

Bridgeport Downtown Special Services District
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
 Auditor Consultant Contract



INTRODUCTION

The Bridgeport Downtown Special Services District [hereafter “DSSD” or “the District”] serves as the business improvement district for the Park City’s central business corridor. The DSSD is charged with fostering a safe, welcoming urban environment, a center for cultural activity, and competitive setting for business. To accomplish this charge, DSSD provides environmental maintenance, beautification, and security services. Furthermore, the DSSD – in collaboration with the City of Bridgeport and local/regional cultural organizations – implements special events and also markets downtown businesses, institutions, and cultural events.

The DSSD is one type of special taxing district Connecticut law authorizes whereby property owners in a geographical area oversee and fund the maintenance, improvement, and promotion of their commercial district. DSSDs deliver services above and beyond those provided by the City of Bridgeport, all funded by a special assessment paid by property owners within the district. Property owners within the Bridgeport DSSD contribute an additional three mills on top of their property tax assessment to pay for programming and services. The DSSD is operated under the direction of a nine member Board of Commissioners representing property owners in downtown Bridgeport. The DSSD’s fiscal year (FY) is July 1 to June 30. The budget for the most recent and current fiscal years were as follows:

REVENUES	FY 2018	FY 2019
Property Tax Assessment	\$555,000	\$568,215
Grants and Event Sponsorships	\$93,300	\$76,300
Other Revenue	\$1,125	\$2,235
TOTAL REVENUE	\$649,425	\$646,750
EXPENSES		
General + Administrative	\$200,559	\$178,069
Streetscape	\$332,893	\$348,000
Marketing + Events	\$88,240	\$55,401
Creative Placemaking	\$25,000	\$65,280
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$646,692	\$646,750
Net Revenue (Expense)	\$2,733	\$0

SCOPE OF CONTRACTOR

The Bridgeport DSSD is requesting a three-year audit and tax proposal from several CPA firms with experience providing audit and tax services to not-for-profit and government organizations. This scope of work is contract-based (IRS Form 1099). Proposals are not to exceed up to a maximum of \$6,000 per year for this scope of activity. The DSSD reserves the right to adjust the billable hours, and staffing levels, of any contractor on a regular basis. It should be noted that either party may cancel the audit for the second or third year by written notice to the other party no later than six months after the start of the fiscal year.

The firm will provide:

- Audited financial statements for the three years beginning with the year ended June 30, 2018.
- Preparation of management letter (including our management action plan as part of final submission to the Board of Directors).
- Planning meetings in preparation for audit.
- Presentation of final audited financial statements and management letter to our Board of Directors, including executive session if requested.
- Availability to answer questions throughout the entire year.

We anticipate that we would be prepared for the audit of the fiscal 2018 financial statements to begin fieldwork during the week of October 15, 2018, and would expect the delivery of financial statements and the management letter by December 12, 2018.

HOW TO APPLY

Proposal Specifications

Applicants should submit a proposal meeting the following specifications in the order requested.

1. Provide a description of your firm. (staff size, number of professionals, industries served, etc.)
2. Describe engagements your firm currently conducts in the not-for-profit and government sectors. Include a list of not-for-profit and government clients that you believe are comparable to our organization in size, mission focus, and complexity. If partners or other employees serve in an advisory/consultative capacity within the not-for-profit and government sectors, please list such positions as well.
3. Describe the level of experience of the individuals who would be assigned to our account.
4. Describe your firm's basic approach to performing an audit and the resulting advantages that will accrue to our agency. Include description of the activities undertaken by your firm to promote/ensure audit quality.
5. Describe the extent to which our organization's personnel will be expected to contribute to the work effort.
6. Describe any existing or potential relationships between your firm and our agency and any employee or officer of the agency that could affect your independence and objectivity because of an actual or perceived conflict of interest.
7. Identify the engagement team which would be performing our audit and include a resume of the qualifications and experience for partners, managers, and staff.
8. Indicate the expected timing and completion of the audit and the expected delivery of the financial statements and management letter.
9. Provide any additional information, not specifically requested previously, considered essential to your proposal.

Proposals are due no later than 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 19, 2018 to Lauren Coakley Vincent via email at lauren.dssd@infobridgeport.com or in hard copy to:

Bridgeport Downtown Special Services District

Attn: Lauren Coakley Vincent

938 Broad Street

Bridgeport, CT 06604

No proposals received after this date will be considered. The DSSD will review all proposals for completeness; any that are incomplete may be eliminated. Criteria by which all proposals will be evaluated include:

1. Ability of the proposer to satisfy all requirements for successful completion of the assignment;
2. Cost to the Bridgeport DSSD;

3. Experience in providing the services being requested; and
4. Interview evaluation process, if interviews are conducted.

The DSSD reserves the right to reject any or all of the proposers, to waive any informalities in the proposals received, and to accept the proposals deemed in the best interest of the DSSD. The Bridgeport DSSD also reserves the right to interview and negotiate with selected respondents after all proposals have been reviewed and award a contract as it deems is in its best interest. All proposal submissions will be responded to once a decision has been made.

If you are interested in submitting a proposal, contact Lauren Coakley Vincent via email at lauren.dssd@infobridgeport.com or (203) 908-3622 and we will make available to you:

- current financial statements
- latest audited financial statements
- an organizational chart
- other documents as requested by you for preparation of a proposal

Pre-Bid Conference: The DSSD will hold an optional pre-bid informational meeting on **Monday, September 7, 2018 at 1:00 PM** at the DSSD offices (938 Broad Street, Bridgeport, Connecticut) for contractors interested in submitting proposals.

Other Proposal Instructions: Proposers are expected to examine the specifications and all instructions contained in this invitation for bids. The proposals must be signed by a duly authorized representative. Consideration may be given to such matters as contractor integrity, record of past performance, and financial and technical resources.