

REQUEST FOR
ARCHITECTURAL / ENGINEERING
SERVICES

March 31, 2024

RISE Center Playscape Renovations & Enhancements
UA Project No. 017-24-3587

Issued by

Construction Administration
The University of Alabama

Note:

This submittal will be deemed a public record and open to public inspection; therefore, this submittal should not include anything that needs to be maintained in confidence. If there is material which the proposer deems confidential, the proposer should indicate which material is deemed confidential, and that the material will be released to UA only upon a promise of confidentiality. This will allow UA to protect it against an open records request.

RISE Center Playscape Renovations & Enhancements

UA Project No. 017-24-3587

Please address all submittals and clarification questions to:

Mr. Vincent Dooley, Architectural Design Coordinator
Construction Administration
The University of Alabama
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Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35404
Voice 205-348-8584
Email: vddooley@ua.edu

RFQ PROJECT SCHEDULE

June 10, 2024	Response deadline for A/E Firms
June 10-14, 2024	UA Selection Committee Evaluation I
June 17, 2024	Notification to the top ranked A/E firms
July 8, 2024	UA oral interviews (top ranked A/E firms)
July 9-10, 2024	A/E rankings and Recommendation to BOT
September 2024	A/E approval by UA Board of Trustees

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The RISE Center Playscape Renovations & Enhancements Project (“Project”) is a full overhaul of the existing playground areas at the RISE Center and is necessary to continue to fulfill the center’s mission of a blended learning environment where all kids shine. The current playground equipment is nearing the end of its useful life, and this project will provide an opportunity for a state-of-the-art space for our children to thrive but to also be a model program for the Country when it comes to true accessibility for all levels of ability.

This Project will include therapeutic, fully-accessible infant, toddler and preschool yards for

the children and additional landscaping. The Project is key to enhancing the experience of the children and their families of the center.

The Project will also address drainage issues in the exterior playground areas.

Advancement and the College will pursue funds for both the overall Project and the individual playscape components. The University will execute on the Project either as individual packages or comprehensively in conjunction with realized fundraising.

Puddletown Playworks has completed programming documents for the project and the University desires that Puddletown work as a consultant with the selected A/E firm. The estimated construction cost is 1.8 million dollars.

PROJECT GOALS`

All construction bid packages will be competitively bid in compliance with the State of Alabama Public Works Law (Code of Alabama, Title 39).

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

The University is seeking Architectural & Engineering firms/teams with playground, landscape, and civil design expertise. The Architect/Engineer (A/E) firm will be responsible for providing architectural and engineering designs to satisfy the UA design standards and guidelines, the Alabama Division of Construction Management standards, and the State Building Code, as well as any other applicable codes for this type of project. **Please upload/submit one (1) electronic copy using the link below by 5:00 pm local time on Monday, June 10, 2024.**

[Link to upload submissions:](#)

<https://alabama.app.box.com/f/03db1563808948fb90975bef181a1d93>

File name: (*firm's name*) Rise Playscape-UARFQ.pdf

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

Respondents shall carefully read the information contained in the following criteria and respond in their application.

ONE: RESPONDENT'S STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS (Score 1-5)

- A. Describe your firm's experience working with other universities and state agencies.
- B. Describe your firm's experience working with The University of Alabama.
 - a. The UA desires to have input in the procurement of consultants once the top ranked firm is selected.
- C. The UA encourages the use of certified minority-owned businesses and certified women-owned businesses in its construction program. Describe your firm's approach in soliciting certified minority-owned or women-owned firms and consultants.

TWO: RESPONDENT'S PERFORMANCE ON PAST REPRESENTATIVE PROJECTS (Score 1-5)

- A. Identify and describe the proposed team's past experience providing A/E services that are **identical or similar** to this project within the last ten (10) years. List the projects in order of priority, with the most relevant project listed first.
- B. Provide references (for each project listed above, identify the following):
 - The Owner's name and their representative who served as the day-to-day liaison during the design and construction phases of the project, including current contact information.

The Owner may contact these references during this qualification process.

- C. Has your firm/organization within the past seven (7) years ever been terminated from a design project? If yes, please give pertinent details.

THREE: LITIGATION AND CLAIMS (Score 1-5)

- A. Does your firm/organization or any of its officers currently have any judgments, claims, arbitration, or mediation proceedings pending or outstanding? If yes, please give pertinent details and outcome(s).
- B. Has your firm/organization within the past seven (7) years filed any lawsuits or requested arbitration or mediation proceedings in regard to any of your construction projects? If yes, please give pertinent details and outcome(s).

FOUR: RESPONDENT'S ABILITY TO MEET INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS
(Score 1-5)

- A. Does your firm/organization have the ability to meet all the UA insurance

requirements? (See attached)

- B. What is your process for managing any claims of the contractors during the project?

FIVE: PROJECT SPECIFIC CRITERIA (Score 1-5)

- A. Discuss your firm's history dealing with playgrounds and accessible sensitive spaces, primarily in learning centers, daycare, or educational facilities. What were the challenges encountered and your proposed solution(s)?
- B. Discuss your firms' experience with using stakeholder's special consultants. What are some challenges with this design deliverable approach (if any)? What lessons learned could be relevant to ensure project success?

SELECTION PROCESS:

Upon receipt, submittals will be evaluated by the Selection Committee. The Selection Committee will rank the A/E firms accordingly to participate in oral Interviews (usually top three). A project program (if applicable or complete) will be sent to all top ranked A/E's to assist with their oral interviews. Following oral interview evaluations, the top ranked A/E firms will be recommended to the Board of Trustees for approval. A contract will be negotiated with the top-ranked A/E firm as approved by the Board of Trustees. If a contract can be negotiated, then that firm will be selected. If a contract cannot be negotiated, then negotiations with the next highest ranked A/E firm will commence until an agreement satisfactory to UA is reached. Preference shall be granted to an Alabama-based firm when qualities are comparable. This project is subject to approval by the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama.

Note:

Upon entering into an Agreement, the selected firm will be required to submit a Vendor Disclosure Statement. Samples of these documents are attached for your review.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Insurance Requirements
- B. Vendor Disclosure Statement