



TO: Ann McGauran

FROM: Ashley Cates

DATE: November 16, 2017

RE: Regionalism Inquiry

In August of 2017, the Office of the State Architect (“OSA”) approached AIA Tennessee regarding its position on “regionalism” related to the selection of designers on state projects. Historically, the State Building Commission (“SBC) selected designers based on the three grand divisions of Tennessee (west, middle and east). Over the past few months, the State Building Commission has noticed designers proposing for projects outside their “region”.

The *SBC policy for designer selection is delegated to the Office of the State Architect. To date, the **OSA policy for designer selection is Tennessee firms are given primary consideration unless the State determines it is in the State’s best interest to consider non-Tennessee firms, 2. Evaluators will primarily consider Designers within the region of a project.

On September 25, 2017, the AIA Tennessee Board reviewed and discussed the referenced policies and determined the following positions.

AIA Tennessee is:

1. In full support of the SBC/OSA policy for Tennessee firms to be given primary consideration for state projects and urges the SBC/OSA to continue to uphold this policy, and
2. Believes “region” should not be defined as the three grand divisions but rather defined by desired proximity/distance to the project, and
3. Urges State Procurement Agencies to define proximity in the Project’s Request for Qualifications.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions and/or want to discuss the matter in more detail.

Thank you for reaching out to AIA Tennessee on this important matter.

*SBC Policy: <https://www.tn.gov/assets/entities/osa/attachments/SBC-Policy-MASTER.pdf>

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3.06 DESIGNER SELECTION

(Authority is delegated to the Office of the State Architect for the designer selection process criteria)

The overall goal is to secure the most qualified designers for State projects resulting in the development of suitably functioning facilities meeting the user’s needs within time and budget

limitations in the overall best interest of the State.

Objectives of the designer selection policy:

- Provide clear guidance.
- Promote access by all interested professionals.
- Promote competition.
- Promote transparency and accountability.
- Secure the best designer resulting in quality work on State capital projects.
- Encourage clear communication between the State and design professionals interested in working on State projects.

**OSA Policy - https://www.tn.gov/assets/entities/osa/attachments/OSA_DesignerProcess.pdf

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