



DATE: March 18, 2019

SUBJECT: **Request for Letters of Interest (R/LOI) - Architect/ Engineer (A/E) Team Selection**  
**College of Liberal Arts – New Research and Teaching Building**  
University Park, PA

TO: Architectural Firms

The Pennsylvania State University (PSU) is excited to begin the Architecture/Engineering (A/E) Team selection process for an upcoming Capital Plan project in support of the College of Liberal Arts. The project is tentatively referred to as the New Liberal Arts Research and Teaching Building (LARTB). PSU is utilizing our standard qualification-based A/E Team selection process for this project.

PSU's College of Liberal Arts is one of the premier Liberal Arts institutions in the world and contains numerous top ten nationally ranked programs, including number one ranked Anthropology. With the assistance of this project, the College will continue to be recognized as a leader in education and research. More information regarding the College of Liberal Arts can be found at [www.la.psu.edu](http://www.la.psu.edu).

#### PROJECT OVERVIEW

**The new LARTB is planned as a new freestanding facility with an anticipated Total Project Cost of \$92M.**

The project funding was identified in PSU's 2018-2023 Five Year Capital Plan. The building will be approximately 110,000 Gross Square Feet and will contain classrooms, research and instructional laboratories, museum space, Faculty and Graduate student offices, and Administrative support areas. Several Liberal Arts Departments will be relocated from their current locations into the new building. The project will consider a program/scope growth of up to 134,000 gross square feet with a potential budget increase of up to \$112M. The new building will be located on a prominent "campus edge" site, located between the Donald H. Ford Building and Mateer Building, along W. Park Ave.

#### PROJECT PROGRAM AND GOALS

A detailed Building Programming Document (including project goals/narratives, tabular programs, room data sheets, and utility scoping information) was completed in March 2015 for this project and includes the following goals for the new building:

- Centralize and inspire closer connections between several related Liberal Arts Departments - Anthropology (currently located in Carpenter Building) plus Sociology, Criminology, and the Population Research Institute (all currently located in Oswald Tower Building)
- Provide flexible, state of the art instructional and research laboratories to support applied learning and cutting edge research
- Provide a facility to strengthen the College's educational programs and to efficiently address spatial deficiencies, both in quality and quantity of space. PSU is seeking architecture and programming consultants that can drive our formation of optimal grossing factors and teams that innovate efficiencies in the planning and design of similar facilities.
- Improve the ability to exhibit research to a broader audience via an expanded and more visual role in the Anthropology Museum

- In keeping with PSU's commitment to environmental sustainability, the new facility will be a high-performance building and will, at a minimum, attain LEED Certification
- Replace the function of, and demolish the existing Oswald Tower Building due to its inefficient layout and extensive deferred maintenance backlog

The selected A/E Team will begin the project with a completion of the program, which will include validation of the previously-created program and programming/evaluation of the potential added programs and/or spaces. After the programming phase, the project will follow the standard design phases – SD, DD, CD and CA Phases in accordance with Penn State's standard 1-P agreement. PSU will share the building program at the Request for Proposal (RFP) stage.

#### PROJECT SCHEDULE AND DELIVERY METHOD

PSU anticipates executing the Architect-Engineer contract shortly after confirmation at the **July 2019 Board of Trustees meeting**. Construction is anticipated to begin in **March 2021**, with planned occupancy of the new building between **May – December 2023** (contingent upon the final site selected for the new building).

The successful A/E Team will work in conjunction with PSU's selected third-party Construction Manager throughout the design and construction phases. There is the potential for the project to include PA Department of General Services (DGS) funding, therefore the project construction may be delivered with multiple prime contracting. If DGS funding is utilized on the project, PSU will still manage the design/construction process in a manner similar to non-DGS funded PSU projects.

#### ARCHITECT/ENGINEER (A/E) TEAM SELECTION PROCESS AND SCHEDULE

**The University will use a qualifications-based A/E team selection process with long-list, short-list and interviews, with the process as follows:**

- Letters of Interest due from interested lead firms by **Noon, Eastern Standard Time (EST) April 9, 2019**.
- The Screening Committee will review the respondents to this Request for Letters of Interest and determine a Long-list of firms.
- The Long-listed firms will be invited to respond to a Request for Proposal, both of which will be posted to this website by the end-of-day on **April 25, 2019**.
- Proposal responses from the Long-listed teams are due in my office at **Noon EST on May 16, 2019**.
- Three short-listed firms will be chosen from the RFP respondents. The short-list results and interview notice will be posted to this website by the end-of-day on **May 31, 2019**.
- In-person interviews will occur on **June 26, 2019** at **The Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center in State College, PA**. This date will not change, so please plan accordingly.
- The results of the A/E Team selection process will be announced at the Board of Trustees meeting on **July 19, 2019** and posted to this website.

PSU encourages you to visit the site during this selection process. Guided campus/ site tours are not provided at this step in the selection process. We will arrange for scheduled visits with the long-listed teams.

Participation in this A/E Team selection process is voluntary and at no cost or obligation to the Pennsylvania State University (PSU). The University reserves the right to waive any informality, in any or all submissions, and to reject any submission or portion thereof.

## LETTER OF INTEREST SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

**If your firm/team is interested in pursuing this project, please submit a Letter of Interest that, at the least, includes the following:**

1. A brief statement detailing your firm's profile (firm size, characteristics, unique qualifications, etc.). There is no requirement to identify the full A/E team at this stage, but firms that wish to include an architectural partner should describe their anticipated role on the project.
2. Outline your firm's experience in the planning/design/execution of facilities of a similar program (research and teaching laboratories, classrooms, museums), scope, size, complexity and campus prominence. Convey your firm's experience planning and delivering buildings with similar programs.
3. 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 key issues that are important in the design of a project of this type.
4. Within your Letter of Interest, include a sampling of your previous relevant experience and illustrative examples representative of your architectural designs.

**\* As applicable throughout your Letter of Interest, provide professional credit to architectural partners (including design architect, architect of record, and academic / lab planning partners) for all projects discussed within the proposal and for all project images shown.**

Please submit to my office **eleven (11) hard copies of your interest by Noon, Eastern Standard Time (EST) on April 9, 2019.** Please limit your submission to five (5) total, single sided, 8-1/2 x 11 pages. If a cover letter is included, it must be within the five (5) pages. Send a PDF of the submission electronically to [gak21@psu.edu](mailto:gak21@psu.edu) and [cws4@psu.edu](mailto:cws4@psu.edu) by the submission deadline. Include the name and email address of your team's main contact for the A/E selection process within your submission.

Please contact myself or Facility Project Manager Chad Spackman ([cws4@psu.edu](mailto:cws4@psu.edu) or 814-865-9454), with any questions.

Kindest Regards,

Greg Kufner, AIA, NCARB



University Architect  
The Pennsylvania State University  
Direct: (814) 865-8177 | Mobile: (614) 512-2287  
Email: [gak21@psu.edu](mailto:gak21@psu.edu)

**Shipping Address (Note that this address has changed):**

**The Pennsylvania State University  
One Benedict House  
University Park, PA 16802**

CC: LARTB Screening Committee