

Procurement

State Designer Selection Board

Background:

The State Designer Selection Board (SDSB) was established in 1974 to allow for a non-political process of selection of designers for State building projects. The Board is made up of seven volunteer members representing designers, contractors, the public and owners and utilizes the qualifications based selection (QBS) process to determine the most qualified firms for projects. The Board has made over 650 project selections since its inception. A study conducted in 2018 by a task force made up of ACEC/MN, AIA MN, AGC, and the Minnesota Arts Board, has generated a number of recommendations to improve the SDSB process. The recommendations address issues that had been raised by individuals and legislators in prior years.

ACEC/MN Position:

ACEC/MN strongly supports the State Designer Selection Board. The Board has proven to be highly successful and is accepted by both the state agencies and the design community that utilize the service. We recommend an increase in thresholds to \$4 million for construction cost and \$400,000 for planning fees which reflects inflationary costs since the last increase to the threshold. We also recommend that the legislature consider adding a landscape architect as a defined position on the SBSB. We encourage the Legislature to provide additional resources to the Board to assure that the staff supporting its activity has the capabilities and resources available to effectively carry out its mandate.

Action Requested:

- Contact and educate your legislators on the value the State Designer Selection Board brings to the state and the importance of the use of qualification-based selection in this process.

American Council of Engineering Companies of Minnesota

10201 Wayzata Blvd., Suite 240

Minnetonka, MN 55305

P: 952-593-5533 F: 952-593-5552

www.acecmn.org