

CHICAGO ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) FOR MASTER PLANNING DESIGN SERVICES

RFQ No: 030-2022
RFQ Issue Date: April 12, 2022

The Chicago Zoological Society (CZS) is now laying the foundation for a significant future capital campaign to coincide with Brookfield Zoo's 100th Anniversary. At this time, we are seeking credentials and information from qualified firms to provide master planning design services in advance of issuing a formal Request for Proposal (RFP) for Brookfield Zoo's new Master Plan.

Background

More than 100 years ago, Edith Rockefeller McCormick donated 83 acres of land to the Forest Preserves of Cook County with the vision of building a large zoological park with modern construction and open enclosures. The Forest Preserves of Cook County donated the remaining 153 acres, and in 1921, the Chicago Zoological Society (CZS) was chartered. The two organizations entered into an agreement to develop, operate, and maintain a world class zoo, and in 1934, Brookfield Zoo officially opened its gates.

Today, as we approach Brookfield Zoo's Centennial Celebration in 2034, CZS remains dedicated to providing an innovative world class zoo worthy of Chicago's global stature. We are an international leader in the care and well-being of animals, both at the zoo and around the world through our global conservation programs. We further aim to strengthen our relevance in the Chicago area community with education and outreach programs that empower our guests to drive positive change. Our mission is to *inspire conservation leadership by engaging people and communities with wildlife and nature.*

For generations, families in the Chicago metropolitan area have learned about animals, nature, and the importance of conservation from the Chicago Zoological Society and Brookfield Zoo. We are consistently rated as Illinois' most popular ticketed outdoor cultural attraction; and, in 2019, more than two million visitors came through our gates. Our enduring popularity stems from animal habitats that provide extraordinary up-close encounters with wildlife from around the world, and pioneering scientific initiatives in animal care, animal welfare, and veterinary medicine. Equally as important are our award-winning community engagement, education, and social innovation programs that serve families from underserved communities and persons with disabilities, underscoring our commitment to educating people of all abilities and socio-economic backgrounds about wildlife, nature, and how they can contribute to conservation in their homes and communities.

Master Planning

In 2020, CZS Trustees and Master Planning Committee Co-Chairs Molly Keller and Jim Bryan, along with CZS staff, launched a master planning process to create a new vision for the infrastructure, animal habitats, guest amenities, programs, and more of Brookfield Zoo. With the world now emerging from the pandemic, we are ready to resume our planning process in earnest. Over the past 18 months, CZS Trustees, community stakeholders and staff have worked together in a series of symposia to prepare recommendations and priorities for the short-and long-term planning needs at Brookfield Zoo that will prepare the Zoo for a viable future.

CZS envisions a new Master Plan that will incorporate dramatic advances and changes in technology, guest expectations, and animal care into a reimagined zoo. With wildlife and nature under threat at a global scale, we also aim to include new possibilities for engaging and inspiring our guests. When our gates opened in 1934, Brookfield Zoo was an immediate leader in the modern exhibition of zoo animals. A lot has changed over the past century and we seek a new Master Plan that will set a bold vision for Brookfield Zoo's next 100 years.

Once completed, the Master Plan will provide a project roadmap for a Centennial Campaign culminating in the 100th Anniversary of the Zoo in 2034. With 235 acres of space, over two million guests a year, 125,000-member households, a strong partnership with the Forest Preserves of Cook County, and over 400 dedicated staff – we have a powerful foundation that will allow us to “dream big”.

Next Steps

CZS plans to engage an architectural firm in 2022 and is interested in learning more about your firm. If you are interested, we would appreciate you preparing and sending to us a qualification statement and related information about your firm that describes your relevant capabilities and expertise for working on a Master Plan project that encompasses the size and type of the project described above.

In 10 pages or less in your qualification package, please include relevant information as it relates to your firm's master planning expertise in the following areas:

- Master planning experience with large tracts of land that encompass multiple buildings including zoos, colleges and/or universities, including historical structures.
- Master planning experience utilizing landscaping design, wayfinding and signage.
- Master planning experience that incorporates storm water management, water recycling and other infrastructure components and utilities into a sustainable system for long term viability.
- Master planning experience for mixed-use developments and/or other land uses where high visibility, pedestrians and public usage is prominent.
- Master planning experience in Cook County working with local, state and federal regulatory agencies.

Please send your information via email to the attention of Mary Ann Cronin, Master Planning Coordinator, MaryAnn.Cronin@czs.org on or before **Monday, May 16, 2022**. If you have questions concerning this request, please direct them to Mary Ann at 312-286-8223. You can access more information about CZS and Brookfield Zoo at www.czs.org/BrookfieldZoo.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Dr. Michael J. Adkesson in black ink, including the initials "DVM" at the end.

Dr. Michael J. Adkesson
President and CEO

Handwritten signature of Cherryl T. Thomas in black ink.

Cherryl T. Thomas
Chair, Board of Trustees