

SBE NEWS ALERT

What Kind of Prison Might the Inmates Design?



Inmates Anthony Pratt, Aliton Woodson and Keith Wilkins present their 3D model for a restorative justice center. Their vision includes a fountain with a waterfall symbolic of adaptability, a relaxation room and plenty of natural light. (Lee Romney, Los Angeles Times)

By Lee Romney

The workshop leaders came laden with markers in colors other than red and blue (gang colors), drafting rulers crafted from museum board (too dull to double as weapons) and kiddie scissors (ditto).

All the students wore orange. And on this final day, their paper models were taking shape.

Architect Deanna VanBuren adjusted a piece of tracing paper over Anthony Pratt's design, showing him how to mark the perimeter to show walls and windows, then urging him to use dots to indicate open spaces.

A towering, broad-chested man with full tattoos adorning both arms, Pratt, 29, was among those sketching out new visions: an airy room with a skylight to cure vitamin D deficiencies and a fountain with a cascading waterfall to represent resilience and adaptability. Privacy barriers for the shower and toilet. A healing center with lots of windows and, in the middle, a talking circle with a sun emblazoned in its center.

The spaces they were planning could be at a New Age retreat, but these were conceived by inmates at San Francisco's County Jail No. 5.

Most inmates on this 48-man jail pod are awaiting trial on violent crimes. All must agree to participate in a program called "Resolve to Stop the Violence," which involves concepts of restorative justice, an alternative to traditional criminal justice that focuses on healing victims and offenders alike. This day's class allowed them to explore their feelings about the system that landed them here and how its physical contours might be altered.

As Pratt stippled his drawing with concentration, Keith Wilkins, 25, painstakingly cut the waterfall for the 3D model. Both are facing murder charges. Lamar Paschall, 32, charged with kidnapping, rape and robbery, helped with the trees.

Some of their models are fanciful -- individual cells with Internet connections and even outdoor decks exist in Norway but aren't likely to become part of U.S. prison design any time soon. Others, such as peace-making centers where agreement on punishment is reached collaboratively without entering a courtroom, are already becoming a reality.

"I feel an extra sense of purpose today," Paschall had told his fellow classmates as the workshop got underway. "Hopefully this can become fruitful and turn into something real down the line."

The 18 men who enrolled in the four-day workshop this summer were contemplating restorative justice through a novel lens: design.

As consensus builds that traditional criminal justice models are failing to prevent recidivism, VanBuren and fellow instructor Barb Toews, an academic, have joined a small chorus of designers, researchers and even judges and wardens calling for new spaces to match the tenets of restorative justice.

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SMALL BUSINESS EXCHANGE

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California Sub-Bid Request Ads

MCCARTHY BUILDING COMPANIES, INC.

**Subcontractor Solicitation of Interest from MBE, DVBE, DBE, WBE, CBE
RANCHO LOS AMIGOS
NATIONAL REHABILITATION CENTER
Downey, CA
Bid Date: 9/5/2014**

McCarthy Building Companies, Inc. is soliciting interest from qualified subcontractors and suppliers to participate in the bidding for award phase of the project upon completion of the design. The Scope of Work includes:

a. Seismic Retrofit Compliance & Inpatient Consolidation Project (7228; C.P. 69774)

This Project includes the renovation and expansion of the JPI Building to expand acute inpatient care and plans for the consolidation of outpatient services in one or more new buildings. SPC and NPC upgrades. 1) JPI Extension (44,145 sf); 2) JPI Remodel (22,513 sf) 3) CUP & Fire Pump Bldg. Improvements 4) Parking Structure Improvements a) Increase number of accessible parking; b) Pedestrian entrance connection c) Re-striping & signage; 5) Safety Police Building Improvements

b. Hospital Infrastructure Project (7229; C.P. 69663) (700,000 sf)

This Project will include new site utility infrastructure to serve the existing, upgraded, and new buildings on Development Sites 1 and 4, as well as future developments on Development Sites 2, 3, and 5. The Design Builder is responsible for any supplemental work required to keep all buildings on the North Campus operational through the duration of the Project, as well as all infrastructure work required to complete the Project 1) Leeds Street 2) Demo Carpenter's Shop, Project Threshold bldg., Model Home building, MRI building 3) Site Improvements/Utilities

c. New Outpatient Facilities Project (7230; C.P. 69656)

This Project will consolidate outpatient services for rehabilitation in one or more dedicated buildings. The Outpatient Building will house non-acute programs and support services and will be located in close proximity to the new acute-care building addition to the JPI. 1) Outpatient Building (109,321 sf) 2) Warehouse Building (12,237 sf)

d. New Wellness & Aquatic Center Project (# TBD; C.P. TBD) (11,918 sf)

Work categories include: Building Demolition & Abatement; Site Clearing & Earthwork; Shoring & Underpinning; Asphalt Concrete Paving & Striping; Site Concrete; Site Utilities; Fountains; Fences & Gates; Basketball & tennis equipment; Landscaping & Irrigation, Site Furnishings; Reinforcing Steel; Structural Concrete; Precast Concrete; Tilt-up Concrete; Masonry; Structural Steel; Metal Decking; Medical Equipment Supports; Misc. Metal Fabrications; Ornamental Metal; Rough Carpentry; Finish Carpentry & Casework; Roofing & Waterproofing; Insulation; Sheet Metal/Metal Panel/Exp. Joints; Joint Sealants; Doors/Frames/Hardware; Access Doors (w/ trades); Coiling/Overhead Doors; Elevator Smoke Containment Doors; Accordion Folding Doors; Folding Fire Doors; Fireproofing; Tile; Terrazzo; Acoustical Ceilings; Acoustic Wall Treatment; Resilient Flooring & Carpet, Vapor Emissions; Resinous Flooring; Painting & Wallcoverings; Markerboards/Tackboards; Accordion Folding Partitions; Wall Protection; Signage (Site/Bldg.); Lockers; Fire Extinguishers/Cabinets; Wire Mesh Partitions; Toilet Accessories/Partitions; Window Washing Equipment; AV Equipment; Loading Dock Equipment; Food Service Equipment / Cold Storage; Warehouse Equipment; Medical Equipment; Artwork (by Owner); Window Treatment; Cubicle Curtains/Tracks; Entrance mat/frames; MRI Shielding; Radiation Protection; Pool/Jacuzzi; Elevators; Hoists & Cranes; Fire Protection

* - This project will have a Project Labor Agreement

* - A 100% Performance and Payment Bond from an admitted surety will be required upon award of contract for all trades.

* - McCarthy is an equal opportunity employer and encourages qualified Small Business and Minority Business participation.

Please contact us if you have any questions regarding project specifics:

McCarthy Building Companies, Inc.

LeAnn Battle-Laridon, Preconstruction Assistant

E-Mail: pbattlelaridon@mccarthy.com

20401 S.W. Birch St, Suite 300, Newport Beach, CA 92660

License # 411173

Ph (949) 851-8383/Fax (949) 756-6841

WE ARE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



MEET AND GREET OUTREACH EVENT

Swinerton Builders – "Meet and Greet" Community Outreach Event for CBE contractors on Tues., Aug. 26, 2014, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m

Relative to upcoming opportunities on the Los Angeles County DesignBuild Rancho Los Amigos Rehabilitation Center Project, as well as other pursuits.

LA County Certification Information Available.

Location:

Columbus Memorial Space Center, 12400 Columbia Way, Downey 90242.

On-site parking available: email: dcsa.outreach@gmail.com or 213.258.3085.

Swinerton Builders is an AEOE Equal Opportunity Employer

Seeking DBE

subcontractors and suppliers for
**For Construction on State Highway
in Los Angeles County in LA Canada Flintridge,
Glendale and Pasadena from Dunsmore
Avenue Undercrossing to North Los Robles
Avenue Overcrossing
Contract No. 07-2881U4
Project Owner: CALTRANS
Project Location: Los Angeles County
LA Canada Flintridge, Glendale, Pasadena
Bid Date: September 11, 2014**

Trades: Asphalt, AC Dike, Bridge Deck Surface, Bridge Demolition, Building Masonry, Clear and Grub, Cold Plane AC, Concrete Barrier, Concrete Structure, Concrete Paving, Concrete Supply, Curb & Gutter, Construction Area Signs, Control Building, Drainage, Doors and Gates, Drill And Bond Dowel, Electrical, Erosion Control, Excavation, Expansion Joints, Fencing/Railing, Grind PCC, Guardrail, Joint Seal, Landscape & Irrigation, Materials Trucking, Metal Roofing, Minor Concrete, Miscellaneous Iron & Steel, Overhead Signs and Striping, Painting, PCC Supplies, Pipe Supply, Pre/Post Construction Surveys, Precast Concrete, Reinforcing Steel, Roadside Sign, Rock Slope Protection, Slope Paving, Street Sweeping.

Pulice Construction, Inc.

591 Camino de la Reina, Suite 1250
San Diego, CA 92108

Phone: (619) 814-3705 • Fax: (619) 814-3770

Contact: **Arinda Cale**

E-mail: acale@pulice.com

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TAFT ELECTRIC COMPANY,

1694 EASTMAN AVENUE, VENTURA, CA 93003

Contact: **Tim Herrera**

Phone: (805) 642-0121 • Fax: (805) 650-9015

Invites sub-bids from qualified union DBE businesses for the following project:

Bid No. 3718

**HIGHWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
(HSIP) DE LA VINA AT ARRELLAGA**

TRAFFIC SIGNAL PROJECT

Location: De La Vina at Arrellaga,

City of Santa Barbara, Ca

BID DATE/TIME: 8/28/2014

SEEKING: Clean up, dust control, traffic control, remove & recycle hardscape, new meter pedestal, underground conduits, street lighting, traffic signals, traffic signal controller cabinets, pole foundations, loop detectors, concrete sidewalks, demo existing signs & foundations, retrofit access ramps with truncated domes.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer and intend to seriously negotiate with qualified Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise subcontractors and suppliers for project participation.

Payment and performance bonds may be required. Please contact us at the above listed number for further information regarding bidding on this project. To the best of our abilities we will help with bonds/insurance/credit. Plans are available for viewing at our office.

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California Sub-Bid Request Ads



Seeking Qualified Community Business Enterprises (CBE – (Disabled Veterans Enterprises, Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprises)) as Vendors, Material Suppliers, Subconsultants and Subcontractors for the

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

Request for Proposals

Design-Build Services

For the

Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center

Proposal Due Date: 12PM (PST) Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Areas of work available include the following: Scheduling, Trade Subcontract Work Packages, Equipment Vendors Vendors/Suppliers for General Requirements, Vendor/Suppliers for Construction Materials. Local Hire Coordination.

Interested firms must submit Statement of Qualifications indicating the specific work area of interest. Community Business Firms must provide proof of certification acceptable to the County of Los Angeles.

RESPONSES MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN

5:00 P.M., Tuesday, August 26, 2014

Send Responses To

DPR/Turner Rancho Los Amigos Design-Build Team

Attention: Rocio (Gonzalez) Carroll via email rcarroll@tcco.com

Firms needing assistance in identifying resources available to Small and Community Business Enterprises should contact Michelle Smith-Ballard, DPR/Turner Director of Community Affairs at 714 940-9041 or msmithballard@tcco.com. A copy of the RFP is available upon request (PDF). The RFP can also be reviewed at Turner Construction's Anaheim Office, 1900 South State College Boulevard, Anaheim CA 92806 and DPR's Pasadena Office, 101 East Green Street, Suite 14, Pasadena, California, 91105. Technical Questions should be directed to Rocio (Gonzalez) Carroll via e-mail at rcarroll@tcco.com.



Mass Electric Construction Co. (MEC) is requesting Sub-bids from Qualified SBE

Subcontractors for:

SERVICES FOR INSTALLING DEPARTMENT FURNISHED 275kV XLPE CABLES FOR

THE SCATTERGOOD-OLYMPIC CABLE A PROJECT

Los Angeles Department of Water & Power

Bid Deadline: 9/16/2014 2:00PM

Plans and Specifications can be obtained from the eRSP Online Purchasing Web Page (<http://www.ladwp.com/eRSP>). Registration is required.

MEC is willing to assist all subcontractors/suppliers in obtaining bonds, lines of credit, and/or insurance. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer company.

Mass. Electric Construction Co.

Contact: Christopher Nordberg

1925 Wright Ave. Suite C, La Verne, CA 91750

Phone: 909-962-6001 Fax: 909-992-3463

CNordberg@masselec.com

REQUEST FOR DBE SUBCONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS FOR:

Hwy 680 Pavement Rehab, Benicia/Fairfield
Caltrans #04-3G6504

BID DATE: September 10, 2014 @ 2:00 PM

We are soliciting quotes for (including but not limited to): Trucking, Lead Compliance Plan, Construction Area Signs, Traffic Control System, Portable Changeable Message Sign, Water Pollution Control Program, Sweeping, Treated Wood Waste, Noise Monitoring, Cold Plane AC, Structure Excavation, Structure Backfill, Preparing Inertial Profiler, Geosynthetic Pavement Interlayer, Rumble Strip, Data Core, AC Dike, Minor Concrete, Drill and Bond Dowel, Misc. Iron & Steel, Guard Railing Delineator, Object Marker, Midwest Guardrail System, Single Thrie Beam Barrier, Transition Railing, Striping & Marking, Progress Schedule (CPM), Remove Guardrail, Pavement Marker, Loop Detector and Construction Materials

O.C. Jones & Sons, Inc.

1520 Fourth Street • Berkeley, CA 94710 • Phone:

510-526-3424 • FAX: 510-526-0990

Contact: Greg Souder

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100% Performance & Payment Bonds may be required. Worker's Compensation Waiver of Subrogation required. Please call OCJ for assistance with bonding, insurance, necessary equipment, material and/or supplies. OCJ is willing to breakout any portion of work to encourage DBE Participation. Plans & Specs are available for viewing at our office or through the Caltrans Website at www.dot.ca.gov/hq/esc/oe/weekly_ads/index.php.

DeSilva Gates Construction, L.P. is soliciting for DBEs for the following project:

CONSTRUCTION ON STATE HIGHWAY IN

SOLANO COUNTY IN AND NEAR BENICIA

AND FAIRFIELD FROM BENICIA VIADUCT TO ROUTE 680/80 SEPARATION,

Contract No. 04-3G6504,

Federal Aid Project ACNHPI-680-1(073)E

OWNER: STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1727 30th Street, Bidders' Exchange, MS 26, Sacramento, CA 95816

BID DATE: September 10, 2014 @ 2:00 P.M.

We hereby encourage responsible participation of local Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, and solicit their subcontractor or materials and/or suppliers quotation for the following types of work including but not limited to:

AC DIKE, CONSTRUCTION AREA SIGN, ELECTRICAL, GEOSYNTHETIC PAVEMENT INTERLAYER, GUARDRAIL, LEAD COMPLIANCE PLAN, MINOR CONCRETE STRUCTURE, RUMBLE STRIP, STRIPING, PREPARE WPC PROGRAM, TEMPORARY EROSION CONTROL, TRUCKING, WATER TRUCKS, STREET SWEEPING, HOT MIX ASPHALT (TYPE A) MATERIAL, RUBBERIZED HMA (GAP GRADE) MATERIAL.

100% Performance and Payment Bonds may be required for full amounts of the subcontract price. Surety company will have to be approved by DeSilva Gates Construction. DeSilva Gates Construction will pay bond premium up to 2%. Subcontractors must possess current insurance and worker's compensation coverage meeting DeSilva Gates Construction's requirements. Please call if you need assistance in obtaining bonding, insurance, equipment, materials and/or supplies. Plans and specifications are available for review at our Dublin office.

DESILVA GATES CONSTRUCTION, L.P.

11555 Dublin Boulevard

P.O. Box 2909

Dublin, CA 94568-2909

(925) 829-9220 / FAX (925) 803-4263

Estimator: VICTOR LE

Website: www.desilvagates.com

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Public Legal Notices

MCCARTHY BUILDING COMPANIES, INC.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR PREQUALIFICATION OF SUBCONTRACTORS

PROJECT NOTICE

McCarthy Building Companies, Incorporated, hereinafter called MBC, intends to award lump sum subcontracts to subcontractors by competitive bidding for the following project:

UCSF CLINICAL SCIENCES BUILDING AND OPTIONAL UC HALL SEISMIC RENOVATION PROGRAM

UCSF Project No.:

M3606 LABORATORY OF RADIOLOGY PARTIAL DEMOLITION & ALTERNATE USE M3607 MR IV DEMOLITION AND ALTERNATE USE

MBC Project No.: **CM-0021**
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,
SAN FRANCISCO

PREQUALIFICATION OF PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS:

The University and MBC have determined that subcontractors who plan to participate in the bidding process for this project must be prequalified in order to submit bids. Subcontractors who are prequalified for this solicitation of August 13, 2014 will be invited to participate in a competitive bid for their appropriate trade(s) for projects issued for M3606 and M3607 through June 30, 2016. If the University determines that a Prequalified Subcontractor is performing unsatisfactory work, the contractor shall be removed from the prequalification list for the remainder of the prequalification period. MBC and University reserves the right to continue to solicit bidders during this 2 year period should a necessity arise to include additional bidders to the pool. Prequalified Subcontractors for listed trades in this solicitation will not be required to re-submit prequalification information when new Advertisements are issued. Also, should MBC and University find the need to discontinue using the Prequalified Subcontractors from this solicitation, MBC and University will give notice to the Prequalified Subcontractors. The intent is to solicit bids for the three listed projects at one time but the University and MBC reserve the right to solicit bids individual for each project or any combination of project numbers.

Prequalified subcontractors are required to have California licenses for the work they plan to perform.

M3606/M3607 WC1: General Works-Site Logistics | B

M3606/M3607 WC2: Demolition-Hazmat | B and C-21

M3606/M3607 WC3: Landscaping | C-27

M3606/M3607 WC4: Site Work | A or B

M3606/M3607 WC5: Cast in Place Concrete and Reinforcement | B or (C-50 and C-8)

M3606/M3607 WC6: Structural Steel | C-51

M3606/M3607 WC7: Miscellaneous Metals | C-51

M3606/M3607 WC8: Structural Precast | A

M3606/M3607 WC9: Framing-Drywall-Insulation-Fireproofing-Plaster | B or (C-2, C-9 and C-35)

M3606/M3607 WC10: Doors-Frames-Hardware | B or (D-16 and D-28)

M3606/M3607 WC11: Paint | C-33

M3606/M3607 WC12: Window/Glazing | C-17

M3606/M3607 WC13: Mechanical-Plumbing and Controls | B, C-20 and C-36

M3606/M3607 WC14: Electrical-Low Voltage-Security-Tel Data-Fire Alarm, AV | B and C-10

M3606/M3607 WC15: Fire Protection | C-16

M3606/M3607 WC16: Roofing & Waterproofing | C-39

M3606/M3607 WC17: Scaffolding | D-39

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF WORK:

M3606: In preparation for the seismic renovation of the CSB, the 18,000 GSF Laboratory of Radiology building will be partially demolished and the site prepared as a contractor staging area and Contractor/University parking lot. Scope includes hazardous materials abatement and partial demolition, stabilization of remaining structure for interim and future use, new service elevator, and site improvements. Work also may include alterations to the Nursing Building loading dock. The Laboratory of Radiology building is located at the Parnassus Campus 4 Koret Way, San Francisco CA 94143.

M3607: Medical Research (MR) IV building will be demolished and the site prepared as a surface University parking lot. Scope includes hazardous materials abatement, demolition, and site improvements. The Medical Research (MR) IV building is located at the Parnassus Campus on the Northwest corner of Koret Way and 4th Ave, San Francisco CA 94143.

The projects are not LEED. The construction process will be organized using Lean Construction methods, including pull scheduling, and Last Planner™ production management techniques.

The estimated construction costs will be established when each Bid Package is issued.

PREQUALIFICATION PROCESS:

PART 1 – Each prospective Bidder must complete Part 1 using McCarthy's Prequalification system and answer all questions and provide all requested information. Any prospective Bidder failing to do so will be deemed to be not responsive and not prequalified with respect to this Prequalification. Prior to starting the process, contact Judy Gee for Part I Instructions and General Requirements. Complete Part 1 by going to <https://prequalification.mccarthy.com/>. All Bidders that have responded to Part 1 will be notified in writing of whether or not they have successfully achieved Part 1 Prequalification status. Only those Bidders that have successfully achieved Part 1 Prequalification status will be permitted to participate in the Part 2 Prequalification process. Part 1 includes general questions on company information, type of services, business classifications, bonding limits, business and project references, license/claims history/disciplinary measures, safety and health status, and business construction revenue.

PART 2 –When deemed necessary by University and MBC, Bidders who have successfully prequalified for Part 1 will be notified to also complete Part 2 process. Part 2 process will utilize University's SRS system (Supplier Registration and Sourcing). Detailed instructions will be sent to Part 1 Prequalified Bidders when Part 2 process is applicable. Part 2 includes Project specific questions.

Only those Bidders that successfully achieve Part 1 and Part 2 (if applicable) Prequalification status will be determined to be prequalified and only those so prequalified will be eligible to submit a bid for this Project.

PREQUALIFICATION SCHEDULE:

Prequalification Documents will be available on MBC's prequalification system beginning **August 13, 2014 at 10AM PST.**

To start the prequalification process and if there are questions regarding access to or navigation of MBC's prequalification system or UCSF's SRS system, send an e-mail to

Judy Gee: jgee@mccarthy.com with the following information in the email subject line:

UCSF Project No. M3606/M3607 MBC/SRS Prequalification

Any questions or requests for clarifications or interpretation of the Prequalification Documents must be submitted in writing to Kevin Lew, Project Manager, MBC Inc. by EMAIL to klew@mccarthy.com **5 PM PST, August 22, 2014.** Questions received after the above-noted deadline may be answered at the discretion of MBC and the University.

Prequalification via MBC's Prequalification system must be completed on or before **September 5, 2014 at 5 PM PST.** MBC will not accept completed questionnaires via FAX, US Mail or Email.

Any person or entity not satisfied with the outcome of the prequalification must file a writ challenging the outcome within 10 calendar days from the date of the MBC or University's written notice regarding prequalification determination. Any assertion that the outcome of the prequalification process was improper will not be a ground for a bid protest. However, MBC and the University reserve the right to accept late submissions and to request, receive, and evaluate supplemental information after the above time and date at its sole determination.

This project will be insured under a University Controlled Insurance Program ("UCIP") providing workers' compensation and employer's liability insurance coverage, commercial general liability insurance coverage, and excess liability insurance coverage for Work performed on or at the Project site ("UCIP Coverages"). All insurance policies required to be obtained by Subcontractor shall be subject to approval by MBC and University for form and substance. All such policies shall be issued by a company rated by Best as A- or better with a financial classification of VIII or better, or have equivalent rating by Standard and Poor's or Moody's.

Anticipated Bid Schedule: Documents Available **November, 2014** (Exact dates and times will be set forth in each Bid Package).

Bid Security in the amount of 10% of the Lump Sum Base Bid shall accompany each Bid. The surety issuing the Bid Bond shall be admitted surety insurer (as defined in California Code Civil Procedure Section 995.120).

The University and MBC reserves the right to reject any or all responses to Prequalification Questionnaires and to waive non-material irregularities in any response received.

If the University deems there is not a sufficient pool of a particular designated subcontractor for competitive bidding, the University reserves the right to withdraw the prequalification requirements for that particular designated subcontractor and to continue to prequalify the other designated subcontractors.

All information submitted for prequalification evaluation will be considered official information acquired in confidence and the University will maintain its confidentiality to the extent permitted by law.

Every effort will be made to ensure that all persons have equal access to contracts and other business opportunities with the University within the limits imposed by law or University policy. Each Bidder may be required to show evidence of its equal employment opportunity policy.

The work described in the contract is a public work subject to section 1771 of the California Labor Code.

THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
University of California, San Francisco
August, 2014

What Kind of Prison Might the Inmates Design?

■ Continued from page 1

“Architects are sort of the psychiatrists of the system,” said Linda Bernauer, chair of the American Institute of Architects’ Academy of Architecture for Justice. “We have to listen to everyone, and victims and perpetrators don’t generally have much of a voice.... The intent is to talk about how therapeutic spaces can provide better outcomes and have architects be the leaders as opposed to just being hired to do what we’re told.”

Restorative justice concepts were first promoted in the 1970s by global practitioner and theorist Howard Zehr, now a professor at Eastern Mennonite University’s Center for Justice and Peacebuilding. The goal was to make the needs of victims central, and by doing so effect broader healing for all, communities included.

Critics of restorative justice contend the process is too subjective and could lead to proposed remedies that are wildly disparate. As a result, some victim organizations and hard-line prosecutors reject it.

But the practice has nonetheless spread globally and throughout the U.S. as a body of evidence grows showing it helps reduce school expulsions, keep youths out of the criminal justice system and prevent youths and adults who have already been sentenced from re-offending.

The conversation has now turned to space.

Courtrooms are out, said Sujatha Baliga, director of the Restorative Justice Project at the National Council on Crime & Delinquency, a research and policy organization. They’re “so binary -- someone is going to be victor and someone vanquished.”

Enter VanBuren.

The Oakland-based architect was working for a big firm when she heard bereaved-father-turned-restorative-justice-proponent Azim Khamisa on a podcast and was deeply moved. After his son was murdered by a teenage gang member, Khamisa reached out in forgiveness to the boy’s grandfather (as well as the assailant) so they could all heal, and the two men launched the San Diego-based Tariq Khamisa Foundation to address the roots of youth violence.

Soon after, she heard the founder of Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth speak about transformations at a West Oakland middle school, where suspensions and expulsions of African American students had plummeted. They teamed and VanBuren designed her first stand-alone restorative justice room -- in a portable trailer at an Oakland high school. She had found her calling.

VanBuren is now helping to design a peacemaking center in Syracuse for the New York-based Center for Court Innovation, a nonprofit arm of the state court system. With separate entrances for victims and offenders, views of a verdant terrace from the main peacemaking room and private spaces for reflection, it was crafted after intensive community workshops similar in many ways to the one in the jail.

Toews, meanwhile, who was raised in the Mennonite faith, got her start as a restorative justice



Inmates show off their certificates of completion. Clockwise from lower left are Dante Hayes, Christopher Gillis, Anthony Pratt, Aliton Woodson and Lamar Paschall. (Lee Romney, Los Angeles Times)

practitioner in the 1990s while doing her voluntary service and was hooked. In 2000, she conducted a workshop in a Pennsylvania prison with 13 inmates serving life sentences, most of whom had committed murder.

The men were defensive, reluctant to share their feelings. So she shifted to metaphor: The traditional system, she told them, is like a boxing ring, with a winner and loser and outsiders determining the outcome.

“What would a room look like,” she then asked, “where you could face anything you’ve done and be accountable for it?”

Together, they created a vision and called it “Do No Harm” room. A picture window with a mountain view. A door that locks from the inside. Plants and rugs. The workshop dynamic shifted.

Later, Toews wondered, “If we treated it as a potential for something literal, if the environment were different, how might that change how we do justice?”

She was exploring the question as a doctoral student a few years ago when VanBuren tracked her down. “I could not believe that someone had similar interests to me,” Toews said. “It was the craziest, luckiest thing.”

San Francisco County Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi welcomed the workshop into the jail.

He lauded the women’s work for offering a perspective “that is woefully absent in assessing how this nation’s incarceration system operates and fails.”

On the final workshop day in June, the inmates scrambled to piece together their models with glue sticks and tape.

Deandre Hill, 27, convicted of being a felon in possession of a firearm, and Christopher Gillis, 44, facing murder and commercial burglary charges, sat

side by side. They envisioned a cell with a computer that allowed for communication with family. Natural light, as in all the models, was key.

“The most important thing is to be accountable, but in order to work on yourself you have to be comfortable,” said Gillis, who is planning a restorative justice circle to “make up for the harm” he had inflicted on his 16-year-old son through his absence and violent tendencies.

Then it was time to present their models to the larger pod and a panel of outside reviewers.

As his teammates stood beside him, Dante Hayes, 33, facing charges of burglary and burglary to commit rape, showed a design with a tree in the atrium representing growth and “the ability for us to grow.” A kitchen would feed all visitors. (The group scrapped the outdoor pond because of the drought, they explained to laughs.)

In a closing circle after the presentation, Pratt, who recently participated in a restorative justice-style circle with his girlfriend, said his whole outlook had changed: “Instead of being barbarians and just beating each other upside the head, we can be like family.”

VanBuren said she is encouraging big architecture firms that design jails and prisons to hold similar workshops with inmates and guards.

“The goal is to empower those inside the institutions and prod architects to actually talk to the people they are designing for,” she said. “That’s how an architect would practice in any other setting.”

Source: (c)2014 the Los Angeles Times