

# CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE CENTER

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## Chicago Architecture Center announces request for qualifications from designers for the needs of under-resourced neighborhoods

Esteemed jury will identify local candidate firms for new development opportunities supported by the City of Chicago's INVEST South/West initiative

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**[Images available for download here](#)**

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CHICAGO – The **[Chicago Architecture Center](#)** (CAC), on behalf of the City of Chicago **[Department of Planning and Development](#)**, invites members of the Chicagoland design community to respond to a new Request for Qualifications (RFQ), available now online at **[architecture.org/rfq](http://architecture.org/rfq)**. The deadline for firms to register to apply is Friday, July 17, 2020, with completed applications due by 5pm Central Time on Wednesday, July 29, 2020.

The goal of this RFQ is to identify approximately 30 design-services firms most qualified for an extraordinary new opportunity: developing scores of sites along key corridors within neighborhoods targeted for improvements via the City of Chicago's **[INVEST South/West initiative](#)**. The pre-qualified list of firms, identified by an independent jury through an equitable and competitive process, will be announced in mid-August 2020.

Chicago Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot launched INVEST South/West as a transformative approach to investment in ten areas located on the city's South and West Sides: Auburn Gresham, Austin, Bronzeville, Greater Englewood, Greater Roseland, Humboldt Park, New City, North Lawndale, South Chicago and South Shore. Together with forward-looking public and private interests and community-centered organizations, the City has begun executing on existing neighborhood plans, and developing Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for city-owned sites along corridors in these target areas.

"The RFQ is a great opportunity under Mayor Lightfoot to enhance the promise of INVEST South/West," says **[City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development Commissioner Maurice Cox](#)**. "The RFQ will help uplift Chicago-area emerging design talent while also ensuring neighborhood development is coordinated and implemented by professionals that reflect the diversity of Chicago itself."

“The CAC is proud to play a leading role advancing equity and inclusion within the design industry, helping ensure that a variety of innovative approaches and cultural perspectives are applied to the enhancement of these Chicago neighborhoods,” says **CAC President and CEO Lynn J. Osmond**.

Once complete, the pre-qualified list of firms to be identified by the jury will be attached to subsequent INVEST South/West RFPs. Although advisory in nature, this list will promote the qualifications of firms, both established and emerging, with a proven commitment to design excellence that reflects the City of Chicago’s cultural, economic and racial diversity. In alignment with the CAC’s own organizational objectives, this process supports recent steps Chicago has taken in embracing equity within its planning and development investments.

“It’s rare to see a city work to bring the strength and diversity of its design community to the attention of developers,” says jury chair **Reed Kroloff, Dean and The Rowe Family College of Architecture Endowed Chair at the Illinois Institute of Technology’s College of Architecture**. “This is an exciting opportunity to up the game and extend the quality of design and development in Chicago.”

The CAC has convened an independent, seven-person jury to review submissions to the RFQ and to formulate its pre-qualified list of firms: Jury Chair **Reed Kroloff**, Dean and The Rowe Family College of Architecture Endowed Chair, Illinois Institute of Technology’s College of Architecture; **Philip Enquist**, FAIA, Consulting Partner, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill; **Gerardo Garcia**, Design Review Lead, City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development; **Lynn J. Osmond**, President and CEO, Chicago Architecture Center; **Allison Grace Williams**, FAIA, Principal, AGWms Studio; **Bill Williams**, Principal, KMW Communities; and **Sara Zewde**, Founding Principal, Studio Zewde.

Partnership between firms in responding to the RFQ is allowed and encouraged. Emerging firms may opt to file jointly with larger, more established firms where roles are clearly defined and where such partnership may expand the scope of opportunity. Visit [architecture.org/rfq](http://architecture.org/rfq) to view and download the full RFQ and for further guidance on how to apply.

This RFQ to identify local candidate firms for new development opportunities through the City of Chicago’s INVEST South/West initiative is made possible by generous support from the Pritzker Traubert Foundation, committed to strengthening all of Chicago’s neighborhoods. AIA Chicago joins the effort as a promotional sponsor, ensuring notice of this opportunity reaches stakeholders across the city’s architecture and design communities.

### **About the Chicago Architecture Center**

The Chicago Architecture Center (CAC) is a nonprofit organization founded in 1966, dedicated to inspiring people to discover why design matters. A national leader in architecture and design education, the CAC offers field-leading tours, programs, exhibitions and more that are part of a dynamic journey of lifelong learning.

Opened to the public in 2018, its riverfront location is in the heart of the city, where Michigan Avenue meets the Chicago River, featuring nearly 10,000 square feet of exhibition space filled with super-sized models—and views—of iconic skyscrapers built over the course of more than a century. Exhibitions focus on Chicago’s diverse neighborhoods, housing types, leading architects and future projects, and include the largest scale model of the city, with more than 4,250 miniature buildings, interactive touchscreens, and a cinematic backdrop animating key moments in its history. Highly knowledgeable, enthusiastic CAC docents guide visitors and residents through more than 75 walking tours with more than 7,000 annual departures, plus the Chicago Architecture Foundation Center River Cruise aboard Chicago’s First Lady.

Through partnerships with schools and youth-serving organizations, the CAC reaches approximately 30,000 K–12 students annually, while teacher workshops provide educators with tools and resources they need to advance STEM curricula in their classrooms. Committed to increasing access for populations historically under-represented in ACED (architecture, construction, engineering, and design) professions, the CAC offers many of its education programs—and all of its programs for teens—at no cost to participants. CAC programs for adults and members include talks with acclaimed authors and practicing architects, in-depth presentations on issues and trends in urbanism, and classes unlocking a wide range of subjects with connections to the built environment.

Proceeds from programs, tours and the CAC Design Store, as well as from grants, sponsorships and donations, support its educational mission. Visit [architecture.org](http://architecture.org) to learn more and follow @chiarchitecture and #chiarchitecture on social media.

