

DATE: December 15, 2010

SUBJECT: HUB/Robeson Center Addition and Renovation,
University Park

TO: Architectural Firms

The Hetzel Union Building (HUB) is the center of student activity at the University Park Campus. Since undergoing a major addition and renovation in 1998, in which the Robeson Cultural Center was incorporated to the facility, its level of use and volume of traffic have continued to increase making it necessary to once again consider an expansion of this facility. In 2005 the University hired WTW of Pittsburgh to do a feasibility study to help us address the new programmatic needs of the facility. In addition, WTW was recently hired to design a modest interior modification to the existing bookstore with a completion date of July, 2012. Based on the results of the feasibility study, we are now ready to proceed with design of this project.

The goals of the project include:

- Expansion and enhancement of a variety of student related activity and service spaces such as banking, ID office, radio / TV stations, student clubs / storefronts, computer & learning lab, PSU computer sales center, and leisure/recreation areas.
- Providing additional informal gathering and eating areas.
- Providing additional multi-purpose rooms for meetings and activities.
- Enhancing the visual character of the eastern side of the building and HUB lawn edge.
- Improving pedestrian circulation and accessibility through and around the facility.

The project will enclose an existing exterior courtyard creating an informal social space that we have identified as a "Winter Garden"; it will also include two additions to house the required program. We estimate that the total project area will be 27,600 GSF and we have allocated a total project budget of \$25,300,000 including soft costs and FF&E. We intend to begin design immediately and take occupancy by January 2014.

We anticipate some revisions to the program elements proposed in the 2005 feasibility study; therefore, the first step in the design process will be validation of that program. In addition, we may include schematic design of a connector to the adjacent White Building as part of the project.

If your firm is interested in pursuing this project, please submit the following:

1. A brief statement detailing your firm's unique qualifications for designing facilities of this type and scope. Include a sampling of your previous relevant experience and graphic examples representative of your architectural designs.
2. Your firm's vision of what, beyond purely functional issues, constitutes the essence of this type of facility. To indicate to the Screening Committee your understanding of the uniqueness of this project, discuss some of the issues that are important in the design of a project of this type.

Please submit to my office eight hard copies of your response by noon on January 13, 2011 and please limit your submission to five, single sided pages. If you have any questions regarding this request please contact me or Chad Spackman, the Project Manager at 814-865-9454. Please be aware that the University will be closed from December 22, 2010 to January 3, 2011.

The University will use a qualifications based selection process with long list, short list and interviews. The Screening Committee will select a long list of approximately ten firms from the respondents to this letter. A Request for Proposals (RFP) will be posted to this website by January 25, 2011. The RFPs will be due in my office at noon on February 22, 2011. Three firms will be chosen from the RFP respondents and interviewed during the week of March 14, 2011. The results will be announced at the Board of Trustees meeting on March 18, 2011 and posted to this website.

Sincerely,

David Zehngut
University Architect
(814) 863-3158, fax (814) 863-7757
E-mail: dxz3@psu.edu

cc: Screening Committee
A. G. Horvath