

DESIGNER SELECTION BOARD
MINUTES OF THE 1076TH MEETING, WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 28, 2024, VIA ZOOM.

1. ROLL CALL:

The Designer Selection Board Meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Maureen Sakakeeny, P.E., Chair	Registered Engineer
Mark Boyle, V-Chair	Public Member
David Carlson, AIA	Registered Architect
Arthur Choo, AIA	Registered Architect (left at 10:01 a.m.)
Khalil Mogassabi, AIA	Registered Architect
Martha Blakey Smith, AIA	Registered Architect (left at 9:50 a.m.)
Sam Liao, P.E.	Registered Engineer
Severino Luna, P.E.	Registered Engineer
David Capaldo	General Contractor (left at 10:34 a.m.)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Vacant	Registered Engineer
Vacant	Public Member

Present for the DSB staff, Simone Early, Executive Director, Claire G. Hester, Program Coordinator III, and Roberto Melendez, Program Coordinator I.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

A motion to approve the minutes of the 1075th meeting of the Board on February 14, 2024, was made by Severino Luna, seconded by David Capaldo. Motion was approved.

3. VISITORS:

Paulo Baganha	Massachusetts Military Division
Lindsay Richards	QPDCO
Joseph Naughton	Terva Corp.
Alison Carr	Worcester Cultural Academy/Old Sturbridge Village (OSV)
Mia Ayers	Terva Corp.
Celia Civello	Edgewood Design
Michelle Koch	Edgewood Design
Tiffany Yu	DCAMM
Morgan Devlin	LLB Architects
Manuel Orellana	WCA
Doreen Bennett	RGB
Cristofer Vasquez	Studio Meander
Brenna Sapienza	DCAMM
David Fite	Studio Meander
Monica Hanley	RGB
Lameece Kanan	Meta Moderna Architecture

4. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Fee Extension Request for Amenta Emma Architects

Mass State Project #34

Study & Design of General Building Renovations, Repairs and Upgrades, Statewide

Massachusetts Military Division

Reference Project: Westfield Armory Roof Replacement, MEP and Accessibility Upgrades

NGMA Project 25-219024

DSB List #21-28

Extension of Fee: \$329,500.00

Paulo Baganha, Design and Projects Manager from Massachusetts Army National Guard was present to explain the project and fee extension request for Amenta Emma Architects.

In accordance with the provisions of the M.G.L. Chapter 7C, sec. 52, the Designer Selection Board voted to exercise its authority to approve the fee extension of \$329,500.00. The new contract amount has been increased to \$1,329,500.00 with Amenta Emma Architects for the above referenced project.

Motion was made to approve the fee extension of \$329,500.00 to Amenta Emma Architects by Khalil Mogassabi, seconded by David Capaldo. Motion was approved.

B. DSB List #24-01, WCA001, Worcester Cultural Academy 81 Plantation Renovation, Worcester Cultural Academy Charter Public School, Worcester, ECC: \$5,200,000, Design Fee: To Be Negotiated, 5 Applicants

Lindsay Richards from QPDCO, Joseph Naughton from Terva Corp and Alison Carr from Worcester Cultural Academy Charter Public School were present to explain the project and answer questions from the Board.

The following firms met the requirements in the advertisement. MBE/WBE goals were not required for the project but encouraged:

Edgewood Design + Architecture, Inc. – The firm is WBE and VBE Certified and is located in Weymouth with 4 employees. The firm is small with one Massachusetts registered architect. They have extensive project experience and excellent client references. The proposal was responsive to the Public Notice requirements.

Flow Design Architects – The firm is MBE Certified and is located in Salem with 10 employees. The team submitted relevant project experience for the project. Their proposal was not as strong as the other applicants'.

Meander Studio, Inc. – The firm is in Waltham with 6 employees. The proposal was responsive to the Public Notice requirements, and they had relevant project experience for the project. They have excellent client references.

Meta Moderna Architecture – The firm is WBE Certified and is located in Needham with 1 employee. The firm was recently established, and this is their first application for a project to be reviewed by the DSB. The Principal in Charge had relevant experience from working at other firms. Their proposal was not as strong as the other applicants'.

RGB Architects – The firm is VBE Certified and is located in Providence, RI with 27 employees. The proposal was responsive to the Public Notice requirements, and they had relevant project experience for the project.

Public Comments

None

C. Project Voting and Ranking

The following firms displayed considerable skills and similar experiences with this type of project. In accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 7C, Section 49 the Board voted to select the two (2) unranked finalists to be interviewed for the Worcester Cultural Academy Charter Public School on March 13, 2024:

Edgewood Design + Architecture, Inc.
RGB Architects

Motion was made by Severino Luna to select the two (2) unranked finalists to be interviewed for the Worcester Cultural Academy Charter Public School project, seconded by David Capaldo. Motion was approved.

A third candidate, Meander Studio received the third highest votes but was not recommended for interview.

The immediate services authorized are schematic plans and outline specifications, design development plans and specifications, construction plans and specifications, and administration of the construction contract.

D. Board Business:

Simone compiled a list of discussions and updates for the Board. She will provide more updates and discussions at future meetings. She requested that Board Members comment in meeting or by email.

- Thanked Khalil for continuing to serve on the Board for another 2-year term
- Thanked Marty for her work on the board. Her extended term is expected to end sometime near May
- Met with the following Stakeholders for the Designer Selection Board. Information gathering is ongoing:
 - Boards and Commissions at the Governor's Office, they are looking for replacements for one architect member, one engineer member and a public member
 - Board leadership, ANF leadership, and DCAMM leadership
 - Dept. of Education for charter school recommendations
 - Two former board members, Elise Woodward and Alan Ricks for insights on their time with the board
 - EOTSS vendors to review technology options
 - SDO on Veteran's benchmarks
 - Autocene to catch up on and discuss updates to the Designer Selection Network
 - Ed for the Mass Cultural Council on art in public spaces
- Discussion on Board Efforts:
 - Continuity/Recruitment,
 - improved visibility and bios,
 - Project Delivery and review preparation for upcoming projects
 - Informational presentations for the Board and Design Consultants on topics of importance to the Agencies and other stakeholders, such as decarbonization and thoughtful solutions, designer excellence as defined by DCAMM environmental equity, diversity, and inclusion in architecture, art in public spaces, emerging firms and

how their selection in the DSB changed the course of their firms, mitigating unconscious bias in designer selection, and an annual review of capital projects presented by DCAMM, site visits of completed projects

- Board recommended:
 - Review of tie breaker votes as a form of ranked voting
 - Presentations on chapter 149/149A, on contract limits and fee amendments
 - Tour of UMass Boston Project
 - Contact ACEC on board member recruitment for engineers

5. **MOTION TO ADJOURN:** The Board adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

On a motion to adjourn the meeting of February 28, 2024, by David Carlson, seconded by Mark Boyle. Motion was approved.

6. **NEXT MEETING:**

WEDNESDAY, March 13, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. via ZOOM

Submitted by: Claire M. Hester
Designer Selection Coordinator