

THE FINANCE AUTHORITY OF NEW ORLEANS (“FNO”)
Request for Qualifications (RFQ)
Architectural Design and Consulting Services
RFQ: 004-06-2024
June 24, 2024
Submittals due by: 3:00 pm (CST) on July 15, 2024

Request for Qualifications: The Finance Authority of New Orleans (“Finance New Orleans” or “FNO”), a public trust created by the City Council of New Orleans under the provisions of the Louisiana Public Trust Code, is seeking to obtain Architectural Design Services as detailed in Attachment “A” hereto. As provided below, and incident to FNO’s Procurement Policies and Procedures, it requests proposals from experienced firms to provide the needed services.

Instructions: Respondents shall submit the following to Finance New Orleans, via email at procurement@financeauthority.org, not later than **July 15, 2024, 3:00 PM (CST)**. **Hard copies or other electronic forms of submissions will not be accepted.**

- a. Offeror shall provide a digitally signed proposal as a PDF file, marked with the Specific Services provided;
- b. Offeror shall also provide (as a PDF file) a signed cover letter including the company’s name, address and primary contact for the qualification proposal. The primary contact information shall include submitter’s name, telephone, and email address.

Proposals should clearly demonstrate the applicant’s qualifications to perform the needed services and attend all factors applicable in a professional relationship. Proposals should include detailed resumes or curricula vitae for the principals performing the services. Copies of the solicitation and related information are available from FNO’s website at <http://www.financeauthority.org>.

FNO will not accept proposals submitted by fax. All proposals **must be received** by FNO on or before the Delivery Deadline. FNO will not accept proposals delivered after the deadline. FNO will not credit delivery claims not clearly documented by original receipt.

Anticipated Proposal Timetable

RFQ Release	June 24, 2024
Questions/Clarifications Due	July 1, 2024
Responses to Questions/Clarifications Posted	July 5, 2024
Proposal Submission Due	July 15, 2024
Selection Committee Meeting	July 30, 2024
Award Notification	August 20, 2024

If FNO identifies a likely service provider, it may negotiate a final agreement with the provider and fix the relationship by Professional Services contract. The contract will contain the standard FNO provisions shown in Attachment "B".

- END OF SECTION -

Proposals MUST contain the following statement signed by the applicant or its authorized representative, **“By responding to this RFQ, respondent agrees to FNO’s Required Contract Provisions as provided in Attachment “B” and therefore waives any future right to contest the required provisions.”**

1. **Scope of Services:** Attachment “A” describes the needed services.
2. **Submission Information:** Responses must be submitted in accordance with Attachment “B” of this RFQ.
3. **Evaluation and Selection:** FNO will select the successful respondent(s) according to the procedures described in Attachment “C”.
4. **Contracting:** FNO reserves the right to select multiple Contractors to perform any and/or all of the services requested herein. If FNO identifies a likely service provider(s), it may negotiate a final agreement with the provider(s) and fix the relationship by Professional Services contract. This contract will stipulate the terms and conditions of the services to be provided and will contain the standard FNO provisions shown in Attachment” D”.
5. **Ownership:** All responses and all documentation submitted therewith are FNO property for all purposes. Applicants will clearly mark documents or information claimed exempt from public records disclosure and specifically justify the exemption.

FNO will not credit any blanket exemption claims lacking specific justification. FNO does not guarantee the confidentiality of submissions.

6. **Public Access to Information/Confidentiality:** All information submitted in response to a solicitation issued by FNO shall remain confidential until after final approval and award is made.

Furthermore, The Finance Authority of New Orleans shall not disclose information submitted to FNO in confidence in response to a solicitation, and not otherwise required by law to be submitted, where such information should reasonably be considered confidential.

7. **Effect:** This Request for Qualifications and any related discussions or evaluations by anyone create no rights or obligations whatsoever. FNO may cancel or modify this solicitation at any time at will, with or without notice. Anything to the contrary notwithstanding, the Professional Services contract executed by FNO and the selected respondent, if any, is the exclusive statement of rights and obligations extending from this solicitation.
8. **Additional Requirements:** FNO reserves the right to amend the instructions, requirements, general and special conditions, scope of work, and specifications of this RFQ. In the event it becomes necessary to revise any part of the RFQ, addenda will be provided to all potential respondents who receive the RFQ.

9. Proprietary Information: Only information which is in the nature of legitimate trade secrets or non-published financial data may be deemed propriety or confidential. Any material within a proposal identified as such must be clearly marked as CONFIDENTIAL in the proposal and will be handled in accordance with the Louisiana Public Records Act, R.S. 44: 1-44 and applicable rules and regulations. Any proposal marked as confidential in its entirety may be rejected without further consideration or recourse.

10. Cost of Preparing Responses: FNO shall not be liable for any costs incurred by respondents prior to entering into a contract. Costs associated with developing the proposal, preparing for oral presentations, and any other expenses incurred by the respondent in responding to this RFQ are entirely the responsibility of the respondent and shall not be reimbursed in any manner by FNO.

11. Errors and Omissions in Proposal: FNO shall not be liable for any errors in responses. FNO, at its option, has the right to request clarification or additional information from the respondents.

12. Licensure: Where applicable, respondents must maintain licenses and permits to perform the contracted work in the State of Louisiana.

13. Compliance with All Applicable Laws: Any work completed pursuant to a response to this RFQ shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws and jurisprudence of the State of Louisiana. At the time of respondent's submission of its RFQ response and at all times during the performance of any work pursuant to this RFQ, the respondent shall be in compliance with all applicable laws of the State of Louisiana, the United States and local ordinances, including licensure requirements.

14. Insurance: The selected respondent(s) will be required to provide:

I. Requirements

(a) The Contractor shall purchase in its name and maintain at its sole cost and expense, insurance as set out below. This insurance will provide primary coverage for claims and/or suits which may arise out of or result from the Contractor's performance and/or furnishing of the services, whether performed and /or furnished by the Contractor, any sub-contractor, partner, supplier, or by anyone directly or indirectly employed by any of them to perform or furnish any of the work, goods, products or services, or by anyone for whose acts any of them may be liable. Any insurance carried by FNO shall be excess and not contributing insurance. The limits may be met by purchasing an umbrella or excess policy meeting both requirements.

(b) The total limit of insurance must be equal to or greater than the minimum acceptable not less than limits indicated below. If any policies contain a deductible or self-insurance retention, then the evidence of insurance for those policies shall disclose the deductible/ retention amount. Additionally, each line of insurance may have its own

set of requirements that must be met. **“CLAIMS MADE” POLICIES OF INSURANCE ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE** for general liability but are acceptable for professional liability policies.

- (c) The Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer and The Finance Authority of New Orleans (FNO) are hereby named as an Additional Insured.
- (d) If the Contractor’s liability insurance program does not contain the standard ISO separation of insureds provision, or a substantially similar clause, then they shall be endorsed to provide Cross Liability coverage.
- (e) The Contractor shall endorse their policies (as applicable) to provide Waiver of Subrogation Endorsement to include written contracts in favor of FNO, its elected and appointed Officials, Board, Committees, agents, directors, servants, employees and volunteers.

II. Types and Amounts

1) *General Liability:*

- (a) Commercial General Liability Form CG 00 01, or pre-approved alternative providing at least as broad coverage, insurance shall be written on an “occurrence” basis; with a minimal acceptable limit of not less than \$500,000 per occurrence; \$1,000,000 aggregate;
- (b) The insurance shall cover liability arising from independent contractors and liability assumed under an insured contract.

Note: *The General Liability policy shall not exclude any standardized coverage included in the required basic form or limit Contractual Coverages for the services in any way that would prohibit or limit the reporting of any claim or suit and the subsequent defense and indemnity there for which would normally be provided by the policy.*

III. General Specifications:

- (a) Contractor’s Liability Insurance: If applicable, the Contractor shall require all sub-contractors to maintain, in limits equal to or greater than the Contractor’s, the same insurance coverage for Work performed or materials provided for the Work. The Contractor shall insert this requirement in all contracts or agreements, whether written and/or oral, with all entities and/or persons who perform any Work under this contract. At no time shall the Contractor allow any sub-contractors to perform Work without the required types and limits of insurance coverage. In the event of a sub-contractor’s non-compliance with this requirement, the Contractor shall be responsible for any damages or liabilities arising from the sub-contractor’s work, actions, or inactions.
- (b) General Requirements:
 - (i) Qualifications of Insurers:
 - 1. All insurance required for the Contract is to be purchased and maintained by the Contractor from insurance companies that are duly licensed and

authorized by the State of Louisiana to issue insurance policies for the limits and coverages so required. Such insurance companies utilized are to have a minimum rating of A- VI (or the current requirements of the State of Louisiana Public Bid Law (RS: 38:2211-2296) as of the most current edition of A.M. Best's Key Rating Guide.

2. If any insurance company providing any insurance coverage furnished by the Contractor is declared bankrupt, becomes insolvent, loses its right to do business in Louisiana, or ceases to meet the requirements of this Document, the Contractor shall, within thirty (30) days thereafter, substitute another insurance company acceptable to FNO. FNO reserves the right to mandate cessation of all Work until the receipt of acceptable replacement insurance.
- (c) Partnerships: If the Contractor is a partnership then the evidence of all primary and excess liability insurance required to be maintained during the term hereunder shall be furnished in the name of the partnership. Evidence of continuing primary commercial general liability insurance, which shall remain in effect in the name of the partnership shall also be furnished.
 - (d) Certificates of Insurance: The Contractor shall furnish to FNO Certificates of Insurance effecting coverages required in this Contract. The certificates for each insurance policy are to be signed by a person authorized by that insurer to bind coverage on its behalf. The certificates are to be on forms that are to be received and approved by FNO. FNO reserves the right to obtain complete, certified copies of all required insurance policies, at any time.
 - (e) Objection by FNO: If FNO has any objection to the coverage afforded by, or any other provisions of, the insurance required to be purchased and maintained by the Contractor in accordance with the insurance requirements for the Work on the basis of non-conformance with the Contract, FNO shall notify the Contractor in writing after receipt of the Certificates. The Contractor shall provide a written response to FNO's objections within ten (10) days from the date of the letter request.
 - (f) The Contractor's Failure: Upon failure of the Contractor or his subcontractor to purchase, furnish, deliver or maintain such insurance as required herein, at the election of FNO, the Contract, may be forthwith declared suspended, discontinued, or terminated. Failure of the Contractor to purchase and maintain insurance shall not relieve the Contractor from any liability under the Contract, nor shall the insurance requirements affect the obligations of the Contractor concerning indemnification.
 - (g) No Waiver of Liability: Acceptance of evidence of the insurance requirements by FNO in no way relieves or decreases the liability of the Contractor for the performance of the Work under the Contract. Additionally, the Contractor is responsible for any losses, expenses, damages, claims and/or suits and costs of any kind which exceed the Contractor's limits of liability or which may be outside the coverage scope of the Contractor's insurance policies. The insurance requirements outlined in this Document shall in no way be construed to limit or eliminate the liability of the Contractor that may arise from the performance of Work under the Contract.
 - (h) The Contractor's coverage is to be primary for any and all claims and/or suits related to or arising from the Work and any insurance coverage maintained by FNO is to be

deemed as excess of the Contractor's insurance coverage and shall not contribute with or to it in any way.

- (i) No Recourse Against FNO: The insurance companies issuing the policies shall have no recourse against FNO for payment of any premiums, deductibles, retentions or for assessments under any form of policy. These shall be borne by and be the sole responsibility of the Contractor.
- (j) FNO's Liability Insurance: In addition to the insurance required to be provided by The Contractor above, FNO, at its option, may purchase and maintain at FNO's expense its own liability insurance as will protect FNO against claims which may arise from operations under the Contract.

Point of Contact: All correspondence and other communications regarding this procurement should be directed to the attention of: The Finance Authority of New Orleans, Attention: Procurement Team, 201 St. Charles Ave, Suite 4444., New Orleans, Louisiana 70170. Substantive questions must be submitted by proposers in writing via email only to the Procurement Team at procurement@financeauthority.org no later than (7) days before submittal deadline. Any request received after that time may not be reviewed for inclusion in this Solicitation. The request shall contain the requester's name, address, and telephone number.

FNO will issue a response to any inquiry if it deems it necessary, by written addendum to the Solicitation, posted on FNO's website, and issued prior to the Solicitation Due Date & Time. The Proposer shall not rely on any representation, statement or explanation other than those made in this Solicitation document or in any addendums issued. Where there appears to be a conflict between this Solicitation and any addendum issued, the last addendum issued will prevail.

From the time of advertising, and until the final award, there is a prohibition on communication by Proposers (or anyone on their behalf) with FNO's staff and Board of Trustees. This does not apply to contract negotiations, or communications in writing at any time with any FNO employee regarding matters not concerning this Solicitation.

Breaking the established prohibition on communication may result in the disqualification of your proposal.

- END OF SECTION -

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Attachment “A”

SCOPE OF SERVICES

About Finance New Orleans

Finance New Orleans is a quasi-governmental financial institution with a mission to improve the quality of life in the City of New Orleans by investing in affordable housing, economic development, and climate resilience projects that produce quality jobs and wealth for residents. The City Council of New Orleans created Finance New Orleans in 1978 under the Louisiana Public Trust Code (La. Revised Statutes 9:2341-47). FNO was initially called the New Orleans Home Mortgage Authority but changed its brand in 1999. Finance New Orleans was recently adopted as a brand name in 2020 to reflect its future direction. Finance New Orleans is not a department or division of the City of New Orleans, but the City Council of New Orleans appoints its seven-member Board of Trustees. Since 1978, Finance New Orleans has financed more than \$630 million worth of mortgages and down payment grants for more than 7,800 first-time homebuyers and low to moderate-income families throughout Orleans Parish. Of considerable importance to FNO is to achieve leverage of private capital with its limited public resources as we seek to act in furtherance of the City of New Orleans’ ambitious environmental goals set forth in its Climate Resilience Plan. We are targeting a \$1 billion community investment by 2037 in the form of public financing that will physically transform housing and infrastructure in New Orleans. For more information about FNO, please visit www.financenola.org.

Purpose:

Finance New Orleans (FNO), also known as The Finance Authority of New Orleans, is issuing this RFQ to solicit proposals for Architectural Design and Consulting Services for the implementation of its Elemental and FNO Innovation Challenge. FNO aims to develop a template for 1-3 single-family residential houses utilizing technology from the selected winners of the Elemental and FNO Innovation Challenge. The objective is to engage professional architects and consultants to assist with programming, interior and exterior building design, mechanical and electrical systems, and necessary site improvements.

The resilient new construction designs will serve as replicable models for well-built, innovative, resilient, and affordable housing in New Orleans and beyond. This project represents an innovation challenge, leveraging open innovation principles to address specific sustainability-related challenges faced by our organization. We seek relevant technologies and approaches from external solution providers to achieve our objectives.

PROGRAMMING PHASE:

- a. The Consultant shall create a program of spaces for building exterior and interior, including basic information such as sizes, space requirements, workflows, activities, and special uses.
- b. Prepare and submit program plan of spaces and adjacencies layouts for FNO review and approval.
- c. Facilitate meetings with FNO staff and consultants as needed to fully understand the developed building program, expected building systems, equipment, and materials, and ensure code-compliant designs.
- d. Provide preliminary site development sketches and a project schedule for approval by FNO.

SCHEMATIC DESIGN PHASE:

- a. Conduct site investigation - including survey, geotechnical investigation and hazardous material testing as necessary to verify existing conditions.
- b. Define and prioritize construction scope.
- c. Prepare existing condition plans and other relevant documents.
- d. Conduct design meetings.
- e. Conduct stakeholder meetings as needed.
- f. Prepare preliminary documents defining the design.
- g. Prepare preliminary documents defining the design.
- h. Attend owner meetings to coordinate and resolve value engineering, constructability, construction phasing, and scheduling issues in the preliminary design.
- i. Develop project schedule and cost model.
- j. Facilitate pre-submittal discussions with the Owner and all State, Parish, and City authorities having jurisdiction over the Project Work so that the Project schedule and budget implications are fully understood.
- k. Prepare basis of design report.

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT PHASE:

- a. Develop site and architectural design plans.
- b. Conduct design meetings.
- c. Conduct stakeholder meetings.
- d. Develop phasing concepts if required.
- e. Attend owner meetings to coordinate and resolve value engineering, constructability, construction phasing and scheduling issues in the design.
- f. Prepare preliminary specifications including complete front-end documents.

- g. Update cost estimate and schedule.
- h. Present plans to required departments/agencies for review (responsible for all State, Parish, and City permit applications and approvals)

CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENT PHASE:

- a. Prepare working drawings defining the complete scope of the project including site, architectural, and engineering work required to meet the objectives of the project.
- b. Fully develop written specifications defining the contract requirements and level of quality
- c. Conduct meetings as required to receive owner input for design issues.
- d. Attend owner meetings to coordinate and resolve value engineering concepts, constructability, construction phasing and scheduling issues in the design.
- e. Update cost estimate and schedule.
- f. Present plans to required departments/agencies for review; responsible for all State, County, and City permit applications and approvals.

BIDDING AND NEGOTIATION PHASE:

- a. Attend pre-bid and award meetings
- b. Issue addenda as required.
- c. provide document clarifications to bidders as required.
- d. Assist the Owner with receiving bids and bid recommendations.

CONSTRUCTION PHASE:

- a. conduct pre-construction conference.
- b. Conduct regular site observations to monitor the progress of the work. Site visits will be held weekly or bi-weekly by the architectural and engineering team at the project site or sites as ---appropriate.
- c. Attend weekly or bi-weekly construction progress meetings.
- d. Provide construction phase services including shop drawing review, certifying applications for payment, responding to requests for information, processing change orders, preparing meeting minutes, and monitoring project costs and schedules.
- e. Conduct final inspections and follow-up inspections to determine the completion of the work.
- f. Present plans to required departments/agencies for review; Responsible for all State, County, and City permit applications and approvals.

POST-CONSTRUCTION PHASE:

- a. Prepare as-built documents BASED on information from the contractor-printed and digital, in AutoCAD format or another format as the Owner requires,
- b. Coordinate contractor closeout documents.
- c. Present to required departments/agencies for review; Responsible for all State, Parish, and City permit applications and approvals.
- d. Certify final application for payment.
- e. Attend 1-year inspections with the Owner and the Contractor.

Contract Period:

This RFQ addresses the Contract Period from execution of contract through April 15, 2025 (the construction completion date).

Location of Services:

5812 Franklin Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana

6309 Franklin Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana

6442 Peoples Ave, New Orleans, Louisiana

6219 Providence Place, New Orleans, Louisiana

2655 Prentiss Ave, New Orleans, Louisiana

Environment:

The Proposer is expected to adhere to and assist in reducing harmful emissions, recycling materials, and preserving the environment through programs instituted by Finance New Orleans and their operations. In addition, the Proposer will make every effort to expand the environmental programs in their areas of responsibility.

A. Transition Plan: The Proposer must have all staff, equipment, materials, insurance coverages, and procedures in place BEFORE contract execution.

B. Start-Up Schedule: Finance New Orleans expects the Proposer to meet a specific start-up schedule. The Proposer must have the staffing and resources necessary to deliver accurate information to Finance New Orleans' Chief of Staff on or before the delivery dates and meet the activities' deadlines given below. Dates subject to adjustment to accommodate the needs of Finance New Orleans:

- I. TBD: Board Meeting where Contract will be approved August 19, 2024
- II. TBD: Design Process Starts – October 31, 2024
- III. TBD: Design Process Completed – November 4, 2024

Living Wage:

The Proposer agrees to carefully monitor and enforce salaries and benefits that permit their employees to live comfortably. Today, working people struggle to cover the cost of housing, food, health care, childcare, and other necessities for themselves and their families. A worker paid the minimum wage of \$7.25/hour, or any wage below a living wage, cannot possibly afford necessities without assistance. This creates problems for workers and businesses and the local economy. Paying a living wage increases worker morale, worker health, and quality of service. Paying a living wage also lowers absenteeism, turnover rates, and recruiting and training costs. Living wages stimulate the economy through increased consumer spending and contribute to a sustainable quality of life as well as stops the perpetuation of poverty in New Orleans.

- END OF SECTION -

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Attachment “B”

SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION

This section should serve to introduce the firm and acknowledge the scope of the proposal. It should include administrative information including, at a minimum, response date, firm contact name and telephone number. The firm should describe itself by providing its full legal name, date of establishment, license number(s), federal tax identification number, type of entity and business enterprise, short history, current ownership structure and any recent or materially significant proposed change in ownership. The firm should also include the stipulation that the proposal is valid for a time period of ninety (90) days from the date of submission.

This section **MUST** contain the following statement signed by the applicant or its authorized representative,

“By responding to this RFQ, respondent agrees to FNO’s Required Contract Provisions as provided in Attachment “D” and therefore waives any future right to contest the required provisions.”

All Respondents must submit the following:

1. The proposal should describe your or your respondent’s overall approach, plans, and qualifications, including relevant expertise and experience, for accomplishing the specific services described in **Attachment A** of this RFQ.
2. Please provide the names of the key staff (yourself and/or other staff from your firm) who would provide services to FNO, give a description of each staff member’s experience and qualifications, indicate probable areas of responsibility in providing services to FNO. While it is recognized that there could be substitutions and changes to staff assigned to FNO over time, the respondent should suggest the key staff member(s) who will lead the relationship for the firm.
3. List three references for the firm’s specializing in each area for which you are applying.
4. Describe the fee structure upon which your firm would base its charges to FNO. Please provide hourly rates for each team member for other projects that might be assigned.

Note: Proposed fees should be valid for a minimum of 90 days upon receipt

5. FNO seeks to extend subcontracting opportunities to City of New Orleans DBE Certified Disadvantage Business Enterprises (DBE's) in order to promote their economic growth. A DBE contract **goal** of thirty-five percent (35%) has been established for this contract. All firms should complete and submit the DBE participation form (**Attachment G**) and address the following:
 - a. The names and address of all DBE firms that will participate in the contract;
 - b. The commitment of the participation of each DBE firm participating in the contract on a basis of the percentage of the total dollar value of the contract;
 - c. Written confirmation from the named DBE(s), verifying their participation in the contract as provided in the commitments made under (a) and (b) above; and
 - d. If the contract goal is not met, evidence of best efforts.
6. **Insurance** – The proposer shall provide evidence of insurance coverage and minimum required limits by completing and submitting **Attachment E**, Certificate of Insurance Coverage, as a part of their proposal.
7. **Conflict of Interest Form** – The proposer shall disclose any direct or indirect, current or future, conflicts of interest between themselves and FNO and their respective employees in the attached Conflict of Interest Disclosure Affidavit (**Attachment F**). If questions arise about potential conflicts of interests, please contact FNO prior to submitting proposal.
8. **Questions** - Provide a detailed response (approximately 1 page) and include additional documentation or forms if desired for each short answer question below. The Proposer must answer each and every question below:
 1. **Communication Plan:** Given the urgency of this project, does Proposer have the capacity to complete this project timely. Provide a timeline of completion.
 2. **Feedback System:** The Proposer will enact a rigorous feedback system so that Finance New Orleans is abreast of progress and obstacles during the project.
 3. **Inclement Weather Plan:** In a severe weather event, what is Proposer's plan to mitigate current work, maintain materials and continue the project to completion.

-END OF SECTION-

THE FINANCE AUTHORITY OF NEW ORLEANS (“FNO”)
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Attachment “C”

EVALUATION AND SELECTION

This RFQ is being issued to provide ***Architectural Design and Consulting Services***

Proposals will be evaluated based on the qualifications and experience of the individual or firm, as well as the proposed fee structure and terms of service. Shortlisted candidates may be invited for interviews or additional discussions.

FNO reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal, in whole or in part, and to negotiate with any proposer. The agency also reserves the right to cancel or modify this RFP at any time without prior notice.

The Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer of FNO will establish the Selection Committee with relevant subject-matter expertise in reviewing and evaluating responses to a solicitation.

Proposals received in response to this solicitation may be evaluated using a two-stage evaluation process. Stage I of the evaluation process will be used to determine the respondents to be included in the competitive range (pass/fail basis), from which final selection for contract award will ultimately be made. Stage II of the evaluation process will be reserved for firms included in the competitive range only and will be the basis for ultimate contract award. Scoring will be based upon how well the proposal meets the criteria established in this RFQ.

During **Stage I of the evaluation process**, proposals will be evaluated and scored by an Evaluation Committee. The committee will score each proposal. Scoring will be based on the predetermined evaluation criteria. The available points associated with each criterion are shown above. The results of the evaluation of proposals will be used to determine those proposals to be considered in the competitive range and included on the short list.

Stage II of the evaluation process may entail interviews and/or presentations with the respondents included on the short list. Respondents not included on the short list will not proceed to Stage II of the evaluation process. The purpose of the interviews is to promote the understanding of FNO’s requirements with respect to this RFQ, promote the understanding of the respondents’ proposals, and to arrive at agreeable contract terms.

FNO will award the contract(s) resulting from this solicitation to the responsible offeror whose offer,

conforming to the solicitation, will be most advantageous, technical, price and other factors specified herein considered. FNO reserves the right to make contract award without negotiations, and to make no award or decline to enter negotiations should it believe that no respondent to this RFQ will be capable of delivering the necessary level of services within an acceptable price range and/or time period. FNO further reserves the right to forego Stage II of the evaluation process and enter into negotiations based on the results of Stage I of the evaluation process. FNO may exercise its right to make contract award without negotiations or to forego Stage II of the evaluation process, where a contract award may be based on initial proposals received.

Evaluation:

A variety of weighted criteria, given below, will be considered in evaluating proposals. This evaluation will be based on information provided within the Proposal by the Proposer during RFQ-specific presentations or negotiations, client references, and industry references.

Component	Scoring Scale	Evaluation Criteria
PROPOSAL QUALITY	0-30 points	Award of a purchase order or contract is based on the best value to Finance New Orleans: quality, availability, delivery, specifications, terms, conditions, and experience for the particular purpose. When a solicitation requires an oral presentation, submission of test samples, or inspection of facilities, these factors are part of the component evaluation. The lowest bid(s) receive 0 points; the Highest bid(s) receive 30 points; all other bids receive between 29 and 1 point.
PRICE	0-20 points for A COMPLETED PRICE SHEET	The total cost may include unit price, delivery, installation, maintenance, and cost of operation as defined in the solicitation. If there is a discrepancy between a unit price and its extension, the unit price will prevail.
HEADQUARTER LOCATION	0-20 points each The applicant has provided verifiable evidence of the component described by the Evaluation Criteria	20 Points: Principal of Business and Registered Office in Orleans Parish as listed with the Louisiana Secretary of State. 10 Points: Principal of Business and Registered Office in the Greater New Orleans Area (Jefferson, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, and St. Tammany) as listed with the Louisiana Secretary of State.
DBE	0-20 points each	20 Points: Certified DBE, a certificate issued by the Department of Transportation, City of NEW ORLEANS, or other certifying agency, must be provided with the submission. 10 Points: The degree to which the Proposer's response meets or exceeds a DBE contract GOAL OF ten (10) percent has been established for this Contract.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT	0-10 points for each Applicant can successfully demonstrate the components described by the Evaluation Criteria.	The applicants' potential ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions and their past performance record is also given to the applicants' potential.
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During the review of any Submission, the Evaluation Committee may:

- conduct reference checks relevant to the Project with any or all of the references cited in a Submission to verify any and all information, and rely on or consider any relevant information from such cited references in the evaluation of Submissions;
- seek clarification of a Submission from any or all Respondents and consider such supplementary information in the evaluation of Submissions; and
- request interviews/presentations with any, some or all Respondents or Team Members to clarify any questions or considerations based on the information included in Submissions during the evaluation process and consider any supplementary information from interviews/presentations in the evaluation.

- END OF SECTION -

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Attachment “D”

CONTRACT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. **NON-DISCRIMINATION**. In the performance of this Contract, the Contractor will not discriminate on the basis, whether in fact or perception, of a person's race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, sex (gender), sexual orientation, gender identity, domestic partner status, marital status, physical or mental disability, or AIDS- or HIV-status against (1) any employee of FNO working with the Contractor in any of Contractor's operations within Orleans Parish or (2) any person seeking accommodations, advantages, facilities, privileges, services, or membership in all business, social, or other establishments or organizations operated by the Contractor. The Contractor agrees to comply with and abide by all applicable federal, state and local laws relating to non-discrimination, including, without limitation, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section V of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.
2. **EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**. In all hiring or employment made possible by, or resulting from this contract, there (1) will not be any discrimination against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, gender, age, physical or mental disability, national origin, sexual orientation, creed, culture, or ancestry, and (2) where applicable, affirmative action will be taken to ensure that the Contractor's employees are treated during employment without regard to their race, color, religion, gender, age, physical or mental disability, national origin, sexual orientation, creed, culture, or ancestry. This requirement shall apply to, but not be limited to the following: employment, upgrading, demotion or transfer, recruitment or recruitment advertising, layoff or termination, rates of pay or other forms of compensation and selection for training, including apprenticeship. All solicitations or advertisements for employees shall state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, age, physical or mental disability, national origin, sexual orientation, creed, culture, or ancestry.
3. **INDEMNIFICATION**. The Contractor shall indemnify and hold FNO harmless against any and all claims, demands, suits, judgments of sums of money to any party accruing against FNO for loss of life or injury or damage to persons or property growing out of, resulting from, or by reason of any act or omission or the operation of the Contractor, its agents, servants or employees while engaged in or about or in connection with the discharge or performance of the services to be done or performed by the Contractor hereunder and shall also hold FNO harmless from any and all claims and/or liens for labor, services, or materials furnished to the Contractor in connection with the performance of its obligations under this Contract.

4. **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF EXCLUSION OF WORKER'S COMPENSATION COVERAGE.**

Contractor herein expressly agrees and acknowledges that it is an independent contractor as defined in LA. R.S. 23:1021 (6) and as such, it is expressly agreed and understood between the parties hereto, in entering into this Contract, that The Finance Authority of New Orleans shall not be liable to the Contractor for any benefits or coverage as provided by the Workmen's Compensation Law of the State of Louisiana, and further, under the provisions of LA. R.S. 23:1034 anyone employed by the Contractor shall not be considered an employee of FNO for the purpose of Worker's Compensation coverage.

5. **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF EXCLUSION OF UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION COVERAGE.**

The Contractor herein expressly declares and acknowledges that it is an independent contractor, and, as such, is being hired by FNO under this Contract for Hire as noted and defined in LA. R.S. 23:1472(E), and, therefore, it is expressly declared and understood between the parties hereto, in entering into this Contract, or agreement for hire, and in connection with unemployment compensation only, that:

- a. The Contractor has been and will be free from any control or direction by FNO over the performance of the services covered by this contract; and
- b. Services to be performed by the Contractor are outside the normal course and scope of FNO's usual business; and
- c. The Contractor has been independently engaged in performing the services listed herein prior to the date of this agreement.

Consequently, neither the Contractor nor anyone employed by the Contractor shall be considered an employee of FNO for the purpose of unemployment compensation coverage, the same being hereby expressly waived and excluded by the parties hereto.

6. **WAIVER OF SICK AND ANNUAL LEAVE BENEFITS.** It is expressly agreed and understood between the parties entering into this services agreement that the Contractor, acting as an independent agent, shall not receive any sick and annual leave benefits from The Finance Authority of New Orleans.

7. **EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION AND VENUE.** For all claims arising out of or related to this Agreement, the Contractor hereby consents and yields to the jurisdiction of the Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans, and expressly waives any (A) pleas of jurisdiction based upon Contractor's residence and (B) right of removal to federal court based upon diversity of citizenship.

8. **CHOICE OF LAWS.** This Contract shall be construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Louisiana, without regard to its conflict of laws provisions.

9. **DURATION.** The services to be provided under the terms of this Contract shall begin upon execution of Contract and shall end no later than twelve (12) months after. It is understood and acknowledged by all signers to this Contract that work described under these terms is to be accomplished during the time period specified herein.

10. **EXTENSION.** This Contract may be extended at the option of FNO, and the extension of the Contract facilitates the continuity of services provided herein. This Contract may be

extended by FNO for two (2) additional one-year terms.

11. **TERMINATION FOR CONVENIENCE**. FNO may terminate this Contract at any time during the term of the Contract by giving the Contractor written notice of FNO's intention to terminate at least thirty (30) days before the date of termination.
12. **TERMINATION FOR NON-APPROPRIATION**. This Contract will terminate immediately in the event of non-appropriation of funds sufficient to maintain this Contract without the requirement of notice and FNO will not be liable for any amounts beyond the funds appropriated and encumbered for this Contract.
13. **TERMINATION FOR CAUSE**. FNO and the Contractor shall each have the right to terminate this Contract for cause, effective immediately upon the giving of written notice to the other party of its intent to terminate and the reasons therefore. "Cause" includes without limitation any failure to perform any obligation or abide by any condition of this Contract or the failure of any representation or warranty in this Contract.
14. **SUSPENSION**. FNO may suspend this Contract at any time and for any reason by giving two (2) business day's written notice to the Contractor. The Contractor will resume work upon five (5) business day's written notice from FNO.
15. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**. In the interest of ensuring that efforts of the Contractor do not conflict with the interests of FNO, and in recognition of the Contractor's responsibility to FNO, the Contractor agrees to decline any offer of employment if its independent work on behalf of FNO is likely to be adversely affected by the acceptance of such employment. The initial determination of such a possibility rests with the Contractor. It is incumbent upon the Contractor to notify FNO and provide full disclosure of the possible effects of such employment on the Contractor's independent work on behalf of FNO. Final decision on any disputed offers of other employment for the Contractor shall rest with FNO.
16. **NON-SOLICITATION**. The Contractor has not employed or retained any company or person, other than a bona fide employee working solely for him, to solicit or secure the subject Contract. The Contractor has not paid or agreed to pay any person, other than a bona fide employee working for him, any fee, commission, percentage, gift, or any other consideration contingent upon or resulting from the subject Contract.
17. **AUDIT AND INSPECTION**. The Contractor will submit to any FNO audit, inspection, and review and, at FNO's request, will make available all documents relating or pertaining to this Contract maintained by or under the control of the Contractor, its employees, agents, assigns, successors, and subcontractors, during normal business hours at the Contractor's office or place of business in Louisiana. If no such location is available, the Contractor will make the documents available at a time and location that is convenient for FNO.
18. **OWNERSHIP INTEREST DISCLOSURE**. The Contractor will provide a sworn affidavit listing all natural or artificial persons with an ownership interest in the Contractor and stating that no other person holds an ownership interest in the Contractor via a counter letter. For the purposes of this provision, an "ownership interest" shall not be deemed to include ownership of stock in a publicly traded corporation or ownership of an interest in a mutual fund or trust that holds an interest in a publicly traded corporation. If the Contractor fails to submit the required

affidavits, FNO may, after thirty (30) days' written notice to the Contractor, take such action as may be necessary to cause the suspension of any further payments until such the required affidavits are submitted.

19. **PROHIBITION AGAINST FINANCIAL INTEREST IN AGREEMENT.** No elected official or employee of FNO shall have a financial interest, direct or indirect, in the Contract, including through any financial interest held by the spouse, child, or parent. Any willful violation of this provision, with the expressed or implied knowledge of the Contractor, will render this Contract voidable by FNO and shall entitle FNO to recover, in addition to any other rights and remedies available to FNO, all monies paid by FNO to the Contractor pursuant to this Contract without regard to the Contractor's satisfactory performance.
20. **PROHIBITION ON POLITICAL ACTIVITY.** None of the funds, materials, property, or services provided directly or indirectly under the terms of this Contract shall be used in the performance of this Contract for any partisan political activity, or to further the election or defeat of any candidate for public office.
21. **SUBCONTRACTOR REPORTING.** The Contractor will provide a list of all natural or artificial persons who are retained by the Contractor at the time of the Contract's execution and who are expected to perform work as subcontractors in connection with the Contractor's work for FNO. For any subcontractor proposed to be retained by the Contractor to perform work on the Contract with FNO, the Contractor must provide notice to FNO within thirty (30) days of retaining that subcontractor. If the Contractor fails to submit the required lists and notices, FNO may, after thirty (30) days' written notice to the Contractor, take any action it deems necessary, including, without limitation, causing the suspension of any payments, until the required lists and notices are submitted.
22. **NON-EXCLUSIVITY.** This Contract is non-exclusive and the Contractor may provide services to other clients, subject to FNO's approval of any potential conflicts with the performance of this Contract and FNO may engage the services of others for the provision of some or all of the work to be performed under this Contract.
23. **CONVICTED FELON STATEMENT.** No principal, member, or officer of the Contractor has, within the preceding five (5) years, been convicted of, or pled guilty to, a felony under state or federal statutes for embezzlement, theft of public funds, bribery, or falsification or destruction of public records.
24. **ASSIGNABILITY.** The Contractor shall not assign any interest in this Contract and shall not transfer any interest in the same without prior written consent of FNO.
25. **TERMS BINDING.** The terms and conditions of the Contract are binding on any heirs, successors, transferees, and assigns.
26. **AMENDMENT.** The Contract shall not be modified except by written amendment executed by duly authorized representatives of the parties.
27. **NO THIRD-PARTY BENEFICIARIES.** The Contract is entered into for the exclusive benefit of FNO and the Contractor, and FNO and the Contractor expressly disclaim any intent to benefit anyone not a party to this Contract.

28. **SEVERABILITY**. If a court of competent jurisdiction finds any provision of the Contract to be unenforceable as written, the unenforceable provision should be reformed, if possible, so that it is enforceable to the maximum extent permitted by law, or, if reformation is not possible, the unenforceable provision will be fully severable and the remaining provisions of the Contract will remain in full force and effect and will be construed and enforced as if the unenforceable provision was never a part the Contract.
29. **CONSTRUCTION OF AGREEMENT**. Neither party will be deemed to have drafted the Contract. The Contract has been reviewed by all parties and will be construed and interpreted according to the ordinary meaning of the words used so as to fairly accomplish the purposes and intentions of all parties. No term of the Contract will be construed or resolved in favor of or against FNO or the Contractor on the basis of which party drafted the uncertain or ambiguous language. The headings and captions of the Contract are provided for convenience only and are not intended to have effect in the construction or interpretation of the Contract. Where appropriate, the singular includes the plural and neutral words and words of any gender include the neutral and other gender.
30. **SURVIVAL**. All representations and warranties and all obligations concerning record retention, inspections, audits, ownership, indemnification, payment, remedies, jurisdiction, venue, choice of law, and warranties shall survive the expiration, suspension, or termination of the Contract and continue in full force and effect.
31. **NON-WAIVER**. The failure of FNO to insist upon strict compliance with any provision of the Contract, to enforce any right or to seek any remedy upon discovery of any default or breach of the Contractor at such time as the initial discovery of the existence of such noncompliance, right, default or breach shall not affect or constitute a waiver of FNO's right to insist upon such compliance, exercise such right or seek such remedy with respect to that default or breach or any prior contemporaneous or subsequent default or breach.
32. **REMEDIES CUMULATIVE**. No remedy set forth in the Contract or otherwise conferred upon or reserved to any party shall be considered exclusive of any other remedy available to a party. Rather, each remedy shall be deemed distinct, separate and cumulative and each may be exercised from time to time as often as the occasion may arise or as may be deemed expedient.
33. **MANDATORY LANGUAGE**. All contracts and subcontracts shall have the following language inserted:

“All members of the Board of Trustees and all of the officers and employees of The Finance Authority of New Orleans (FNO) are subject to the provisions of the Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics (See LSA-R.S. 42:1101, et seq.). The LA Code of Governmental Ethics contains broad prohibitions covering potential conflicts of interest.

If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of the LA Ethics Code you should contact immediately either:

1. FNO staff; or
2. The staff of The Commission on Ethics for Public Employees at (504) 765-2308.

Contractors and parties to sub-agreements shall notify FNO in writing of any request or solicitation by a Board member or employee which violates or is contrary to the LA State Code

of Governmental Ethics, FNO's Procurement Policy or otherwise has the appearance of undue influence."

34. **INCORPORATION INTO SUBCONTRACTS**. The Contractor will incorporate these Contract Terms and Conditions into all subcontracts, by reference or otherwise, and will require all subcontractors to comply with these provisions.

-END OF SECTION-

**THE FINANCE AUTHORITY OF NEW ORLEANS (“FNO”)
Request for Qualifications (RFQ)
Architectural Design and Consulting Services
RFQ: 004-06-2024
June 24, 2024
Submittals due by: 3:00 pm (CST) on July 15, 2024**

Attachment “E”

CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE COVERAGE

**Application Submitted By
(Name of Firm):** _____

Name of Surety Company: _____

Name of Surety Agent: _____

Surety Agent’s Phone: _____

The below signed hereby certifies the following information to be true and correct.

Type of Coverage/ Minimum Required Limits	Policy or Binder #	Actual Limits	Expiration Date
Professional Liability/ \$500,000 Occurrence; \$1,000,000 Aggregate			

Check the appropriate box(es) below:

- Limits on above policy will be increased
- Above policy now in effect
- Policy will be obtained before contract signed

The following additional clauses shall be considered a part of the above policy(s), the same as if specifically written therein, as pertains to the above stated contract.

1. The Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer and The Finance Authority of New Orleans (FNO) are hereby named as an Additional Insured.
2. The Policy(s) cannot be reduced or canceled without at least forty-five (45) days prior written notice to FNO.
3. The insurance company is prohibited from pleading government function in the absence of any specified written authority from FNO.
4. The Policy(s) will automatically include and cover all phases of work, equipment, persons, et cetera, which are normally covered while performing work under the above contract, whether specifically written therein or not.

FNO is hereby granted authority to contact the agency directly to confirm information or obtain copies of certificates of insurance. FNO bears no responsibility for premiums or other cost of insurance. If policy(s) is not currently in effect, it will be written immediately upon

notice of award, and a copy of binder or certificate will be sent directly to FNO. A properly executed copy of this document shall be legally binding as a Carrier Certificate of Insurance Form.

Authorized Agent's Signature

Date

-END OF SECTION-

**THE FINANCE AUTHORITY OF NEW ORLEANS (“FNO”)
Request for Qualifications (RFQ)
Architectural Design and Consulting Services
RFQ: 004-06-2024
June 24, 2024
Submittals due by: 3:00 pm (CST) on July 15, 2024**

Attachment “F”

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF LOUISIANA

PARISH OF _____

Before me, the undersigned authority, came and appeared _____, who, being first duly sworn, deposed and said that:

1. He/She is the _____ and authorized representative of _____
_____, hereafter called “Respondent.”
2. The Respondent submits the attached RFQ Response in response to the (insert name of solicitation).
3. The Respondent hereby confirms that a conflict(s) of interest exists/does not exist/may exist in connection with this solicitation which might impair Respondent’s ability to perform if awarded the contract, including any familial or business relationships that the Respondent, the proposed subcontractors, and their principals have with FNO Trustees, officers and employees. *(If a conflict(s) of interest exists and/or may exist, describe in a letter the nature of the conflict, the parties involved and why there is a conflict. Attach said letter to this form).*

Respondent Representative (Signature)

(Print or type name)

(Address)

Sworn to and subscribed before me, _____, Notary Public, this ___ day of _____, 20__

Notary Public (signature) Notary ID#/Bar Roll #

**THE FINANCE AUTHORITY OF NEW ORLEANS (“FNO”)
Request for Qualifications (RFQ)
Architectural Design and Consulting Services
RFQ: 004-06-2024
June 24, 2024
Submittals due by: 3:00 pm (CST) on July 15, 2024**

Attachment “G”

DBE Participation Form

Complete the following and submit with your proposal to confirm your level of DBE participation.

Please check the appropriate space:

_____ The bidder/offeror is committed to a minimum of _____% DBE utilization on this contract.

_____ The bidder/offeror, if unable to meet the DBE goal of _____%, is committed to a minimum of _____% DBE utilization on this contract and will submit documentation demonstrating good faith efforts.

Name of Bidder/Offer Firm:

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

By: _____,

_____ / _____ / _____

(Signature) (Title) (Date)

The bidder/offeror is committed to utilizing DBE participation on the project in the following manner.

Please check the appropriate space:

_____ The bidder/offeror is committed to a minimum of _____% DBE utilization on this contract.

_____ The bidder/offeror, if unable to meet the DBE goal of _____% is committed to a minimum of _____% DBE utilization on this contract and will submit documentation demonstrating good faith efforts.

Name of DBE Firm:

DBE Firm Owner or Contract:

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

DBE Type: _____ SLDBE Certified: _____ DOTD/LAUCP Certified: _____ Other:

_____ Scope of Work Attached. Proposed DBE% _____

Scope of Work: Describe the work to be performed by the DBE firm.

-END OF SECTION-