

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
AUDITING SERVICES FOR MUSIC CITY CENTER
201 REP. JOHN LEWIS WAY SOUTH, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37203**

RFP # 108-2024

**Issued By:
The Convention Center Authority
of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County**

This solicitation document serves as the written determination of the Director of Purchasing, that the use of competitive sealed bidding is neither practicable nor advantageous to the Convention Center Authority. Therefore, this solicitation will facilitate the entering into of contract(s) by the competitive sealed proposals process.

**Issuance Date: December 11, 2024
Auditing Services for the Music City Center**



**Proposal Submission Date:
January 29, 2025 (3:00 PM Nashville local time)**

**Procurement Staff Contact:
Jasmine Quattlebaum
Director of Purchasing
Convention Center Authority**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
Auditing Services

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NOTICE TO OFFERORS

This Request for Proposal (RFP) has been posted to Nashville Music City Center (hereafter Music City Center or MCC) website for your convenience. Addenda and attachments, if issued are also posted. It is the Offeror’s responsibility to ensure that the entire RFP package, in its latest version, is reviewed prior to submittal of a proposal.

Solicitation amendments are posted on the Music City Center website at (<http://www.nashvillemusiccitycenter.com/about/business-opportunitites>) and attached to the individual solicitation listing as either a Microsoft Office product or PDF file.

Any alterations to the document(s) made by the Offeror, other than completing worksheets/forms, may be grounds for rejection of proposal, cancellation of any subsequent award, or any other legal remedies available to the Convention Center Authority.

Music City Center intends that this RFP is accurate and complete but recognizes that there may be some details or work requirements not expressly described herein.

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I) INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

A. Convention Center Authority.

Established in 2009, the Convention Center Authority of Metropolitan Government of Nashville & Davidson County (hereinafter “the Authority”) is a public, nonprofit corporation and a public instrumentality of the City and is authorized under Title 7, Chapter 89, Part 1, Tennessee Code Annotated, as amended, to plan, promote, finance, construct, acquire, renovate, equip and enlarge convention center facilities along with associated hotel accommodations in order to promote and further develop tourism, convention and employment opportunities in the State of Tennessee and thereby provide a means to attract conventions, public assemblies, conferences, trade exhibitions or other business, social, cultural, scientific and public interest events to the State, enhance the State’s image as a convention destination, and encourage and foster economic development and prosperity and employment within the State. The Authority consists of nine members appointed by the Mayor of Nashville and includes a chair, vice-chair, and secretary, who are elected annually, as well as three ex-officio members appointed by the Governor of Tennessee.

Music City Center, located at 201 Rep. John Lewis Way South, Nashville, Tennessee, 37203, includes approximately 353,000 square feet of exhibition space, approximately 75,000 square feet of ballroom space (consisting of a 57,500 square foot Karl F. Dean Grand Ballroom and an 18,000 square foot Davidson ballroom), 61 meeting rooms with approximately 90,000 square feet in total, over 145,000 square feet of pre-function space, two outdoor terrace areas (one on Rep. John Lewis Way with 19,000 square feet of space and the other at the corner of 8th Avenue and Demonbreun with over 8,000 square feet of space), 32 loading docks, 1,800 space three-level parking garage and approximately 7,500 square feet of retail space.

B. Purpose and Opportunity.

The Authority is seeking offers from qualified firms who are certified to submit proposals for Auditing Services for Music City Center.

Selected contractor must have the qualifications to audit the financial statements for the Authority for the year ended June 30 in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards (the “Yellow Book”), issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; OMB Circular A-133, Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations; and requirements prescribed by the Comptroller of the Treasury, State of Tennessee.

Copies of the CCA Financial Statement and audit reports for the most recent and prior years can be found at:

<https://www.nashvillemusiccitycenter.com/cca/annual-report>

Copies of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), which includes the CCA can be found at:

<http://www.nashville.gov/Finance/Financial-Operations.aspx>

This contract has four parties – the Authority, Metropolitan Government of Nashville & Davidson County (hereinafter “Metro”), the State of Tennessee and the selected Contractor.

It is the intention of the Authority to enter into a one-year contract with the selected Contractor to provide the services identified above with the option of the Authority to retain the selected Contractor for four subsequent years, subject to the annual review and/or approval of the Convention Center Authority Board.

It is the Authority's objective to select the best-qualified firm who, in its opinion, will continuously provide top quality service and generally create goodwill within this high-quality facility. The final decision of the Authority will be made in its overall best interest. Any anticipated changes or deviations from these contracts should be clearly identified in the response to this RFP.

Any contract resulting from this RFP will be for a three (3) year term with a one-time option to extend for one (1) additional two-year term at the sole discretion of the Authority.

II) SCOPE OF SERVICES.

The Authority is looking to seek offers from qualified firms who are certified to perform **Auditing Services** including but not limited to:

A. Scope Detail

1. Functional Requirements

Metro will prepare and issue a ACFR which includes the Authority and the Authority desires the Contractor to perform the necessary audit work and express opinions on but not limited to the following:

- **Financial Statements-** The examination of basic financial statements and compliance audit made in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. The primary purpose of the audit is to express an opinion on the Authority's financial statements. The examination includes examining transactions and accounts that support the amounts in the financial statements and includes an overall view of the Authority's financial statements. The audit procedures used shall be sufficient to enable the proposer to express an opinion on the fairness of the Authority's presentation of its financial position, results of operations, and cash flows in accordance with U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. In addition, such procedures should be adequate to determine whether the Authority operations were conducted in compliance with legal and regulatory requirements including Tennessee Statutes, Federal Laws, and Authority policies and procedures.
- **Review of Internal Controls** – The contractor is required to review the Authority internal controls and obtain an understanding of Authority operations in order to properly plan auditing procedures, identify areas of potential misstatements, and assess fraud risk. In addition, the contractor may need to test internal controls to assess the extent the controls can be relied upon in order to reduce testing procedures. Internal control management letter comments and reportable conditions shall be communicated in writing in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

- **Management Letter** – A management letter will be issued for each year audited and will report any significant audit findings. The following are some of the significant items that may be noted during the performance of the audit:
 - Whether or not errors or irregularities reported in the preceding audit report have been corrected.
 - Whether or not recommendations made in the preceding audit report have been implemented.
 - Violation of laws, rules, and regulations discovered within the scope of the audit.
 - Illegal expenditures discovered within the scope of the audit.
 - Improper or inadequate accounting procedures.
 - Failure to properly record financial transactions.
 - Other inaccuracies, irregularities, shortages or declarations, if any, discovered during the audit.
 - Recommendations to improve management, accounting procedures, internal controls, and efficiency.

- **Convention Center Authority of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville Davidson County Employees Savings Trust** – The successful contractor will be required to complete the Department of Labor Form 5500 with a draft prepared by our 401K record keeper. Form 5500 will be prepared on a cash basis, will reflect only the transactions (contributions, etc.) that occurred during the plan year period and will not include receivable amounts. The audit report must be completed and filed by July 31. A form 5558 may be filed to extend this deadline, but audit work should be scheduled and completed to ensure the 5500 is submitted well before work begins on the financial statement audit. The cost associated with filing of the 5500 must be indicated in the proposal.

- **Performance of extended audit work** - All additional work shall be documented by memorandums to be approved by the Authority Board. The fee for additional services shall be separately negotiated at the time of the memorandum for a not to exceed amount calculated in accordance with the respondent billing rates itemized in this RFP.

2. **Organization of the Authority**

The preparation of the financial statements for the Authority is under the responsibility of the Director of Finance of the Authority, but the Authority utilizes the financial software and select processes of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville & Davidson County. The Authority, in conjunction with the Metro finance department, manages the annual closing process, the

preparation of the various financial reports, and coordinates the audit engagement. The primary contact will be the Authority's Director of Finance or designee.

3. Reporting Entity

The Authority is a component unit of the Metropolitan Government and is included in Metro's ACFR.

4. Accounting Systems

Certain financial and administrative support is provided to the Authority by Metro through an intergovernmental agreement.

The Authority utilizes Metro's Oracle R12 software for its financial accounting and management system. Various modules of R12 are utilized including general ledger, accounts payable, cash receipts, payroll, and fixed assets. Additionally, the Authority utilizes various other software products to support specific areas with unique needs such as time and attendance, client invoicing/billing, and parking receipts. The information from these other systems are manually interfaced and reconciled to R12.

5. Accounting Process

The Authority utilizes a combination of Metro and Authority specific processes. The majority of accounting transactions originate with the Authority. The Authority maintains ownership and responsibility for the financial records; however, the same transactions are reviewed by Metro's Division of Financial Operations before they are recorded in the accounting records.

6. Accounting Records

The accounting records are maintained and filed at the Music City Center and in the Division of Financial Operations at Metro. Some records are hard copy documents; however, the Authority and Metro are increasingly utilizing electronic records where possible. Currently, electronic images are maintained of invoices supporting payments. Additionally, electronic images are maintained of bank transactions supporting cash receipts.

Detail records for those separately maintained systems such as time and attendance, client invoicing/billing, and parking receipts are maintained within the Authority's Department of Finance.

7. Accounting Structure

The Authority utilizes a traditional fund structure within R12 to record accounting and financial information. Various business units record specific activities within each fund and department, and object accounts record specific types of transactions. The object account structure is consistent across all Authority funds within the R12 system.

8. ACFR and Audit Schedule

The Authority follows the ACFR and audit schedule of Metro, dictated by section 6.15 of the Charter of the Government which requires that the annual audit be completed “as soon as practical after the close of the fiscal year, and in no event later than four months after the close of the fiscal year.” Accordingly, Metro requires that the audit opinion for all component units be dated by October 31 or prior. Metro will need to be provided with a final draft of the Authority’s stand-alone audited financial statements and footnotes by October 15.

9. Letter of Recommendation to Management

The Letter of Recommendations to Management has historically been prepared by the independent auditors based on observations throughout the audit process. Responses to recommendations are provided by the Authority. The report has historically been printed by the independent auditors.

10. Other Information

Other information such as descriptions of the Authority’s retirement plans, debt, etc., is contained in the ACFR; there have been no substantive changes since publication of the ACFR. Prospective contractors are encouraged to review the ACFR and submit any questions that might be relative to your proposal prior to the stated deadline found in Section V.

B. Contractor Responsibilities

The Contractor’s responsibilities are including but not limited to:

The Contractor’s primary responsibilities are to plan, execute and document the audits as outlined in the Functional Requirements.

The Contractor will submit the completed deliverables to the State of Tennessee as required by the State’s Contract and Report System (CARS).

The Contractor will make all required communication with the Authority’s Board.

The Contractor will discuss any issues with the Authority as they arise in order to timely address such matters that could impact the audit progress.

The Contractor will be expected to be available for weekly update meetings regarding the status of the audit project.

In the required Reports on internal control, the Contractor shall communicate any significant deficiencies, material weaknesses or other control deficiencies identified during the course of the audit.

The Contractor shall make an immediate written report to of all significant irregularities and any illegal acts as they become known to:

- Convention Center Authority Finance & Audit Committee Chairman

- Convention Center Authority Chairman
- Convention Center Authority President & CEO

C. **The Authority's and Metro Responsibilities**

The Authority and Metro will provide access to all personnel, contractors, and subcontractors necessary for the completion of the audit.

Authority and Metro's Division of Financial Operations will review and concur with the audit timeline and general plan, review and respond to findings and recommendations, and review and provide feedback on portions of the Reports prepared by the Contractor. The Authority and Metro shall have the right to inspect any facility or project site where the services performed under the resultant contract are performed.

III) **DIVERSITY PLAN**

It is the policy of the Authority to assist small, minority-, women-, and service-disabled veteran-owned business enterprises in learning how to do business with the Authority. Furthermore, proposers are encouraged to maximize the use of small, minority-, women-, and service-disabled veteran-owned businesses with respect to this scope.

A Diversity Plan may include an explanation of action items to include small, minority-, women-, and service-disabled veteran-owned businesses as it pertains to this scope. A good Diversity Plan should include, at a minimum, the following components.

- Statement of commitment.
- Strategic approaches and methodologies taken to ensure maximum participation by small, minority-, women-, and service-disabled veteran-owned businesses suppliers.
- Methods to ensure prompt payment of small, minority-, women-, and service-disabled veteran-owned businesses.
- Utilization monitoring and reporting tactics including specific techniques used to monitor participation on an ongoing basis and report to the Convention Center Authority.
- Identification of the small, minority-, women-, and service-disabled veteran-owned businesses who will serve as subcontractors, along with the nature and estimated value of the work they will perform and the percentage of the operating budget that work represents.
- Identification of the balance of the planned (non-DBE) subcontractors and the portion of total proposed cost they will perform.
- Monthly reconciliation of payments via cancelled checks.

A. **Source Lists.**

The Authority makes available source lists of small, minority-, women-, and service-disabled veteran-owned business enterprises for the purpose of encouraging procurement from small and diverse businesses. These lists are compiled and maintained by DBE certifying agencies or organizations recognized by the Authority. Proposers who desire assistance in locating such businesses and suppliers are encouraged to visit the web pages of the recognized agencies or organizations or contact the Music City Center's

Purchasing/DBE department at mccpurchasing@nashvillemcc.com for assistance in obtaining DBE source lists.

For a list of certifying agencies recognized by the Authority, please review the “How to do business with Music City Center” document located at <https://www.nashvillemusiccitycenter.com/about/business-opportunities>.

B. Solicitation Mailing Lists.

To the extent deemed appropriate by the Authority, it shall include small, minority-, women-, and service-disabled veteran-owned business enterprises on solicitation mailing lists.

C. Documentation Requirements.

Proposer must complete the List of Proposed Diversified Businesses (See Exhibit B) and submit the Exhibit with the Diversity Plan to make a commitment to use vendors and subcontractors that claim DBE business status. Changes to the list of proposed DBE businesses must be submitted in writing and approved in advance by the Authority or designee. Proposers must confirm that any DBE businesses to be included in its proposal meet the standards set forth by the Authority. Proposers shall likewise notify its proposed DBE businesses that the Authority requires that the subcontractor be [i] registered to do business with the City and [ii] approved as a small business through the submission to Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County Business Assistance Office or received MWBE certification through an Authority approved certified agency.

Documentation to confirm DBE status must be included with proposal submission. DBE status must be approved prior to proposal submission.

D. Misrepresentation.

If during the course of the Agreement, the vendor fails to maintain the level of small business participation committed to in its proposal, or if any material representation made in its proposal concerning the small business status of any team member, subcontractor or contractor’s involvement in the ownership, operation or management of any subcontractor claiming status as a small business is shown to be false, the Authority may, at its sole option and in addition to any other remedies available under the contract, at law or in equity, terminate the Agreement. Further, in the event that the Authority terminates the Agreement, the vendor shall pay the Authority’s full re-procurement costs, including, without limitation, any costs associated with re-procurement delays. The Authority will institute debarment proceedings against any proposer that misrepresents in a proposal any material fact concerning the small business status of itself or any subcontractor or proposer’s involvement in the ownership, operation or management of any subcontractor claiming status as a small business. In addition, the Authority may, at its sole discretion, assess a charge representing the cost of all audit and legal time and expense incurred by the Authority as a result of the contractor’s failure to maintain the level of small business participation committed to in the contractor’s proposal.

IV) SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

A. Timetable.

The following timetable should be used as a working guide for planning purposes. The Authority reserves the right to adjust this timetable in its sole discretion and without notice during the course of this RFP process.

Request for Proposals Released	December 11, 2024
Pre-Proposal Meeting	January 7, 2025 @ 10am
RFP Questions and Inquiries Deadline	January 10, 2025
Responses to Inquiries	January 16, 2025
RFP Response Due	January 29, 2025

B. Inquiries.

Direct all questions related to this RFP via email to mccpurchasing@nashvillemcc.com with Auditing Services in the subject line. The deadline for receiving questions and inquiries is indicated in Section V (A). The point of contact for ALL questions, inquiries, clarifications in regards to this RFP must be sent to the Director of Purchasing/DBE or designee. All questions and inquiries will be reviewed and responses will be posted at (<http://www.nashvillemusiccitycenter.com/about/business-opportunitites>) by the date indicated in Section V (A).

C. Pre-Proposal Meeting.

A non-mandatory pre-proposal meeting will be held as indicated in Section V (A). It will occur at Music City Center, 201 Rep. John Lewis Way South, Nashville, TN 37203.

To receive pre-proposal information, you must confirm your attendance by emailing mccpurchasing@nashvillemcc.com by the date indicated in Section V (A).

Oral questions will receive oral responses, neither of which will be official or become part of the RFP. Vendors must clearly understand that only written responses to written questions will be considered official and will appear in the form of an amendment. All prospective proposers are encouraged to attend. This will be the only pre-proposal meeting scheduled for this solicitation.

D. Submissions

All submittals must be received no later than indicated in Section V (A). Physical proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope or standard shipping box. **PLEASE DO NOT USE PREMIUM OR CUSTOM PACKAGING.** No submission will be accepted after deadline. Incomplete or ineligible submissions will not be reviewed. Every effort will be made to ensure the safe handling of submitted materials; however, the Authority will not be

responsible for any loss or damage. **Mailed submission should be sent by UPS or FedEx to:**

Music City Center House Docks

Jasmine Quattlebaum
Director of Purchasing/DBE
Music City Center
700 Koreans Veterans Blvd
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

Hand Delivery Submissions should be delivered to:

Music City Center Administrative Offices

Jasmine Quattlebaum
Director of Purchasing/DBE
600 Koreans Veterans Blvd
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

The Convention Center Authority will not accept bid responses submitted by email or fax.

E. Compliance with RFP.

Submissions must be in strict compliance with this RFP. Failure to comply with all provisions of the RFP may result in disqualification. The Authority reserves the right to reject any proposals and/or waive any formalities in the solicitation process. Furthermore, each proposer should carefully examine this RFP and all attachments and exhibits. Each proposer shall judge for itself all conditions and circumstances having relationship to the proposal. Each proposer will be responsible for taking such actions as they deem necessary or prudent prior to submitting a proposal. Failure on the part of any proposer to take such actions shall not constitute grounds for declaration of not understanding the conditions with respect to making its proposal. Each proposer is responsible for reading and understanding this RFP, including, but not limited to, these instructions for submitting a proposal. Proposer's failure or neglect to review any provided provisions of an agreement and the provisions of this RFP will not relieve such proposer of any contractual obligations contained in an agreement or required under the RFP. Proposer shall have no claim for relief based upon a lack of knowledge of the content or legal effect of any such provision.

F. Response Format, Requirements, and Evaluation Criteria.

Please submit one (1) original, six (6) copies, and one (1) electronic copy of the complete proposal response including any attachments, on a WINDOWS PC compatible CD or flash drive (verify all files are on disc/flash drive prior to submitting proposal) of the following materials to the address set forth in Section V (D). **Proposals submitted electronically (i.e. Email) WILL NOT be accepted.**

All text must be printed on single-sided or double-sided pages and on the following:

Tab 1) Transmittal Letter

A brief letter of interest highlighting particular qualifications and committing to enter into good faith negotiations and execute a mutually agreed upon agreement if selected.

Tab 2) Project Understanding, Approach, Schedule and Risk Mitigation

Total points available for this criterion are 35 points.

Describe your business plan and approach that will ensure successful and timely completion of the project as described in this RFP.

- Provide a timeline supporting your firm's proposed approach (including major tasks and hours by staff level) for the deliverables and functional requirements under the proposed contract.
- Include the estimated number of total hours by major audit area:
 - Financial Statement Audit
 - Employee Savings Trust Audit
- Include a proposed quality assurance plan your firm will implement ensure the performance of contract deliverables and the quality of your firm's review of the ACFR for compliance with governmental reporting standards.
- Identify any delivery concerns or risks that your firm anticipates in performing this contract and address how your firm proposes mitigating those concerns and risks.

Exceptions

Exceptions to Scope of Services and Sample Contract **MUST** be noted in this section of the proposal by the Contractor. Exceptions taken after the award may result in the withdrawal of the intent to award and Proposer's firm suspended from upcoming solicitations.

Any listing of exceptions by a Contractor in their proposal in no way obligates the Authority at any time to change the contract's general terms and conditions, the requirements of the RFP, or the insurance requirements of this solicitation.

Any exceptions listed by a Proposer may be unacceptable to the Authority and may result in a reduction in the evaluation scoring or be cause for rejection of a Proposer's proposal.

Tab 3) Firm/Team Qualifications

Total points available for this criterion are 20 points.

Detail the firm's history and background. Describe how your firm is structured to ensure timely delivery of the requested services. Describe how your firm stays current on changes in Governmental accounting and reporting standards. Address your firm's financial stability to completely perform the contract. Provide a copy of your firm's latest peer review and provide a copy

of the results of any desk reviews or workpaper reviews on governmental clients that were conducted by the State of Tennessee in the past 3 years. Identify any areas of concern or limitations that the Authority should consider.

Include the description of the proposed team, and the role to be played by each member of the proposed team. Identify the proposed team's organizational structure, interrelationships, and interactions. Include the resumes' of all partners, managers, senior level supervisors, and key personnel (indicate if they are a subcontractor) who will be involved in providing the required services. Include license(s) and certification(s) that these individuals have that would convey their ability to perform this contract and include relevant experience with governmental audit clients of similar size and scope to the Authority.

Tab 4) Cost Criteria

Total points available for this criterion are 20 points.

Please complete Exhibit C - the "Cost Criteria Form". The "Cost Criteria" should provide the total fixed fee for which the Contractor will provide the requested services. The fixed fee for professional services should include all estimated out-of-pocket expenses such as travel, report production and supplies. The total fixed fee should assume a level of audit work consistent with the Fiscal Year 2024 audit (number of funds, number of major programs, audit/reporting schedule, etc.).

Failure to provide the completed cost criteria form may result in the proposal being deemed non-responsive.

Tab 5) Reference Projects

Total points available for this criterion are 10 points.

Include three references from three different governments or similar entities where services similar to those requested in this RFP have been provided within the last three years.

Information provided for each client shall include the following:

- a) Client name, address, email and current telephone number
- b) Description of services provided
- c) Time period of the project or contract

Tab 6) Diversity Plan

Total points available for this criterion are 15 points

Please detail how you plan to commit in utilizing minority, woman, small, and/or service disable veteran owned businesses in the proposed "*Project Understanding, Approach, Schedule and Risk Mitigation*".

Use Exhibit B to outline the proposed fee or percentage committed for this utilization.

Tab 7) Sustainability

Provide information on your company’s sustainability practices and how these practices could positively impact this contract.

Tab 8) Exhibits

Proposers must complete and submit Exhibit A-C.

V) SELECTION PROCESS

A. Selection Process.

The Authority is using the Competitive Sealed Proposals method of source selection, as authorized by Section 3.3 of its Procurement Policy. The Authority may, as it deems necessary, conduct discussions with Responsive and Responsible Offeror(s) determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification to assure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Award(s), if made, will be made to the Responsive and Responsible Offeror(s) whose proposal and qualifications are most advantageous to the Authority. Responses to this RFP will be evaluated by an evaluation committee appointed by the Director of Purchasing/DBE or designee, in consultation with the Authority, (the “Evaluation Committee”). The Evaluation Committee shall be comprised of subject matter experts for the specific procurement. The Evaluation Committee may be Convention Center Authority team members, consultants, or employees of other governmental agencies or citizens with no business conflicts with the potential Vendors. The Evaluation Committee shall then score all proposals based upon the evaluation factors detailed herein. Evaluation will be based on consensus scoring of the Evaluation Committee based on committee deliberations of the proposals. Scores will not be an averaging of individual committee members’ scores. Upon completion of the consensus scoring, the committee may recommend short-listing the proposals that are potentially acceptable and unacceptable. The detailed evaluation that follows the initial examination may result in more than one finalist. At this point, the Authority may request presentations by Offerors, carry out contract negotiations for the purpose of ultimately obtaining offers that are in the best interests of the Authority, and conduct detailed reference checks on the short-listed Offerors. The Authority reserves the right to contact any and all references to obtain, without limitation, information regarding the Offeror’s performance on previous projects. A uniform sample of references will be checked for each short-listed Offeror. Should a successful contract negotiation not be reached in a timely manner, the Authority reserves the right to select another proposer as the vendor.

B. Evaluation of Proposals.

The Music City Center staff will first examine proposals to eliminate those which are clearly non-responsive to the stated requirements. The Evaluation Committee will evaluate all responsive and responsible proposals and qualifications based upon the selection criteria set forth herein. Other agencies and consultants of the Authority also may examine the

proposals and qualifications. The evaluation committee will make recommendation(s) to the Authority's staff to consider. The Authority reserves the right to withdraw this RFP at any time, for any reason, and to issue such clarifications, modifications, and/or amendments, as deemed appropriate. Receipt of a proposal by the Authority of a submission of a proposal offers no rights upon the offeror/proposer nor obligates the Authority in any manner. The Authority reserves the right to waive minor irregularities in proposals, provided that such action is in the best interest of the Authority.

VI) RULES AND GUIDELINES

A. Conflict of Interest.

Proposers and development teams with conflicts of interest as outlined in the Authority's conflict of interest policies or otherwise are ineligible.

B. Requests for Clarification of Submission.

The Authority may check references to assist in the evaluation of any submission.

C. Submissions and Presentation Costs.

The Authority will not be liable in any way for any costs incurred by any developer or development team in the preparation of its proposal in response to this RFP, nor for the presentation of its submission and/or participation in any discussions.

D. Validity of Submissions.

All proposals shall be valid for a period of one (1) year from the due date of the RFP.

E. Rejection of Submissions.

The Authority reserves the right to accept or reject in whole or in part any or all proposals submitted.

F. Minor Irregularities.

The Authority reserves the right to waive minor irregularities in offers, provided that such action is in the best interest of the Authority. Any such waiver shall not modify any remaining solicitation requirements or excuse the Offeror from full compliance with the solicitation specifications and other contract requirements if the Offeror is awarded a contract.

G. Americans with Disabilities Act.

The vendor shall assure to the Authority that all services (including but not limited to the design services, as well as any construction, repair, or other infrastructure improvements) made through the Agreement, if an award is made, shall be completed in full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") and Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, Federal Register 36 CFR Parts 1190 and 1191, Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities; Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) Accessibility Guidelines; proposed rule published in the Federal Register on July 23, 2004, as has been adopted by the City. Questions, concerns, complaints, requests for accommodation, or requests for additional information regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act may be forwarded to ADA Compliance Coordinator.

Individuals who need auxiliary aids for effective communication in the programs, services or activities of the Authority are invited to make their needs and preferences known to the ADA Compliance Coordinator. This notice can be made available in alternative formats through the office of the ADA Compliance Coordinator, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

H. Non-Discrimination.

It is the policy of the Authority not to discriminate on the basis of age, race, sex, color, national origin or disability in its hiring and employment practices, or in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs, services and activities. With regard to all aspects of this RFP the proposer certifies and warrants it will comply with this policy. Notwithstanding any other provision of this RFP, no person shall be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, be discriminated against in the admission or access to, or be discriminated against in treatment or employment in the Authority's contracted programs or activities, on the grounds of handicap and/or disability, age, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or any other classification protected by federal or Tennessee State Constitutional or statutory law; nor shall they be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the performance of contracts with the Authority or in the employment practices of the Authority's contractors. Accordingly, all contractors entering into contracts with the Authority shall, upon request, be required to show proof of such nondiscrimination and to post in conspicuous places that are available to all employees and applicants, notices of nondiscrimination. Further, the Authority prohibits discrimination. It is the policy of the Authority that they shall not discriminate in their employment practices by failing or refusing to hire or promote, or to discharge any individuals, because of the individual's race, religion, creed, gender identity, national origin, color, age, and/or disability.

Inquiries concerning non-discrimination policies should be forwarded to: Jasmine Quattlebaum, Director of Purchasing/DBE, Convention Center Authority, 201 Rep. John Lewis Way South, Nashville TN 37203, (615) 401-1445.

I. Public Disclosure.

All submissions are considered public and subject to review upon request only after a successful Intent to Award Letter has been signed. Prior to a successful Intent to Award Letter, all submissions will be kept private in order to preserve a competitive and fair selection process.

J. Compliance with the Authority's Procurement Policy and Affidavit.

Proposers shall assure to the Authority that it is and will be at all times in compliance with the Authority's Procurement Policy. Further, and as a part of the contract negotiation, the successful developer and/or development team shall submit a signed affidavit regarding compliance with laws, taxes and licensure, contingent fees and nondiscrimination. See Exhibit A.

K. Assistance to Minority, Women, Small, and Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Enterprises.

It is the policy of the Authority to assist small, minority-, women-, and service-disabled veteran-owned business enterprises in learning how to do business with the

Authority. Furthermore, proposers are encouraged to maximize the usage of small, minority-, women-, and service-disabled veteran-owned businesses with respect to this RFP. See Section III.

Proposers are required to submit a monthly diversity report by the 15th of the following month as referenced in the Music City Center DBE program and guidelines.

L. Compliance with the Authority’s Procurement Nondiscrimination Program.

It is the policy of the Authority to promote full and equal business opportunities for all persons doing business with the Authority by increasing the purchase of goods and services from minority and women-owned businesses within the Nashville Metropolitan Statistical Area (“MSA”). Proposers shall assure to the Authority that it is and will be at all times in compliance with the Authority’s Procurement Nondiscrimination Policy. See Section IV.

M. Sustainability Requirements.

Vendor must comply and participate in all MCC sustainability programs.

N. IT Security Requirements

Any contractor accessing the MCC network must comply with Metropolitan Government of Nashville & Davidson County ITS information Security Procedures.

O. Logos.

Only the MCC approved logos will be utilized throughout the facility including, but not limited to, uniforms, advertisements, business cards, brochures, proposals, etc. Other than legal requirements, the name of the contractor will not be utilized.

P. Insurance Requirements.

Any potential vendor receiving an award shall be required to provide proof of insurance, in the form of a Certificate of Insurance. The awarded supplier must provide the Authority with original Certificates of Insurance within fifteen (15) days of notification of award.

General Liability and automobile liability policies must be endorsed to include Convention Center Authority of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville & Davidson County as an additional insured with respect to liability arising out of work or operations performed by on behalf of supplier. The following insurance(s) shall be required:

- General Liability Insurance in the amount of one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) if the supplier will be making on-site deliveries (remove parentheses and period)
- Automobile Liability Insurance in the amount one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) if supplier will be making on-site deliveries (remove parentheses)

- Workers' Compensation Insurance with statutory limits required by the State of Tennessee or other applicable laws and Employer's Liability Insurance with limits of no less than one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00), as required by the laws of Tennessee. (Workers' Compensation Insurance is, at the time of this RFP, not required for companies with fewer than five (5) employees.)

Q. Right to Protest.

Proposer is entitled to protest to the Director of Purchasing, as authorized by Section 7.1 of the Convention Center Authority Procurement Policy. The protest shall be submitted in writing within ten (10) days after such aggrieved person knows or should have known of the facts giving rise thereto.

R. Invoice Payments and Submissions.

The MCC will make reasonable efforts to make payments within thirty (30) days of receipt of invoice but in any event shall make payment within sixty (60) days. Additionally, the MCC will make reasonable efforts to make payments to small businesses within fifteen (15) days of receipt of invoice but in any event shall make payments with sixty (60) days.

Proposer shall submit an invoice for services rendered by the 10th of the following month to the Music City Center Finance department. The billing statement shall itemize the services performed and show a grand total.

S. Proposer Registration

If the successful proposer is not registered with the Metropolitan Government as a potential supplier, the bidder will be required to register in iSupplier (www.nashville.gov) to be awarded the bid. If the awarded proposer does not complete the registration within forty-eight (48) hours of its being notified of the proposer, the Authority may determine that the bidder shall be deemed non-responsive and not be considered for award.

T. Gratuities & Kickbacks

It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee, or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement of a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefore. It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity, or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier

subcontractor or a person associated therewith, as an inducement for the award of a subcontract or order. Breach of the provisions of this section is, in addition to a breach of this Agreement, a breach of ethical standards which may result in civil or criminal sanction and/or debarment or suspension from being a contractor or subcontractor under Authority contracts.

U. Solicitation Process Communication

There shall not be any contact with the Convention Center Authority board of directors, employees, current contractors/vendors or affiliates, or those who have a vested interest with the Convention Center Authority during the solicitation process. The point of contact for ALL questions, inquiries, clarifications in regards to this RFP must be sent to the Director of Purchasing/DBE or designee.

**Exhibit A
Affidavit**

State of _____ **County of** _____

As used herein, "Offeror" will include artists, bidders and proposers.

Compliance with Laws: After first being duly sworn according to law, the undersigned (Affiant) states that he/she is presently in compliance with, and will continue to maintain compliance with, all applicable laws. Thus, Affiant states that Offeror has all applicable licenses, including business licenses, copies of which are attached hereto. Finally, Affiant states that Offeror is current on its payment of all applicable gross receipt taxes and personal property taxes.

Contingent Fees: In accordance with the Authority's Procurement Policy and the Metropolitan Government's Procurement Code, it is a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure a contract with the Authority upon an agreement or understanding for a contingent commission, percentage, or brokerage fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business. After first being duly sworn according to law, the undersigned (Affiant) states that the Offeror has not retained anyone in violation of the foregoing.

Nondiscrimination: Affiant affirms that by its employment policy, standards and practices it does not subscribe to any personnel policy which permits or allows for the promotion, demotion, employment, dismissal or laying off of any individual due to race, religion, creed, gender, national origin, color, age, and/or disability and that it is not in violation of and will not violate any applicable laws concerning the employment of individuals with handicaps and/or disabilities. It is the policy of the Authority not to discriminate on the basis of age, race, sex, color, religion, national origin or handicap and/or disability in its hiring and employment practices, or in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs, services and activities. Contractor certifies and warrants it will comply with this policy.

And Further Affiant Sayeth Not:

By: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Sworn to and subscribed before me on this ____ day of _____, 20__.

Notary Public
My commission expires: _____



Exhibit B

List of Proposed Diversified Business Enterprise

Proposer Name: _____

Notice: DBE businesses listed must be registered with Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County (Metro) and small business status must be approved by the Metropolitan Government or DBE Certification *prior* to proposal submission.

	DBE Business Name	Business Address, Phone Number and Email Address	Work to be Performed by DBE Business	Minimum Total Dollars to be spent with DBE Business	Business Classification Type
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					

TOTAL _____

Submission of a proposal shall constitute Proposer’s representation that neither Proposer nor an officer, agent or employee of Proposer, or the spouse, parent or child of an officer, agent or employee of Proposer, is involved in the ownership, operation or management of any subcontractor claiming status as a DBE business for purposes of this Proposal and Contract.

Signature: _____ **Date** _____



**Exhibit C
Cost Criteria Form**

The fee proposal should be presented in a table using the following format:

RFP 108-2024: Auditing Services

Audit Fees

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Financial Statement Audit	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Employee Savings Trust Audit	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Hourly Rate for Audit Work Outside RFP Scope					
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Staff Associate	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Senior Associate	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Manager	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Senior Manager	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Partner	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Hourly Rate for Advisory Services Outside RFP Scope					
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Staff Associate	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Senior Associate	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Manager	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Senior Manager	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Partner	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

In addition to the above, include a schedule of hourly rates by staff level by year that would be billed for any additional services that might be requested within the scope of the contract although not specifically addressed in this RFP. The hourly rate should also include all estimated out-of-pocket expense.

VII) Sample Contract

The following pages is a sample contract of the Music City Center’s Services Agreement. This agreement will be used as the governing contract unless otherwise noted in Section V.F – Tab 8.

NAME OF RFP SERVICES AGREEMENT

This License Agreement (this “Agreement”) is entered into by and between **THE CONVENTION CENTER AUTHORITY OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY** (“Authority”) and **NAME OF VENDOR**. (“Contractor”), a [STATE] company registered to do business in the State of Tennessee and under the laws of the State of Tennessee, and having a principal address of [CONTRACTOR ADDRESS], as of the date this Agreement is executed by both parties. (Authority and Contractor are collectively referred to herein as the “Parties”).

This Agreement consists of the following documents (incorporated herein by reference):

- This contract document and attached affidavit and exhibits:
Exhibit A – Contractor Responsibilities
Exhibit B – Compensation and Pricing
Exhibit C – Affidavit of Contractor
- The solicitation documentation, including Request for Proposal # [RFP#] (“RFP”);
- Contractor’s response to solicitation and RFP;
- Procurement Nondiscrimination Program forms; and
- Certificates of Insurance

WHEREAS, pursuant to its procurement policy, Authority issued the Request for Proposal (“RFP”) [RFP TITLE] services for the Music City Center;

WHEREAS, Contractor is in the business of providing [CONTRACTOR SERVICES] responded to the RFP;

WHEREAS, Authority has determined that it is in its best interest to request that Contractor input what contractor is providing services for the Music City Center, as further set forth herein;

THEREFORE, in consideration of the terms, duties, covenants, and obligations of the other hereunder, and for other good and valuable consideration, and subject to all terms and conditions herein contained, Authority and Contractor hereby agree as follows:

SECTION 1. PURPOSE. Contractor agrees to provide the services defined in the [RFP TITLE] Services Request for Proposal (“RFP”) issued by the Convention Center Authority of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County (“Authority”). Said services shall consist of, but not be limited to, [SCOPE OF SERVICES].

SECTION 2. TERM OF AGREEMENT. The term of this Agreement will begin on the date this agreement is approved by all required parties. The initial contract term will end [TERM] from the beginning date of MM/DD/YYYY with a one-time option to extend Agreement for [EXTENDED TERM (IF APPLICABLE)] at the sole discretion of the Convention Center Authority.

SECTION 3. CONDITIONS PRECEDENT. As a condition of entering into this Agreement, Authority requires that, concurrent with the execution hereof, Contractor: (i) complete, sign and have notarized Authority’s form affidavit regarding compliance with laws, contingent fees and nondiscrimination policies as set for in Exhibit C and (ii) furnish Authority with original certificates and amendatory endorsements affecting insurance coverage required by Section 7, and with respect thereto, (a) provide that such insurance shall not be cancelled, allowed to expire, or be materially reduced in coverage except on thirty (30) days prior written notice to Authority and (b) disclose, and obtain the approval of Authority of, any deductibles and/or self-insured retentions greater than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00).

SECTION 4. CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITIES; INCLUDED ITEMS AND SERVICES. Contractor agrees to provide services set forth in this Agreement. Contractor shall provide [CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITIES] for the duration of this Agreement. Contractor agrees, throughout the term of this Agreement, to adhere to the following duties, responsibilities and standards contained in this Agreement, as well as those responsibilities set forth in Exhibit A (Contractor Responsibilities).

4.1. Included Services. Contractor shall provide those services that are included in Agreement and as set forth in the attached Exhibit B (Compensation and Pricing Schedule).

SECTION 5. COMPENSATION AND PRICING.

5.1. Pricing. Parties agree to the compensation and pricing as set forth in the attached Exhibit B.

5.2. Form of Payments. All payments shall be made in U.S. funds. Authority will make reasonable efforts to make payments within thirty (30) days of receipt of invoice but in any event shall make payment within sixty (60) days. Authority will make reasonable efforts to make payments to small businesses within fifteen (15) days of receipt of invoice but in any event shall make payment within sixty (60) days.

5.3. Other Fees. There will be no other charges or fees for the performance of this contract.

SECTION 6. BILLING AND REPORTING.

- A. Billing will be based on actual services rendered as agreed upon between the parties and as set forth in the attached Exhibit B.
- B. Contractor shall also mail Authority's Finance Department a separate monthly statement for the previous month's charges by the 10th of the following month for reconciliation and verification purposes. Statement shall itemize detailed description of work being completed and grand total.
- C. Contractor shall submit a monthly diversity spend report by the 15th of the following month.

SECTION 7. DIVERSIFIED BUSINESS AND PROCUREMENT NONDISCRIMINATION PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.

7.1. Contractor agrees to manage and produce a successful diversified business enterprise result and to assist small, minority-owned, women-owned and service-disabled veteran owned business enterprises with respect to their doing business with Contractor, pursuant to Authority's Procurement Nondiscrimination Program and the procedures adopted from time to time by Authority. Contractor has agreed to meet or exceed DBE percent (%) DBE participation. Contractor agrees to meet with and provide written reports to designated representatives of Authority on a regular basis regarding its commitments in and ongoing compliance with this section and its obligations hereunder.

7.2. Contractor shall subcontract work to input all approved subcontractors.

7.3. If during the term of this Agreement, any material representation made in Contractor's proposal concerning any subcontractor or Contractor's involvement in the ownership, operation or management of any subcontractor claiming status as a small business or MWBE is shown to be false, Authority may, at its sole option and in addition to any other remedies available under this Agreement, at law or in equity, terminate this Agreement. Further, in the event that Authority terminates this Agreement, Contractor shall pay Authority's full re-procurement costs, including, without limitation, any costs associated with re-procurement delays. In addition, Authority may, at its sole discretion, assess a charge representing the cost of all audit and legal time and expense incurred by Authority as a result of Contractor's failure to maintain a level of small business and MWBE participation committed to herein.

7.4. Contractor is required to make good faith efforts to replace a small business or MWBE subcontractor that is terminated or has otherwise failed to complete its work with another certified small business or MWBE

subcontractor, to the extent needed to meet the goals set forth herein. Authority's DBE Program Office requires Contractor to notify Authority immediately of the small business or MWBE subcontractor's inability or unwillingness to perform and provide reasonable documentation related to such. In this situation, Authority will require Contractor to obtain prior approval of the substitute small business or MWBE subcontractor and to provide copies of new or amended subcontracts, or documentation of good faith efforts.

SECTION 8. REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES.

- 8.1. Nondiscrimination.** It is the policy of Authority that any person or contractor furnishing supplies or services to Authority, and to which any funds of Authority are expended, shall establish equal employment opportunities for all individuals so that no individual shall be excluded from employment by such person because of race, creed, color, national origin, age or sex, and to ensure compliance with all applicable laws concerning the employment of individuals with disabilities, including the posting of any applicable, legally required notices. With regard to all aspects of this Agreement, Contractor certifies and warrants that it shall not subscribe to any personnel policy which permits or allows the promotion, demotion, employment, dismissal or laying off any individual due to race, creed, color, national origin, age or sex, or which is in violation of applicable laws concerning the employment of individuals with disabilities.
- 8.2. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).** Contractor assures Authority that all services provided through this Agreement shall be completed in full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") and Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, Federal Register 36 CFR Parts 1190 and 1191, Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities; Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) Accessibility Guidelines; proposed rule, published in the Federal Register on July 23, 2004. Contractor will ensure that participants with disabilities will have communication access that is equally effective as that provide to people without disabilities. Information shall be made available in accessible formats, and auxiliary aids and services shall be provided upon the reasonable request of a qualified person with a disability.
- 8.3. Contingent Fees.** Contractor hereby represents that Contractor has not been retained or retained any persons to solicit or secure the contract up on an agreement or understanding for a contingent commission, percentage, or brokerage free, exception for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business. Breach of the provisions of this section is, in addition, to a breach of this Agreement, a breach of ethical standards which may result in civil or criminal sanction and/or debarment or suspension from being a contractor or subcontractor under Authority contracts.
- 8.4. Gratuities and Kickbacks.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee, or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement of a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefore. It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity, or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or a person associated therewith, as an inducement for the award of a subcontract or order. Breach of the provisions of this section is, in addition to a breach of this Agreement, a breach of ethical standards which may result in civil or criminal sanction and/or debarment or suspension from being a contractor or subcontractor under Authority contracts.

SECTION 9. INSURANCE AND INDEMNIFICATION.

- 9.1. Liability Insurance.** Throughout the Agreement Term, Contractor shall, at its sole expense, obtain and maintain in full force and effect the following types and amounts of insurance: (i) commercial general liability insurance in the amount of no less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) each occurrence combined single limit for bodily injury and property damage, including, without limitation, contractual liability, personal injury, products and completed operations; (ii) automobile liability insurance in the amount no less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) each occurrence combined single limit for bodily injury and property damages, including owned, non-owned and hired auto coverage, as applicable, unless a lesser amount is

approved by Authority; and workers compensation insurance with statutory limits required by the State or other applicable laws and employer's liability insurance with limits of no less than one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00).

- 9.2. Additional Insurance Terms.** Any and all insurance obtained pursuant to Section 7.1 shall (i) contain or be endorsed to contain a provision that includes Authority, its officials, directors, officers, agents, and employees (collectively, its "Representatives") as additional insureds with respect to liability arising out of work or operations performed by or on behalf of Contractor including materials, part, or equipment furnished in connection with the Services; (ii) contain no special limitations on the scope of its protection afforded to Authority or its Representatives; (iii) be the primary insurance covering Authority and its Representatives for any claims related to this Agreement; and (iv) contain or be endorsed to contain a waiver of subrogation against Authority and its Representatives. Any insurance or self-insurance programs covering Authority or its Representatives shall be excess of Contractor's insurance and shall not contribute with it.
- A. With respect to any and all insurance obtained pursuant to Section 7.1, Contractor shall: (i) place such insurance with an insurer that shall have no less than an "A-, Financial Size VII" rating according to A.M. Best's Company rating and shall be authorized to do business in Tennessee; (ii) replace certificates, policies and/or endorsements for any such insurance expiring prior to the end of the Agreement Term; and (iii) provide certified copies of endorsements and policies in lieu of or in addition to certificates of insurance.
 - B. If Contractor has or obtains primary and excess policies, there shall be no gap between the limits of the primary policy and the deductible features of the excess policies.
 - C. Contractor shall require that all subcontractors maintain from the time they are subcontracted and thereafter throughout the remainder of the Agreement Term commercial general liability insurance, business automobile liability insurance and worker's compensation/employers liability insurance (unless subcontractor's employees are covered by Contractor's insurance) in the same manner as specified above for Contractor. Contractor shall provide such subcontractor's certificates of insurance to Authority.
 - D. Should any of the required insurance be provided under a claims-made form, Contractor shall maintain such coverage continuously as provided hereinabove and, without lapse, for a period of one year beyond the expiration of this Agreement, to the effect that, should occurrences during the term of the Agreement give rise to claims made after expiration of the Agreement, such claims shall be covered by such claims-made policies. This tail coverage requirement may be waived by Authority in writing where appropriate.
- 9.3. Indemnification and Hold Harmless by Contractor.** Contractor shall indemnify and hold harmless Authority and its Representatives from (i) any claims, damages, costs and attorney fees for injuries or damages arising, in part or in whole, from the negligent or intentional acts or omissions of Contractor, its officers, employees or agents, including its sub- or independent contractors, in connection with the performance of this Agreement; and (ii) any claims, damages, penalties, costs and attorney fees arising from any failure of Contractor, its officers, employees or agents, including its sub- or independent contractors, to observe applicable laws, including, but not limited to, labor laws or minimum wage laws. The provisions of Section 9.3 and Section 9.7 shall survive the expiration or termination of this Agreement.
- 9.4. No Indemnification or Hold Harmless by Authority.** Authority will not indemnify, defend or hold harmless in any fashion the Contractor from any claims arising from any failure, regardless of any language in any attachment, exhibit or other document that the Contractor may provide.
- 9.5. Insurance Risk.** Contractor bears the risk of inadequacy or failure of any insurance or any insurer.
- 9.6. No Increase in Licensor Liability.** This Agreement shall not impose any liability on Authority that would not otherwise be imposed, increase any liability limit that would otherwise apply or waive any defenses or immunity that would otherwise be available under applicable law, including, but not limited to, the Tennessee Governmental Tort Liability Act.
- 9.7. Copyright, Trademark, Service Mark, or Patent Infringement.** Contractor shall, at its own expense, be entitled to and shall have the duty to defend any suit which may be brought against Authority to the extent that it is based on a claim that the products or services furnished by Contractor infringe a copyright, trademark,

service mark or patent. Contractor shall further indemnify and hold harmless Authority against any award of damages and costs made against Authority by a final judgment of a court of last resort in any such suit. Authority shall provide Contractor immediate notice in writing of the existence of such claim and full right and opportunity to conduct the defense thereof, together with all available information and reasonable cooperation, assistance and authority to enable Contractor to do so. No costs or expenses shall be incurred for the account of Contractor without its written consent. Authority reserves the right to participate in the defense of such action. Contractor shall have the right to enter into negotiations for and the right to effect settlement or compromise of any such action, but no such settlement or compromise shall be binding upon Authority unless approved by Authority.

- A. If the products or services furnished under this Agreement are likely to, or do become, the subject of such a claim of infringement, then without diminishing Contractor's obligation to satisfy the final award, Contractor may at its option and expense: (i) procure for Authority the right to continue using the products or services; (ii) replace or modify the alleged infringing products or services with other equally suitable products or services that are satisfactory to Authority, so that they become non-infringing.; and/or (iii) remove the products or discontinue the services and cancel any future charges pertaining thereto. Parties agree that Contractor will not exercise the (iii) option until Authority and Contractor have determined that options under (i) and (ii) are impractical.
- B. Contractor shall have no liability to Authority, however, if any such infringement or claim thereof is based upon or arises out of: (i) the use of the products or services in combination with apparatus or devices not supplied or else approved by Contractor; (ii) the use of the products or services in a manner for which the products or services were neither designated nor contemplated; and/or (iii) the claimed infringement in which Authority has any direct or indirect interest by license or otherwise, separate from that granted herein.

SECTION 10. TERMINATION.

- 10.1. Breach.** Should Contractor fail to fulfill in a timely and proper manner its obligations under this Agreement or if it should violate any of the terms of this Agreement, Authority shall have the right to immediately terminate the contract if Contractor does not cure such breach within thirty (30) days of the date it receives written notice from Authority reasonably specifying each such breach. Such termination shall not relieve Contractor of any liability to Authority for damages sustained by virtue of any breach by Contractor.
- 10.2. Lack of Funding.** Should funding for this Agreement be discontinued, Authority shall have the right to terminate the Agreement immediately upon written notice to the Contractor.
- 10.3. Notice.** Authority may terminate this Agreement at any time and for any reason upon thirty (30) days written notice to Contractor. Should Authority terminate this Agreement, Contractor shall immediately cease work and deliver to Authority all completed or partially completed satisfactory work.
- 10.4. Consequential Damages.** Neither party shall be responsible to the other for any special, incidental, indirect or consequential damages.

SECTION 11. MISCELLANEOUS.

- 11.1. Compliance with Laws.** Contractor shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local governmental statutes, rules, regulations, ordinances, and directives prescribed by Authority for the government and management of the Center. Contractor will not do or suffer to be done anything during the Agreement Term in violation of any such laws, ordinances, rules or regulations. If the attention of Authority is called to any such violation on the part of Contractor or on the part of Contractor's employees, Contractor shall immediately desist from and correct or cause to be corrected such violation.
- 11.2. Taxes and Licensure.** As, in part, set forth on Exhibit C, Contractor shall have all applicable licenses and be current on its payment of all applicable gross receipt taxes and personal property taxes. Authority shall not be responsible for any taxes that are imposed on Contractor. Furthermore, Contractor understands that is cannot claim exemption from taxes by virtue of any exemption that is provided to Authority.

- 11.3. Maintenance of Records.** Contractor shall maintain documentation for all charges against Authority and for the services provided hereunder. The books, records, and documents of Contractor, insofar as they relate to work performed, or money received, under the contract, shall be maintained for a period of three (3) full years from the date of final payment and will be subject to audit, at any reasonable time and upon reasonable notice by Authority or its duly appointed representatives. The records shall be mainlined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. In the event of litigation, working papers and other documents shall be produced in accordance with applicable laws and/or rules of discovery. Breach of the provisions of this section is a material breach of this Agreement.
- 11.4. Inspection of Records.** All documents and supporting materials related in any manner whatsoever to the contract or any designated portion thereof, which are in the possession of Contractor or any subcontractor or sub-consultant shall be made available to Authority for inspection and copying upon written request from Authority. Said documents shall also be made available for inspection and/or copying by any state, federal or other regulatory authority, upon request from Authority. Said records include, but are not limited to, all drawings, plans, specifications, submittals, correspondence, minutes, memoranda, tape recordings, videos or other writings or things which document the procurement and/or performance of this Agreement. Said records expressly include those documents reflecting the cost, including all subcontractors' records and payroll records of Contractor and subcontractors.
- 11.5. Monitoring.** Contractor's activities conducted and records maintained pursuant to this Agreement shall be subject to monitoring and evaluation by Authority, the Metropolitan Government Department of Finance, the Division of Internal Audit, or their duly appointed representatives.
- 11.6. Authority Property.** Any Authority property, including but not limited to, books, records, documents, drawings, submittals and equipment that is in the Contractor's possession shall be maintained by Contractor in good condition and repair, and shall be returned to Authority by Contractor upon termination of the Agreement. All goods, documents, records, and other work product and property produced during the performance of this Agreement are deemed to be Authority property. Contractor may keep one (1) copy of the aforementioned documents upon completion of the contract; provided, however, that in no event shall Contractor use, or permit to be used, any portion of the documents on other projects without Authority's prior written authorization.
- 11.7. Software License.** CONTRACTOR warrants and represents that it is the owner of or otherwise has the right to and does hereby grant THE AUTHORITY a license to use any software provided for the purposes for which the software was obtained or proprietary material set forth in THE AUTHORITY's solicitation and/or CONTRACTOR's response to the solicitation.
- 11.8. Confidentiality.** Tennessee Code Annotated §10-7-504(i) specifies that information which would allow a person to obtain unauthorized access to confidential information or to government property shall be maintained as confidential. "Government property" includes electronic information processing systems, telecommunication systems, or other communications systems of a governmental entity subject to this chapter. Such records include: (A) Plans, security codes, passwords, combinations, or computer programs used to protect electronic information and government property; (B) Information that would identify those areas of structural or operational vulnerability that would permit unlawful disruption to, or interference with, the services provided by a governmental entity; and (C) Information that could be used to disrupt, interfere with, or gain unauthorized access to electronic information or government property.

The foregoing listing is not intended to be comprehensive, and any information which THE AUTHORITY marks or otherwise designates as anything other than "Public Information" will be deemed and treated as sensitive information, which is defined as any information not specifically labeled as "Public Information". Information which qualifies as "sensitive information" may be presented in oral, written, graphic, and/or machine-readable formats. Regardless of presentation format, such information will be deemed and treated as sensitive information.

CONTRACTOR, and its Agents, for THE AUTHORITY, may have access to sensitive information. CONTRACTOR, and its Agents, are required to maintain such information in a manner appropriate to its level of sensitivity. All sensitive information must be secured at all times including, but not limited to, the secured destruction of any written or electronic information no longer needed. The unauthorized access, modification, deletion, or disclosure of any THE AUTHORITY information may compromise the integrity and security of THE AUTHORITY, violate individual rights of privacy, and/or constitute a criminal act.

Upon the request of THE AUTHORITY, CONTRACTOR shall return all information in whatever form. In the event of any disclosure or threatened disclosure of THE AUTHORITY information, THE AUTHORITY is further authorized and entitled to immediately seek and obtain injunctive or other similar relief against CONTRACTOR, including but not limited to emergency and ex parte relief where available.

- 11.9. Information Ownership.** All THE AUTHORITY information is and shall be the sole property of THE AUTHORITY. CONTRACTOR hereby waives any and all statutory and common law liens it may now or hereafter have with respect to THE AUTHORITY information. Nothing in this Contract or any other agreement between THE AUTHORITY and CONTRACTOR shall operate as an obstacle to such THE AUTHORITY's right to retrieve any and all THE AUTHORITY information from CONTRACTOR or its agents or to retrieve such information or place such information with a third party for provision of services to THE AUTHORITY, including without limitation, any outstanding payments, overdue payments and/or disputes, pending legal action, or arbitration. Upon THE AUTHORITY's request, CONTRACTOR shall supply THE AUTHORITY with an inventory of THE AUTHORITY information that CONTRACTOR stores and/or backs up.
- 11.10. Information Security Breach Notification.** In addition to the notification requirements in any Business Associate Agreement with THE AUTHORITY, when applicable, CONTRACTOR shall notify THE AUTHORITY of any data breach within 24 hours of CONTRACTOR's knowledge or reasonable belief (whichever is earlier) that such breach has occurred ("Breach Notice") by contacting the THE AUTHORITY. The Breach Notice should describe the nature of the breach, the scope of the information compromised, the date the breach occurred, and the identities of the individuals affected or potentially affected by the breach as well as specific information about the data compromised so that THE AUTHORITY can properly notify those individuals whose information was compromised. CONTRACTOR shall periodically update the information contained in the Breach Notice to THE AUTHORITY and reasonably cooperate with THE AUTHORITY in connection with THE AUTHORITY's efforts to mitigate the damage or harm of such breach.
- 11.11. Virus Representation and Warranty.** CONTRACTOR represents and warrants that Products and/or Services, or any media upon which the Products and/or Services are stored, do not have, nor shall CONTRACTOR or its Agents otherwise introduce into THE AUTHORITY's systems, network, or infrastructure, any type of software routines or element which is designed to or capable of unauthorized access to or intrusion upon, disabling, deactivating, deleting, or otherwise damaging or interfering with any system, equipment, software, data, or the THE AUTHORITY network. In the event of a breach of this representation and warranty, CONTRACTOR shall compensate THE AUTHORITY for any and all harm, injury, damages, costs, and expenses incurred by THE AUTHORITY resulting from the breach.

For CONTRACTOR managed systems, CONTRACTOR shall install and maintain ICSA Labs certified or AV-Test approved Antivirus Software and, to the extent possible, use real time protection features. CONTRACTOR shall maintain the Anti-virus Software in accordance with the Antivirus Software provider's recommended practices. In addition, CONTRACTOR shall ensure that:

- Anti-virus Software checks for new Anti-virus signatures no less than once per day, and;
- Anti-virus signatures are current and no less recent than two versions/releases behind the most current version/release of the Anti-virus signatures for the Anti-virus Software.

- 11.12. Modification of Agreement.** This Agreement may be modified only by written amendment executed by all parties and their signatories hereto. All change orders, where required, shall be executed in conformance with Section 4.24.020 of the Metropolitan Code of Laws of Authority's Procurement Policy, as applicable.
- 11.13. Partnership/Joint Venture.** This Agreement shall not in any way be construed or intended to create a partnership or joint venture between the Parties or to create the relationship of principal and agent between or among any of the Parties. None of the Parties hereto shall hold itself out in a manner contrary to the terms of this section. No party shall become liable for any representation, act or omission of any other party contrary to the terms of this Agreement.
- 11.14. Assignment; Consent Required.** The provisions of this Agreement shall inure to the benefit of and shall be binding upon the respective successors and assignees or the parties hereto. Except for the rights of money due to Contractor under this Agreement, neither this Agreement nor any of the rights and obligations of Contractor hereunder shall be assigned or transferred in whole or in part without the prior written consent of Authority, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed. Any such assignment or transfer shall not release Contractor from its obligations hereunder.
- 11.15. Subcontracting.** Contractor shall not enter into a subcontract for any of the services performed under this Agreement without obtaining the prior written approval of Authority. If such subcontracts are approved by Authority, they shall contain, at a minimum, sections of this Agreement pertaining to "Contingent Fees", "Nondiscrimination", and "Gratuities and Kick-backs".
- 11.16. Authorization.** Contractor represents that it has full power and authority to enter into this Agreement. Further, the individual executing this Agreement on behalf of Contractor represents and warrants that he or she has full authority, corporate or otherwise, to execute this Agreement on behalf of Contractor and to bind Contractor to the terms of this Agreement.
- 11.17. Cooperation.** Each party shall cooperate with the other party and provide such assistance as reasonably necessary or requested in connection with the fulfillment of each party's respective obligations under this Agreement.
- 11.18. Entire Agreement.** This Agreement, along with any exhibits, appendices, addenda, schedules and amendments hereto, encompass the entire agreement of the parties and supersedes all previous understandings and agreements between the parties. The provisions of this Agreement are not subject to amendment or alteration except by written instrument signed by both parties. Any matters not provided for herein shall be decided by Authority in its sole discretion, reasonably exercised, and such decision shall be binding on Contractor.
- 11.19. Waiver.** In order to be binding on Authority, any waiver of any term in this Agreement must be in writing and signed by a duly authorized officer of Authority. No waiver by Authority of any default shall operate as a waiver of any other default, or the same default on a future occasion. No delay or omission by Authority in exercising any right or remedy shall operate as a waiver thereof, and no single or partial exercise of a right or remedy shall preclude any other or further exercise thereof, or the exercise of any other right or remedy.
- 11.20. Force Majeure.** If either party shall be prevented or delayed from punctually performing any obligation or satisfying any condition under this Agreement by any strike, lockout, or labor dispute not caused by the negligence or breach of such non-performing party or the breach of a labor contract by such non-performing party; the inability to obtain labor or materials not resulting in any way from the negligence or any act or omission of the non-performing party; an act of God; governmental restrictions, regulations or controls not existing as of the execution of this Agreement; enemy or hostile governmental action; civil commotion, insurrection, fire or other casualty not resulting from the non-performing party's negligence or other actions; or any other condition beyond the reasonable control of the reasonable party, then the time to perform the obligation or satisfy the condition shall be extended for a period of time equal in length to the length of the event.

11.21. Governing Law. The validity, construction and effect of this Agreement and any and all extensions and/or modifications thereof shall be governed by the laws of the State of Tennessee and in no other forum. Tennessee law shall govern regardless of any language in any attachment or other document that Contractor may provide. Process may be served (i) as provided by law or (ii) by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the persons and addresses stated in Section 11.19. and the parties shall accept such service.

11.22. Venue. Any action between the Parties arising from this Agreement shall be maintained in the courts of Davidson County, Tennessee.

11.23. Severability. If any clause or provision of this Agreement or the application thereof is, for any reason illegal, invalid or unenforceable under present or future laws, it shall be deemed severable and the validity of the remainder of this Agreement or the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby, and in lieu of each clause or provision of this Agreement that is illegal, invalid or unenforceable, there shall be added as a part of this Agreement a clause or provision as nearly identical to the said clause or provision as may be legal, valid and enforceable.

11.24. Notices. All notices or other communication required under this Agreement shall be given and deemed to have been properly served if delivered in writing personally (by hand-delivery), by certified mail, or by a nationally recognized over-night delivery service addressed to the following:

To Authority: President & CEO
 The Convention Center Authority of the Metropolitan
 Government of Nashville and Davidson County
 201 Fifth Avenue South
 Nashville, TN 37203

To Contractor: • _____
 • _____
 • _____
 • _____
 • _____

Any such notice shall be deemed given on the date so delivered or so deposited in the mail, unless otherwise provided herein. Either party may change the above address by sending written notice of such change to the other party in the manner provided above. With the prior written consent of the receiving party, notice may be given by facsimile transmission or electronic email.

11.25. Headings. The headings of the sections contained herein are for convenience only and do not define, limit or construe the contents of such sections.

11.26. Survival. In the event of termination or expiration of this Agreement, any provisions that by their very nature need to survive in order to be given their full intended effect, shall so survive.

11.27. Attorney’s Fees. In the case of the failure of Contractor to perform and comply with any of the covenants and conditions of this Agreement, Contractor shall pay to Authority the costs and expenses of enforcing this Agreement including a reasonable sum for attorney’s fees, whether suit be brought or not.

11.28. Binding Effect on Contractor. This Agreement is binding on Contractor, its successors and assigns. As to its obligations to Authority, Contractor assumes full responsibility for the acts or omissions of each of Contractor’s Admittees. For purposes of this Agreement, the acts of any of Contractor’s Admittees shall be the acts of Contractor.

11.29. Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed by the parties on any number of separate counterparts, and all such counterparts so executed shall constitute one agreement binding on all parties notwithstanding that all of the parties are not signatories to the same counterpart.

SAMPLE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be duly executed.

**THE CONVENTION CENTER VENDOR
AUTHORITY OF THE METROPOLITAN
GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND
DAVIDSON COUNTY**

BY: _____

Print: _____

Title: _____

BY: _____

Print: _____

Title: _____

Sworn to and subscribed to before me, a

Notary Public, this _____ day

of _____, 20____,

by _____,

the _____

**of Contractor and duly authorized to execute
this instrument on Contractor's behalf.**

Notary Public

My _____ Commission Expires _____

EXHIBIT A (Sample Contract)

CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

In addition to the obligations and responsibilities required of the Contractor as set forth in the Agreement and RFP, Contractor agrees that throughout the term of the Agreement to adhere to the following duties, responsibilities and standards:

SAMPLE

EXHIBIT B (Sample Contract)
COMPENSATION AND PRICING SCHEDULE

SAMPLE

EXHIBIT C (Sample Contract)

AFFIDAVIT OF VENDOR NAME

State of _____)

County of _____)

Compliance with Laws: After first being duly sworn according to law, the undersigned (Affiant) states that he/she is the _____ (Title) of Vendor, _____ is presently in compliance with, and will continue to maintain compliance with, all applicable laws. Thus, Affiant states that Vendor _____ has all applicable licenses, including business licenses, copies of which are attached hereto. Finally, Affiant states that Vendor is current on its payment of all applicable gross receipt taxes and personal property taxes.

Taxes and Licensure: Thus, Affiant states that Vendor has all applicable licenses, including business licenses, copies of which are attached hereto. Finally, Affiant states Vendor is current on its payment of all applicable gross receipt taxes and personal property taxes.

Contingent Fees: It is a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure an Authority contract up on an agreement or understanding for a contingent commission, percentage, or brokerage fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business. After first being duly sworn according to law, the undersigned (Affiant) states Contractor has not retained anyone in violation of the foregoing.

Nondiscrimination: Vendor, after being first duly sworn, affirms that by its employment policy, standards and practices it does not subscribe to any personnel policy which permits or allows for the promotion, demotion, employment, dismissal or laying off of any individual due to race, religion, creed, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, color, age, and/or disability and that it is not in violation of and will not violate any applicable laws concerning the employment of individuals with handicaps and/or disabilities. It is the policy if the Metropolitan Government not to discriminate on the basis of race, religion, creed, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, color, age, and/or disability in its hiring and employment practices, or in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs, services and activities. Premium Floors Care & Services certifies and warrants it will comply with this policy.

And Further Affiant Sayeth Not:

By: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Sworn to and subscribed before me on this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Notary Public

My Commission Expires: _____