



TO: Ann McGauran | TN State Architect

FROM: Ashley Cates | AIA TN Executive Vice President
Linda Marzialo, AIA | AIA TN President

DATE: May 2, 2022

RE: OSA Inquiry: Temporary Suspension of Regional Preference

Recently, 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). However, to meet the demand of the large volume of projects the state anticipates releasing in the upcoming months, OSA is proposing to temporarily suspend the regional preference.

We understand that this will temporarily remove the barriers of the three grand divisions and will open the opportunity for architects to propose on projects across the state to meet overall project demand.

The *SBC policy for designer selection is delegated to the Office of the State Architect. To date, the **OSA policy for designer selection is that Tennessee firms are given primary consideration unless the State determines it is in the best interest to consider non-Tennessee firms.

On April 28, 2022, the AIA Tennessee Board discussed matter, [AIA TN's 2017 position](#), and approved the following positions per the inquiry by the OSA.

AIA Tennessee:

1. Is 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
2. Believes "region", when applicable, shall be defined as desired proximity/distance to the project
3. Believes that when proximity is important, the State Procurement Agencies shall provide scoring preference related to proximity in the Project's Request for Qualifications.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions and/or want to discuss the topic in more detail. Thank you for reaching out to AIA Tennessee on this important decision.

*SBC Policy: https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/statearchitect/policy-&-procedures/SBC_POLICY_MASTER.pdf

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 and 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/content/dam/tn/statearchitect/documents/OSA_DesignerProcess.pdf

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