- Review / Approve ranking of Firms

OWNER AGENCY / CONSULTANT

- Negotiate scope of work and cost
- Prepare documents for Board of Estimates

BOARD OF ESTIMATES

- Review and take appropriate action on Owner Agency Contract Submittal / Request

NAME & TITLE	Robert B. MacLeod, Chief	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO 26-38	
AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Boards and Commissions Room 9, Abel Wolman Municipal Building		
SUBJECT	CITY OF BALTIMORE GUIDELINES FOR CONSULTANT SELECTION PROCEDURES		

DATE: February 12, 1997

TO

The Honorable President and Members
of the Board of Estimates
Room 204, City Hall

Dear Mr. President and Members:

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE BOARD OF ESTIMATES:

The Board is requested to approve the City of Baltimore's Guidelines For Consultant Selection Procedures; The Guidelines will provide standard procedures for procuring the services of Design Consultants (Architects, Engineers and Surveyors).

AMOUNT OF MONEY AND SOURCE:

N/A

BACKGROUND/EXPLANATION:

The Charter of Baltimore City provides that "all professional services contracted for by the City shall be engaged in the manner prescribed by Resolution of the Board of Estimates". The original Resolution Relating to Architectural and Engineering Services was adopted by the Board of Estimates May 15, 1974. This Resolution outlined the membership, duties and responsibilities of the Consultants Evaluation Board, Architectural & Engineering Awards Commission and the Using Agency in procuring Architectural and Engineering Services. On June 29, 1994 the Board voted to abolish the Consultants Evaluation Board and to assign the primarily administrative duties to the Office of Boards and Commissions of Department of Public Works. The Office of Boards and Commissions has worked to improve and update procurement procedures. These guidelines provide for a standardized and formalized process to be used by all City agencies. The guidelines combine quality based selection with competitive negotiations to produce a process that is utilized and respected industry-wide.

The guidelines define in detail the various steps involved in the Consultant Selection Process including advertising the project, approval and preparation of the Long List (initial list of consultants approved by the Office of Boards & Commissions); creation of the short list for interviewing purposes, conducting the interview, ranking of the firms, the Public Meeting at the

Honorable President and Members
of the Board of Estimates
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Architectural and Engineering Awards Commission, competitive negotiations between the User Agency and the approved Consultant and consideration of the Contract Award by the Board of Estimates.

The Office of Boards and Commissions of the Department of Public Works has worked in cooperation with City, State and Federal Agencies to establish standard procedures for the procurement of Consultant Services for the City. These Guidelines have been developed with valuable assistance from the American Institute of Architects, the Consultant Engineering Council and a Task Force lead by Charles G. Graves, Director of the Department of Planning and a member of the Architectural and Engineering Awards Commission. All of the aforementioned groups support and recommend the approval of the guidelines.



Robert B. MacLeod
Executive Secretary

APPROVED BY BOARD OF ESTIMATES:

SUBJECT: to the revised copy being edited.

Bernice N. Taylor MAR 0 5 1997

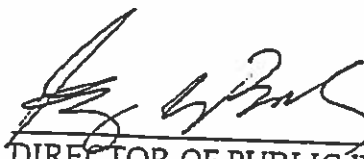
CLERK

DATE

RBM:gen

cc: Ms. Lynnette W. Young

APPROVED:



DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

CITY OF BALTIMORE
GUIDELINES FOR CONSULTANT SELECTION PROCEDURES

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF ESTIMATES ON

CITY OF BALTIMORE
GUIDELINES FOR CONSULTANT SELECTION PROCEDURES

PREAMBLE

Pursuant to the provisions contained in the Resolution Relating to Architectural & Engineering Services as approved June 29, 1994, the following rules, standards and procedures for the selection of architectural and engineering (A&E) Firms for competitive negotiations procurement are hereby adopted by the Board of Estimates.

1. APPLICABILITY

- 1.1. The guidelines specified herein apply to the selection of Consultants involving architectural and engineering services with a value of \$25,000 or more.

2. REQUEST FOR PROCUREMENT OF CONSULTANT SERVICES

- 2.1. The User Agency shall submit the written request form to the Office of Boards & Commissions (OBC) to advertise for the procurement of consultant services. The written request must include, but not be limited to, the following information:

- Name of project
- Discipline required for prime consultant
- Capital Improvement Program number
- Location of project
- Range of professional service fee in accordance with Standard Federal Form 254
- Estimated duration of contract for architectural and engineering services
- Other professional disciplines required of prime or subconsultant (list as many as may apply). i.e.,

Mechanical Engineering

Electrical Engineering

Traffic Engineering

Civil Engineering

Structural Engineering

Geo-technical Engineering

Environmental Engineering

Chemical Engineering

- Scope of work
- Selection criteria (in descending order of importance)
- MBE/WBE or DBE Goals
- Name, title and telephone number of User Agency contact person
- Agency contact person
- Budget number for project
- Source of funds for professional services:

☐ Federal ☐ Local
☐ State ☐ Other (indicate)

- Presubmittal meeting information if necessary.

2.2. The OBC will provide a standard form for these requests.

3. ADVERTISEMENT FOR SERVICES

3.1. The OBC shall, with the cooperation of the User Agency, prepare an advertisement that includes, but is not limited to, the information provided under Section 2.1. The User Agency shall be given the opportunity to review and approve the advertisement before publication.

3.2. OBC advertises for services in two newspapers with a daily circulation.

3.3. Application will be due within 30 days or less from the date of advertisement.

4. OBC REVIEW OF SUBMITTALS

4.1. The OBC receives the submittals for the advertised project.

4.2. The OBC reviews the submittals for prequalification with the City, proper MBE/WBE or DBE participation, inclusion of any required licenses or certifications, and for completeness.

4.3. The OBC produces a long list of approved and disapproved firms.

4.4. The OBC transmits the long list and copies of the approved firms' submittals to the contact person for the User Agency.

- 4.5. Within two weeks of closing date, OBC will send a letter to each firm that has provided a submittal for a project, advising whether the firm has been approved or deemed not qualified for further participation in the project.

5. USER AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1. Creation of Short List:

- 5.1.1. The Director of the User Agency shall appoint a long list review panel consisting of a minimum of three persons and select a panel chairperson for each project.
- 5.1.2. The Project Manager for the User Agency shall meet with the chairperson to assure that the selection criteria for reviewing/reducing the list of firms was consistent with the criteria identified in the advertisement for the project.
- 5.1.3. The Project Manager, chairperson, or the Director of the User Agency, shall assign a maximum amount of points to each of the selection criteria.
- 5.1.4. The members of the long list review panel shall review the submittals for each approved firm on the long list. This panel shall consist of at least three persons. Only one person from this panel shall be permitted to serve on the interview panel. Notwithstanding this limitation, a Project Manager on the long list review panel may participate as a nonvoting member of the interview panel.
- 5.1.5. The members of the long list review panel shall rate each firm on the approved long list and assign a numerical rating to each based on the selection criteria.
- 5.1.6. The chairperson shall then rank the firms on the long list according to score.
- 5.1.7. The long list review panel shall determine the number of firms to be included on the short list for interviewing purposes. The panel shall consider the following factors in making his or her decision:

- (1) Only firms deemed having a reasonable chance of being selected should be interviewed.
- (2) In an instance in which services of one firm are sought, a short list consisting of the five (5) top ranked firms is appropriate. In an instance in which services of two firms are sought, a short list consisting of the top six or seven firms is appropriate.
- (3) It is preferred that all interviews be accomplished in a single day.
- (4) In an instance where fewer than five firms applied and/or were approved by OBC for the long list, it is within the User Agency's discretion to proceed with the consultant selection process or request that the project be readvertised.

5.2. Selection of Interview Panel Members:

- (1) A chairperson and four other panel members shall be selected by the Director of the User Agency.
- (2) No more than two persons from any City Agency may be utilized on a single interview panel.
- (3) Only one representative of the User Agency who has served on the long list review panel can serve on the interview panel. However, if the Project Manager served on the long list review panel and is not chosen for the interview panel, he shall be allowed to participate as an extra non-voting member of the interview panel.
- (4) A majority of panel members shall have professional qualifications for participating on specific projects.
- (5) OBC may elect to establish and maintain a pool of qualified interview panelists.

5.3. Preparation for Interviews:

- (1) The chairperson shall brief each panel member as to the nature of the project and the professional services sought.

- (2) If possible, the chairperson should provide each panelist with the submittals, scoring sheets and other necessary information in advance of the interview.
- (3) User agency shall schedule interviews and notify all applicants of their status within 30 days of receipt of the long list. If there is a delay in the project, user agencies shall notify each applicant of such delay.
- (4) The chairperson shall notify each firm on the short list of the User Agency's intent to interview the firm. Such notice shall include the following information:

A blank copy of the scoring sheet to be utilized during the interviewing process including a clarification as to the number of points assigned to each selection criteria. The total of the points in raw score should equal 100.

A list of actual or proposed dates for the interviews.

The time limit for that particular interview.

The chairperson shall also notify, in writing, each firm that does not make the short list.

5.4. The Interview:

- (1) The duration and format of interviews are largely a matter of the chairperson's discretion. It is customary, though not essential, that the chairperson introduce the panel to each firm, allow the firm to present, and then allow panel members to ask questions.
- (2) At the close of each interview, each panel member shall provide to the chairperson a sheet, clearly signed, that provides the selection criteria scores for each firm.
- (3) In the presence of the entire panel, the chairperson shall fill in the composite scoring sheet, and convert raw scores into rankings. Then the chairperson shall tally by ranking.

(4) All panel members shall sign at the bottom of the composite sheet. The chairperson shall then make a copy for each panel member.

(5) The chairperson shall forward the results of the interviews to the Director of the User Agency for approval.

5.5. Agency Recommendations:

The Director of the User Agency may accept or recommend not to accept the results as presented. If the Director of the User Agency recommends not to accept the results as presented, such recommendation shall be made to the Architectural & Engineering Awards Commission for consideration in public session.

If the Director of the User Agency accepts the results as presented, the Director will submit a request for award of the project to the Architectural & Engineering Awards Commission (AEAC). The following information/forms should be included in the package to the Executive Secretary of AEAC:

- Cover memorandum requesting that the award be scheduled for the next public meeting of the AEAC
- A/E Request for Award Form
- Copies of the composite and individual scoring sheets for the project
- Short description of the project
- List of firms appearing on the Request for Award form including name of firm, address, contact person and telephone number for contact person
- OBC's long list of firms transmitted to User Agency
- OBC's advertisement for the project

6. ARCHITECTURAL & ENGINEERING AWARDS COMMISSION

6.1. The Executive Secretary of the AEAC or his designee receives and date stamps the request for award package.

6.2. The Executive Secretary reviews the package for completeness.

6.3. A public meeting of the AEAC is scheduled to hear the award of project(s).

- 6.4. AEAC places a notice in the appropriate newspapers including the time, date and place of the meeting and the agenda for the meeting with projects (numbers and description) listed in order scheduled for presentation.
- 6.5. AEAC notifies the User Agency(s) and all firms appearing on the Request for Award form(s) for scheduled projects of the Meeting.
- 6.6. AEAC meeting is held.
 - (1) User Agency designee makes a presentation detailing the selection process for the project.
 - (2) AEAC members ask any appropriate questions and make comments as necessary.
 - (3) Public questions and comments are permitted.
 - (4) AEAC advises User Agency in writing of its decision as to its approval or disapproval of the list as submitted and any revisions thereto.
 - (5) Providing the list is acceptable, AEAC advises the User Agency to begin competitive negotiations with the top ranked firm.
 - (6) AEAC advises top ranked firm, in writing, to contact the User Agency to begin competitive negotiations.

7. WAIVERS AND VARIANCES

- 7.1. Waivers from specific guidelines and/or variances may be granted by the Board of Estimates or when appropriate, the Architectural and Engineering Awards Commission, upon the receipt of a written request from the User Agency stating the reason(s) the waiver and/or variance is required.

8. USER AGENCY/CONSULTANT COMPETITIVE NEGOTIATIONS

- 8.1. The User Agency shall initiate negotiations with the selected consultant or top ranked firm. The meeting, to include a representative from the Department of Audits, will be held to discuss the following:

- (1) Project requirements/considerations, goals, etc.
- (2) Identification of the project coordinator contact person for the City.
- (3) Administrative requirements
- (4) Detailed scope of work, project schedule, construction schedule/requirements.
- (5) Project completion/deadline
- (6) Completed or current studies
- (7) Cost factors to be utilized include overhead and fee
- (8) Project budget (including design, construction, inspection and related costs)
- (9) Establishment of a deadline for submission of preliminary proposal

8.2. Upon receiving the consultant's preliminary proposal, the User Agency and the representative of the Department of Audits:

- (1) Review scope of work and task breakdown
- (2) Review MBE/WBE or DBE requirements
- (3) Review consultant's team including rates of pay and escalation
- (4) Discuss professional services agreement format
- (5) Negotiate man-hours and fees
- (6) Review complete fee summary
- (7) Review financial support data

8.3. Upon receiving the consultant's preliminary draft agreement, the User Agency shall:

- (1) Review agreement format, project scope, task breakdown, schedule and 5700 form
- (2) Verify requirements of prime and subconsultants
- (3) Submit advance copy of draft agreement to the Department of Law and the Department of Audits

8.4. The consultant will then submit a final draft agreement. The User Agency shall:

- (1) Review the final draft agreement
- (2) Prepare Expenditure Authorization Request (EAR)
- (3) Have six original agreements executed by the consultant
- (4) Forward MBE/WBE or DBE package to the Equal Opportunity Compliance Office
- (5) Submit to the Department of Law for review and approval

8.5. The EAR and contract are submitted to the Board of Estimates for consideration.

9. BOARD OF ESTIMATES

9.1. The Board of Estimates reviews, approves, disapproves or defers the award of the contract.

10. TIME TABLE FOR SELECTION/APPROVAL PROCESS

10.1. The completion of the entire consultant selection and approval process should not exceed seven (7) months. In the event the process is not completed within the seven month period, the User Agency must provide a written statement to the Architectural and Engineering Awards Commission advising as to the reason the process could not be completed within the allotted time period.

10.2. If the Board of Estimates approves the award of the contract, the Notice to Proceed is then issued to the consultant.