

SUBJECT: University of Washington Inquiry of Interest for Design Services – Welcome Center

The University of Washington is soliciting letters of interest from leading design firms exemplary in the field of design innovation interested in providing professional services in consideration of our upcoming Welcome Center project.

The University of Washington (UW) is one of the nation's most distinguished educational and research institutions. Together, the University's three campuses in Seattle, Tacoma, and Bothell anchor the Puget Sound region and are firmly established as the pinnacle of the higher education system in Washington State.

The campuses' physical environments are an undeniable source of pride based on the uniqueness and drama of each setting and the quiet power of their architecture, landscape, and history.

The University has a long-standing commitment to design excellence, having established the University of Washington Architectural Commission (UWAC) in 1957 and the University Landscape Advisory Committee (ULAC) in 1970. These advisory groups are comprised of renowned architects and landscape architects and play a critical role in preserving and enhancing the unique character of the University's buildings and outdoor spaces to attain high quality campus environments through the selection of architects and oversight of project designs.

We believe projects are most successfully delivered through a highly integrated and collaborative effort between the owner, designers, and trade partners. To foster collaboration, we have implemented a design-build contract based on Integrated Project Delivery principles such as shared risk and reward, incentives, and target value design. It is important that all interested design firms are familiar with the contractual relationships and working parameters of this integrated model.

To help educate members of the design community that are interested in pursuing this project, the University would encourage firms to have representative(s) attend an online presentation, "Design-Build Informational Seminar for Architects". The meeting will be held 11 AM – 1 PM, March 28, 2025. A meeting link will be posted on the UW Facility's solicitations website.

In our current design-build project delivery model and consistent with Washington State Statute, the University stakeholders first select a builder, then collaborate with the selected builder and the Architectural Commission to develop a short list of design firms based on the qualities they are looking for in a design partner and project-specific experience. It's important to note that previous experience with the selected builder is not a criterion in developing the short list of design firms. This list will be further refined before firms are interviewed by the Architectural Commission and project stakeholders for selection.

The project for which we are currently seeking interest from architectural firms is the Welcome Center. The project has a target construction cost of \$45,000,000 (excluding

sales tax). The proposed Welcome Center will be a vibrant, inspiring place housing a variety of uses, including the UW Visitors Center, the starting point for campus tours and prospective student programming; the alumni center and UW Alumni Association (UWAA) programming; community and neighborhood programming; event, conference, and lecture space; University branded retail sales; and social space for casual gatherings - all in addition to supporting an improved prospective student and visitor experience. The proposed 30,000-33,000 GSF facility will be located at the northwest corner of our historic campus core, adjacent to the existing Burke Museum, along NE 45th Street between Memorial Way and 15th Ave NE.

Please submit a one-page letter to the address below by March 26, 2025 at 5:00pm if you are interested in being our design partner on this project.

Address letters to:

Josh Distler
University of Washington Tower
4333 Brookly Ave NE
Box 359451
Seattle, WA 98195-

Or, via email at jdistler@uw.edu.

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