

**GULFPORT REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS TO PROVIDE  
A/E DESIGN SERVICES FOR  
THE MISSISSIPPI AQUARIUM  
GULFPORT, MS (THE “PROJECT”)**

The Gulfport Redevelopment Commission, the urban renewal agency for the City of Gulfport, Mississippi (“GRC”), will accept sealed responses from qualified architectural firms to determine how each firm, acting as the “Lead Design Firm”, might address the need for architectural and engineering services and this Project’s unique design challenges.

The Mississippi Aquarium is envisioned as a multi-functional entertainment and educational venue. The aquarium-specific components are to be provided by having the selected Lead Design Firm subcontract with specialty aquarium design firms to form an integrated Mississippi-based Aquarium design team.

Team interviews, representative comparable projects, and design sketches will also be included as part of the Lead Design Firm selection process.

Delivery - **One (1) unbound reproducible original, nine (9) bound copies and one (1) electronic copy (both in Word and as a PDF)** of the proposal shall be submitted. All proposals must be received by H. J. Russell & Company, Attn: Mr. David J. Kimmel, 504 Fair Street, SW, Atlanta, Georgia 30313, (404) 330-0941, no later than **2:00 o’clock p.m. Eastern Standard Time, August 5, 2015**, after which time they will be referred to the Selection Committee. Any submittal received after the above stated date and time will be returned unopened.

The GRC will establish a selection committee who will evaluate the proposals and make recommendations to the GRC potential shortlist candidates based upon the following set of criteria:

- The ability, capacity, skill, knowledge, reputation, and experience and responsiveness of the firm(s) who is proposing to provide the services.
- The ability, capacity, skill, knowledge, reputation, and experience of the responder’s designated design team members.
- Fees and costs associated with the services.
- Familiarity/knowledge of and experience in the local area.
- References.

Inquiries - All inquiries shall be in writing and directed to the following office. No questions or requests for clarifications will be addressed within five (5) business days of the due date of the proposal.

Mr. David J. Kimmel  
H.J. Russell & Company  
c/o The Mississippi Aquarium Project  
504 Fair Street, SW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30313  
404-330-0941  
[dkimmel@hjrussell.com](mailto:dkimmel@hjrussell.com)

The selection committee will review each proposal based on the grading criteria and will assist the GRC in evaluating the submissions and assessing the most qualified. The GRC retains the ultimate authority in making these determinations. The selection committee will develop a short list from which interviews will be scheduled and evaluation will be based ONLY on the data submitted in response to the request for proposal and such other information as the GRC may deem necessary or appropriate. Upon final selection(s) and a determination made by the GRC, negotiations may commence and a written contract may be awarded to the individual(s)/firm(s) whose proposal is determined by the GRC to be the most qualified.

The successful firm must adhere to the GRC’s policy concerning non-discrimination without regard to race, color, religious creed, handicap, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation or national origin.

The GRC reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, in whole or in part, and to discontinue contract execution with any party at any time prior to final contract execution.

**Direct contact with any City employee, including the Mayor, GRC Commissioners, including the Administration and City Council on the subject of this proposal is strictly forbidden. Violation of this paragraph will result in disqualification of your submission.**

Publish in the Legal Section on:           07-08-2015  
  07-15-2015

Send Invoice & Proof of publication to: Connie Debenport, CPPB, P. O. Box 1780, Gulfport, MS 39502-1780.