

September 14, 2023

To: Design-Build Forum Attendees

RE: 2023 WSU Design-Build Forum, "Design-Build in 2023"

Thank you for joining us in person for our 8th annual Design-Build Forum. It was such a pleasure to be back in person and discussing topics at tables again, and what a pleasure to host you all at the CUB this year (who knew air conditioning could be so wonderful). After the 2022 Design-Build Forum introduced our 'GMP day one' contract methodology, we continue to look to our Design-Build teams to be nimble with design and construction process often occurring in tandem. We began asking the deep dive questions during the RFQ and RFP phases to really see how teams are working to increase diverse business inclusion through access to opportunities, capital and training. We implemented a two-part interview process, one in-person and a virtual follow-up.

This year we started off discussing procurement and selection and ways to make it a better experience for both WSU and the Teams. We heard overwhelmingly that unless the complexity of the project calls for a second interview, the teams really would prefer not to have that extra step within the process after having experienced it in our last few procurements. We were also challenged by the Design-Build Community to ask more focused questions that would allow teams to differentiate themselves and provide them an opportunity to tell their stories. Look for differing questions within the RFQ and RFP submission questions, with a great effort to remove duplicative questions.

We had some rousing conversations around trade partners and design deliverables. We appreciated the creative solutions addressing incorporating small businesses into the teams, and look forward to seeing some of the strategies by proposing teams in the future. We wrapped this section of the forum looking at one of our fondest challenges - the nomenclature of the design-build process! We finally heard some concepts thrown around truly trying to put the terminology to the test (mike and larry), micro and macro project development, pieces of space, systems, vignettes and design flexibility. Look for us to attempt to continue the conversation with new terminology.

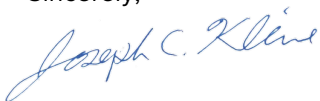
Our third topic of the day asked the Design-Build community to help us with our immediate need of MCR Design-Build and we tested ideas around single procurement multiple awards of smaller design-build contracts. We heard that likely starting with bigger groupings and awarding a singular contract for each would likely be a better way to test the design build process to address deferred maintenance needs. An interesting outcome of the conversation that we liked and plan to implement is the concept of an intent to propose step prior to the RFQ.

Finally we asked for the attendees to give us ideas for future topics and as always you did not disappoint. We heard a call to encourage small businesses to attend and to think of creative solutions to provide that encouragement. Other topics that were interesting include unpacking the GMP, unlocking the value of trade partners and trade partner engagement - how to keep them at the table and sharing their expertise.

We are grateful for the great turnout, candid conversations, and honest feedback. Thank you all for joining us, talking face to face, and we look forward to seeing you July 26, 2024.

GO COUGS!

Sincerely,



Joe Kline, P.E.
Assistant Vice President, Capital and Operations
Facilities Services