

Design Scope

Under Scope of Work on page 1, the first sentence of the RFP mentions “PIDC is seeking an architecture and design team...”. Is the architect to assemble a full team, within the on-call fee, of specialists in specific disciplines to be able to review, advise and prepare reports on the various tasks outlined? For example, a retail consultant, a crowd and ticketing specialist, vehicular & traffic consultant, signage/technology consultant etc.? Or, are those additional experts going to be hired under a direct and separate agreement with PIDC? We anticipate additional consultants will be needed based on the desired scope of work in the RFP.

Yes. The anticipation is that the architect will assemble a full team. PIDC will not contract with additional experts separately. It is unlikely that one firm will have the in-house expertise to complete the full scope of work. We encourage the forming of teams with sub-consultants, to provide the most complete response to the RFP and comprehensive work product. We expect that the primary area of expertise required will relate to NBA arena design and construction.

Is the list of firms on page 4, for the architect to potentially engage with as a consultant, related to the question asked above?

Yes. We believe providing the list of firms with direct arena design experience will help facilitate the creation of project teams. The list of firms in Appendix A has recent arena design experience. Most have specific NBA arena design experience.

In receiving the RFP, it was mentioned that PIDC has a strong desire to engage with a local design focused firm to lead this work. As local is an easy metric, but design focused is subjective, can you elaborate on PIDC’s desire/stance of local and design focused?

While developing the scope of this RFP it became apparent that this scope of work might be best suited for a large national firm with no presence in Philadelphia. As the economic development agency in Philadelphia, we wanted to promote the inclusion of a local firm on the project team and emphasize our commitment to diversity.

The RFP mentions “review design schemes and provide feedback and constructive critique to PIDC and city agencies”. We understand Planning Commission and Art Commission are the two agencies tasked with reviewing the project. Are there other city agencies with whom the architect will be coordinating with that are not listed?

Coordination will be with the Planning Commission staff. If there is a need to coordinate with other city agencies, that decision will be made at that time.

What is PIDC’s high level intention with this engagement? Is this project already confirmed to be moving forward and PIDC seeks guidance to make it the best version

possible, or is this project still in conceptual/consideration stages and PIDC is evaluating if this is best for the city and neighborhood?

The proposed arena project is in the conceptual/consideration phase. The Sixers have proposed the arena location and PIDC is assisting the City in evaluation of all aspects of the proposal before making any recommendations. As part of a larger analysis of the feasibility of the project we seek a partner to provide design expertise especially in the area of arena design.

What specifically is the responsibility to “support informed public debate” and “ensure a project that considers the interest of the public”? Please elaborate and define the work product related to this.

The responsibility is to provide the City with information and analysis to make informed decisions regarding the proposed arena. The design services are intended to assist the city in reviewing the proposed design with specific focus on the elements that impact the public realm including façade, entrances, and publicly accessed retail, pedestrian street level experience and crowd circulation.

Will the contract require the architect to present or advocate for the project in any way to local neighborhood groups, at public zoning hearings, or be public facing in any way?

No. This scope of work is purely advisory at PIDC’s and the City’s direction to provide comments and evaluation of the Sixers proposal.

Will the architect communicate, independent of the governing bodies, to civic leaders or members of any community that has opposed this project?

PIDC does not anticipate this to be an element of the scope and would consider it only in discussion with the respondent if it became important to the analysis.

Is the architect’s review/advisory role intended to promote changes that are enforceable in some way, or be more suggestive for consideration to the Sixers?

PIDC anticipates that there will be a range of comments from advisory to elements that may be required.

Will the architect be asked to coordinate directly with the development team/architect of the arena in any way or will all communication go through PIDC?

PIDC expects that the selected team may engage or communicate directly with the Sixers’ design team.

Will the architect have access to any reports/studies produced thus far?

Yes. The selected firm or team will have access to all available information to be able to provide the best analysis of the project.

Is there any requirement for LEED review work in this scope of work?

PIDC expects that the respondent team will be knowledgeable about state-of-the-art sustainability design elements as relates to arena construction and operations.

The RFP mentions DEI is of primary importance, and lists this above experience or references. Our organization is a registered MBE and we are interested to know what PIDC's actual goal is for the architect to be a registered W/MBE, and how heavily does this rank as a factor in the submission evaluation criteria?

Diversity ranks high in the evaluation together with experience and expertise in the field of arena design and construction.

The RFP mentions a 1-year term. What is PIDC's belief that this will extend beyond one year?

The base term for the proposal is one year. Depending on performance and need a longer engagement with the awarded firm or team may be considered based on need.