

Seattle's Next Experiment in Urban Planning: Inclusive Engagement



Chinatown in Seattle. Immigrants comprise 20 percent of Seattle's population. (Shutterstock)

By Ron Littlefield

Seattle is a mecca for planners.

While there are a number of communities that have special significance to practitioners of the urban planning profession, Seattle leaders – past and present – have earned a reputation for strategically assessing the city's strengths and weaknesses, setting goals and objectives, and then sticking with a plan.

It's not really a coincidence that the national conference for the American Planning Association was just held in Seattle in April 2015 with more than 6,400 planners in attendance. Many planners (this one included) drew much of their initial inspiration and early career choices from observing and studying the multiple transformations and innovations of this special city.

Some of us older, more seasoned planners can recall the sense of excitement surrounding the 1962 World's Fair in Seattle. We in the southern United States watched from thousands of miles away with awe and wonder, hoping that someday we might have an opportunity to visit, ascend the Space Needle and ride the futuristic monorail. It sparked our imaginations and gave us a glimpse of how future cities might be different: sleek, clean and efficient. It looked like Disney's Tomorrowland, but turned out not to be so far-fetched after

all. We saw dreams becoming reality and concluded it might be fun to devote our lives to help build something similar.

In the May 2015 *Governing* article, "A City of Villages: Was Seattle's experiment in urban planning really as big a gamble as it seemed?" Alan Ehrenhalt notes that, even 20 years ago, Seattle was "America's epicenter of urban planning." He credits the city's then-mayor, Norm Rice, with summoning the public will and spending the necessary political capital to produce an innovative and challenging blueprint for how the city should look and function in 2014.

Ehrenhalt describes the process that took place back then – the successes and the concessions, the projections that hit the mark and those that missed, the inevitable wrestling matches with the local Chamber of Commerce over automobile-related issues and other such planning matters with which today's planners will identify.

He also describes the failure of the planning process to deal effectively with income disparity and economic polarization. These issues persist and are becoming even more pronounced in Seattle and other cities across the U.S. While planners will probably find little comfort in that analysis, it underscores one of the hard lessons that we might have learned during more recent decades: People tend to support that which they help create. And the best, most effective plans are those that involve

the broadest cross section of the community.

Seattle's application video to be part of the second cohort of the City Accelerator spells out some of the city's current challenges. For example, Seattle is already one of the fastest-growing large cities in the U.S. – and that trend is expected to continue. Robert Feldstein, director of the Office of Policy and Innovation for Seattle, cites projections of 120,000 new residents and 115,000 new jobs expected in the next 20 years. Clearly, the need to plan has never been greater. However, Kathy Nyland, senior policy advisor in the same office, notes that Seattle is also a culturally diverse city with a population that encompasses 129 languages. Immigrants comprise 20 percent of the city and 33 percent of those individuals are "linguistically isolated" – meaning no one in the household speaks English. Nyland correctly characterizes attempts to rely on public meetings – a system of public participation established decades ago, long before the Internet – as "an obstacle that prevents

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California Sub-Bid Request Ads

RGW Construction Inc. is seeking all qualified DBE (Disadvantaged Business Enterprises) for the following project:

State Hwy in Marin County near Stinson Beach at 1.2 miles south of North Panoramic Hwy

Contract no. 04-4S2204

Federal-Aid Project: ACSTP-P001(589)E

DBE Goal: 15%

Engineer Estimate: \$1,800,000 – Working days 140

Bids: July 1st, 2015 @ 2:00pm

Requesting Sub-quotes for (including but not limited to): Fabrics and Oils, Construction Area Signs, Traffic Control, Clear and Grub, Roadway Excavation, Landscaping, Hydroseeding, Erosion Control, Aggregate Base, Asphalt Base., Asphalt Paving, Pile Driving, Structural Concrete, Rock Slope Protection, Thermoplastic Traffic Stripe & Marking, Painted Traffic Stripe & Marking, Pavement Marking, Signal Temp, Message Signs, Lighting & Sign Illumination, SWPPP Planning, Water Truck, Sweeper, Trucker, Storm Drain (Underground) and Rock Stain.

Scope of Work: Construct retaining wall, road, drainage, and landscape.

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- Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) Paving
- Concrete Pavement Demolition
- Roller Compacted Concrete
- Concrete Grinding



9685 Via Excelencia, Ste 200 • San Diego, CA 92126

Phone: (858) 536-3100 • Fax: (858) 586-0164

E-mail inquiries to: cpjvdoc@coffmanspecialties.com

Every Subcontractor is required to be registered to perform public work pursuant to Section 1725.5 of the Public Contract Code. No Contractor or Subcontractor shall be qualified to bid on, be listed in a bid proposal pursuant to Section 4104 of the Public Contract Code, or engage in the performance of any contract for public work, unless currently registered to perform public work pursuant to Section 1725.5. No bid shall be accepted nor any subcontract entered into without proof of the Subcontractor's current registration to perform public work pursuant to Section 1725.5.

Coffman Specialties, Inc. is signatory to the Operating Engineers, Laborers, Teamsters, Cement Masons and Carpenters unions. Insurance and 100% Payment & Performance Bonds will be required. CPJV will provide assistance/advice with obtaining Bonds/Insurance/Credit. Waiver of Subrogation will be required. Plans, specifications and schedule information is available through CPJV's project office and Coffman Specialties, Inc.'s San Diego Office. We are an EOE & seriously intend to negotiate with qualified firms.

Project Name: Transbay Block 8
Project Location: San Francisco, CA
Pre-Bid Meeting: June 22, 2015 at 2:00PM
Bid Due Date: July 2, 2015
Meeting Location:
SFPUC Contractors Assistance Center
5 Thomas Mellon Cir
Suite 168
San Francisco, CA 94134
(415)467-1040

Requesting Bids for:
Mass Excavation & Shoring

Related California and Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation are currently requesting bid proposals from qualified subcontractors and material suppliers based in San Francisco, including those certified with the Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure (OCII), Successor to the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency (SFRA), for the construction of the Transbay Block 8 Project. The OCII has established a subcontractor participation goal for this project at 50% SBE participation.

The Project is comprised of approximately 546 residential units and 18,000 square feet of neighborhood retail over a 3-level subterranean parking structure. The design features a 55-story tower, 65' and 85' podium buildings, townhomes and a publicly accessible mid-block paseo. The Project's residential program includes 116 for-sale condominiums, 280 market rate rental units and 150 below market rate rental units.

For more information please email TB8@related.com. A member of the team will be able to provide clarifications and answers to any questions. Please do not send your bids via email to this email address. Electronic bid submittals will not be reviewed. Bid proposals shall be submitted no later than 3pm on July 2, 2015 via hard-copy delivery to 44 Montgomery, Suite 1050, San Francisco, CA 94104 to the attention of: Jeff Lucas.

Transbay 8 Urban Housing, LLC

44 Montgomery, Suite 1050

San Francisco, CA 94104

Phone: 415-677-4406 • Fax: 888-371-8739

Contact: Jeff Lucas

Email: TB8@related.com

Sub Bids Requested From Qualified
WBE, MBE, DBE
Subcontractors & Suppliers for
City of Rocklin
Pacific Street Bike Lane & Widening
Location: Rocklin, CA
CML-5095(019)
Bid Date: June 18, 2015 @ 2:00 PM

McGuire and Hester is seeking qualified subcontractors in the following trades: construction area signs; CCTV sewer; asphalt rubber seal coat; crack seal; cold plane AC; concrete flatwork; metal beam guard rail; striping; signage; and landscaping. We will pay up to and including one and one-half percent (1-1/2%) of your bonding cost. Certification assistance is available, as well as viewing plans and specs.

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Subcontractors, Material and/or Suppliers, and Professional Services

which must be certified with the SBA for:

ADDICKS AND BARKER DAMS Modification of Dams, New Outlet Structures and Cutoff Walls, (HARRIS AND FORT BEND COUNTIES), HOUSTON, TX

Solicitation No.W9126G-15-R-0001

BID DATE: Monday, July 06, 2015

**OWNER: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District
 LOCATION: Houston, Texas**

COUNTY: Harris & Fort Bend Counties

OUR QUOTE DEADLINE: Thursday, July 2, 2015

Quotes for Services & Supplies requested for the following items for bid including, but not limited to:

SWPPP, Piezometers & Monuments, Reinforcing Steel/Rebar, Communications, Web Cameras, Aerial Photography, Concrete Reinforcing & Accessories, Bridge Expansion Joints, Metal Wall Louvers, Civil Works Fabrication, Articulating Concrete Block Retenments, Bituminous Prime Coat, Project Identification, Preconstruction Surveying, Turfing, Metals / Structural Welding, Electronic Safety & Security, Mobile Office Buildings, Landscape Restoration, Precast Architectural Concrete, Clearing & Grubbing, Water Repellent Treatment for Bridges, Sluice Gates, Precast Concrete Blocks, Project Schedule, Environmental Protection & Plan, Quality Control, Fencing / High Security Chain link & Gates, HVAC, Generator & Prefab Buildings, Office Furnishing, Dewatering, Reinforced Concrete Bridge Slabs, Cellular Concrete Grouting, Instrumentation, Electrical Distribution System Underground, Riprap and Blanket Stone, Temporary Construction Facilities, Ultrasonic Inspection of Weldments, Geotech & Verification Drilling, AC Paving / Asphaltic Concrete, Electrical, Janitorial Service, Utility Terrain Vehicles, Demolition & Deconstruction, Pedestrian Access Bridge, Painting: Hydraulic Structures, Utilities, Telecommunications Outside Plant, Conduit Steel Liner & Transition, Cultural & Biological Resource Surveys, Precast Prestressed Concrete Bridge Girders

Terms and conditions should be made part of the quotations. 100% performance and payment bonds may be required for the full amount of the subcontract price. Dragados Pulice JV will assist with obtaining bonding, lines of credit, and insurance by encouraging the subs and vendors to work with state supportive services programs. Responsive subcontractors must possess a current contractor's license, insurance, and worker's compensation coverage complying with Dragados Pulice JV requirements and will be required to sign a standard Subcontract Agreement.

Dragados Pulice JV will analyze and consider each quote received, including those that are broken down into economically feasible units to facilitate bidding. Quotes must be valid for the same period of time as specified by Owner for contract award. Any conditions or exceptions in Subcontractor's quote are expressly rejected unless accepted in writing.

**RFP, Plans and Specifications are available by contacting our office
 or on FedBizOpps.Gov online at:**

https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&tab=core&id=af69439c2e502d1f0b626bc0972d1cf1&_cview=1

Dragados Pulice JV is committed to ensuring that subcontractors and vendors have the maximum opportunity to successfully perform on this project, and to making good faith efforts to utilize small, minority, HUBZone, and women's business enterprises.

Netherlands based pipeline repair company opens Houston office



Danny Ling, GM of Americas for IRM System

By Olivia Pulsinelli

A Netherlands-based company focusing on emergency pipeline repairs recently opened a new office in Houston.

Independent Risk Management Systems BV, or IRM Systems, opened the office, at 118 Vintage Park Blvd., in mid-May with a handful of employees. However, the company plans to have 10 to 15 permanent employees in Houston within two years, as well as a significant flexible shell/contractor base, a spokeswoman said. In particular, the company is looking for staff with hands-on engineering experience.

Danny Ling was appointed general manager of the Americas for IRM Systems and is based in Houston.

IRM Systems, which was founded in 2011, set up the Houston office to improve customer support and expand project management engineering services. Advancements in the energy industry "has meant the production costs per barrel using older, existing assets has dropped significantly," the company said in a press release.

"The implications of this development are tremendous, bringing with them the need for a new perspective on pipeline inspection, repair and maintenance," Rutger Schouten, general manager of IRM Systems, said in the release.

Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com>

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California Sub-Bid Request Ads



Kiewit

Requests sub-bids from qualified Subcontractors and/or Suppliers seeking to participate in the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD) Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (SRWTP) Disinfection Chemical Storage Project in Elk Grove, CA.

<http://www.epa.gov> / <http://www.sba.gov> / www.californiaucp.org

Subcontractors and Suppliers for the following project:

Disinfection Chemical Storage Project • Contract No. 4207

Owner: Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District

Bid Date: July 2, 2015 @ 2:00 P.M.

Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs)

Minority Business Enterprise (MBE), Women Business Enterprise (WBE), Small Business Enterprise (SBE), Small Business in a Rural Area (SBRA), Labor Surplus Area Firm (LSAF), or Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) Zone Business Concern or a concern under a successor program wanted for the following scopes, including, but not limited to:

Concrete, Concrete Forming, Concrete Reinforcing Supply & Install, Cast-In-Place Concrete, Precast Concrete, Grouting, Masonry, Metals, Rough Carpentry, Architectural Woodwork, Thermal and Moisture Protection, Doors and Windows, Finishes, Painting and Coating, Signage, Specialties, Plumbing, Earthwork, Shoring, Asphalt & Gravel Paving, Aggregates, Fencing & Gates, Grading, Heating, Ventilating, & Air Conditioning (HVAC), Process Gas and Liquid Handling Purification, and Storage Equipment, Pollution Control Equipment, Water and Wastewater Equipment.

Bonding, insurance, and any technical assistance or information related to the plans or specification and requirements for the work will be made available to interested CUCP, MBE, SBE, SBRA, LSAF or HUB Certified DBE business suppliers and subcontractors. Assistance with obtaining necessary equipment, supplies, materials, or services for this project will be offered to interested certified suppliers and subcontractors.

Subcontractor and Supplier Quotes are due NO LATER THAN Jun 30, 2015 at 5 P.M.

Plans are available for viewing at our office at our address below and through SmartBidNet (SBN).

All subcontractors that are registered in our SBN database will receive an invitation to bid. Please visit <http://www.kiewit.com/districts/northern-california/overview.aspx> to register your company to be able to receive bidding information.

Kiewit Infrastructure West Co.,
4650 Business Center Drive Fairfield, CA 94534
Attn: Victor Molina victor.molina@kiewit.com

You can view the plans in our office during regular business hours by appointment.

100% Performance Bond and Payment Bonds are required for this project. Cost of bond will be reimbursable.

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REQUESTING SUB-QUOTES FROM QUALIFIED LBE/LIABE/LBABB/SBE/VSB SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS FOR:

Air Cargo Way Pavement Rehabilitation
Project No: 2015-05-A1 • Owner: Port of Oakland
Engineers' Estimate: \$1,200,000.
BID DATE: June 24, 2015 @ 2:00 PM

Items of work include but are not limited to: Traffic Control, Site Demolition, Cold Mill Asphalt Concrete, Trucking, Crack Sealant, Soil Cement Base, Striping, Survey Monuments and LED In-Road Warning Lights.

Granite Rock Company 'Graniterock' is signatory to Operating Engineers, Laborers, Teamsters, Carpenters and Cement Masons unions. 100% performance and payment bonds will be required from a qualified surety company for the full amount of the subcontract price. Bonding assistance is available. Graniterock will pay bond premium up to 1.5%. In addition to bonding assistance, subcontractors are encouraged to contact Graniterock Estimating with questions regarding obtaining lines of credit, insurance, equipment, materials and/or supplies, or with any questions you may have. Subcontractors must possess a current contractor's license, insurance and worker's compensation coverage. Subcontractors will be required to enter into our standard contract. Graniterock intends to work cooperatively with all qualified firms seeking work on this project. Granite Rock Company is an equal opportunity employer.

Granite Rock Company

7700 Edgewater Drive, Building B, Suite 300
Oakland, CA 94621

Phone (408) 574-1400 Fax (408) 365-9548

Contact: Bob Williams • Email: estimating@graniterock.com

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people from participating."

Perhaps it was not a coincidence, but certainly it was a fortunate concurrence, that Seattle chose to address the issue of civic engagement as the principal theme for its City Accelerator initiative. Truly, there is nothing more relevant or important in fashioning new plans for coming decades. The digital era has given us new tools, but it has also instigated an even greater disruption of traditional methods of communication and public participation. Where people once had to choose between three or four television channels, they now have more than 300. Even when people come to meetings, they often are more attentive to their smart phones than the subject of the meeting at hand.

Seattle's public engagement process as a major part of its comprehensive plan, Seattle 2035, is already underway. In fact, the city is maintaining a very impressive "digital open house" for public information and input and survey responses will be received until June 18. All those interested in civic engagement – especially urban planners working with culturally diverse communities – should visit this site. It has a language tab in the upper left

corner that uses a Google-based service to quickly translate the information on the site and survey questions into dozens of languages and dialects. Frankly, even after more than 40 years in public life, I've never seen anything quite like it.

Patrice Carroll, senior planner with Seattle's comprehensive planning staff, notes that because of the plan's potential impact, the city is completing a full-blown formal Environmental Impact Statement. The Web-based survey is just one piece of the effort. "This is a piece that is designed for people that normally are hard to connect to," she says. "The online open house gave us an opportunity to hear from people that otherwise might not be involved." As of this writing the city had already received over 400 responses to the survey.

When asked about coming steps, Carroll said, "(Our next step is) to outreach to ethnic media that serve some of our many cultural groups and neighborhoods and use face-to-face contact with people on the ground. The real challenge is to identify the issues that we want people to comment on. This will be a tool that is intended to promote online dialogue (as opposed to isolated, one-way comments). We plan to use a digital tool called "Consider It"

– an existing computer program which is used by legislatures to sort and weigh options."

Seattle's current mayor, Ed Murray, has taken a public stand and made a strong commitment to Seattle 2035, and the updated, hopefully more effective and inclusive process that will help produce it. He stresses the current planning process must involve those who are affected, but from which leaders rarely hear. "We must use new social media tools and strategies, many of which were developed in our own backyard," he says.

Planners and the staff of the Mayor's Office of Innovation – those working on the comprehensive plan – stress that what they are doing today is not a replacement for meetings and other strategies of the past, but it is an effort to engage a younger and more diverse group – the very people most likely to be impacted and marginalized by changes in quality of life and affordability as the rapid growth and development of Seattle continues to unfold.

In the words of Mayor Murray, "We want more chairs at the table and more voices heard."

Source: <http://www.governing.com>