UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

Request for Qualifications – Architects
Glover Family Event Center

The University of Arkansas Fayetteville, in accordance with the policies of the Board of Trustees, is soliciting responses from qualified architects for the *Glover Family Event Center.*

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Garvan Woodland Gardens, located in Hot Springs along the shore of Lake Hamilton, is the University of Arkansas's botanical garden, operating under the direction of the Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design. Its mission is to preserve and enhance a unique part of the Ouachita Mountains while providing visitors with opportunities for learning, research, cultural enrichment, and reflection. Through a generous gift from the Glover family, the proposed Glover Family Event Center will further this mission by enhancing the Gardens' ability to serve visitors, families, community members, and University stakeholders through a distinctive new gathering venue. The project will create an architecturally significant destination that supports meaningful celebrations, memorials, cultural programs, educational activities, and community engagement while strengthening Garvan's role as one of Arkansas's premier public gardens.

The Garvan Woodland Gardens campus is distinguished by architectural excellence, enduring quality, and craftsmanship that complements the landmark status of the Jennings and McKee-designed Anthony Chapel, originally made possible through the generosity of John Ed and Isabel Anthony. Consistent with the Gardens' tradition of architecturally significant buildings, the Event Center will be designed to establish its own identity while contributing to the broader architectural ensemble. The project will emphasize durable, thoughtfully detailed materials characteristic of the Gardens while responding sensitively to the site's topography, woodland character, and natural setting.

The event venue will support wedding receptions, memorial gatherings, concerts, educational programs, community events, and other private and public functions while complementing the existing Chapel experience. Thoughtfully integrated into the surrounding woodland landscape, the building will capitalize on views of Lake Hamilton and create seamless connections between indoor and outdoor environments, reinforcing the Garden's commitment to exceptional architecture in harmony with nature.

Designed to accommodate up to 200 guests, the facility will include the support spaces necessary for efficient event operations, including catering, storage, restrooms, loading, and building service areas. Exceptional acoustics and integrated audiovisual technologies will support a wide range of events, while outdoor event spaces and landscaped gathering areas will extend the venue into the surrounding garden setting.

Together, these features will create a flexible event destination capable of hosting both intimate and large-scale gatherings while enhancing the visitor experience at Garvan Woodland Gardens.

Beyond meeting an important facility need, the Glover Family Event Center will strengthen the University of Arkansas's land-grant mission by supporting educational programming, community engagement, and cultural activities. As an outreach venue for the Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design and Garvan Woodland Gardens, the facility will provide opportunities for conferences, public programs, and community partnerships. The Event Center will also serve as a significant revenue-generating asset, expanding Garvan's event capabilities and supporting the long-term sustainability, stewardship, and operation of both the facility and the Gardens as a whole.

PROJECT COST

The project cost is currently estimated at a maximum of $5.1 million. Total project cost includes the construction cost and soft costs like design fees. Architects and consultants will work with a university building committee, an independent third-party commissioning agent, and Facilities Management to advance campus design principles and sustainability requirements.

ANTICIPATED PROJECT SCHEDULE

Request for Qualifications (RFQ) issued	*November 6*
Statement of Qualification (SOQ) due	*November 24*
interviews of shortlisted firms	*January 5*
Board of Trustees selection announced	*February 19*
contract negotiations	*February 2027*
construction starts	*September 2027*
project complete	*June 2029*

SUBMISSION

The deadline for responses is 1:00pm local time on Tuesday, November 24, 2026.
All respondents will be notified of the results by EMAIL, so please provide accurate contact information.

Address ten (10) copies of responses to:

Joshua Fox, Executive Assistant
University of Arkansas
Facilities Management
521 S. Razorback Road, FAMA C-100
Fayetteville, AR 72701

Notice to design teams:

The University of Arkansas Board of Trustees has expressed a clear preference for design teams that include an Arkansas architect. Please note that this will be considered during the selection process.

Format requirements:

Printed responses should be no larger than 8.5in x 11in, limited to **50 sheets maximum (100 pages)** , fully recyclable (i.e. no plastic covers, plastic tabs, etc.) and bound with glue, staples, or thread (i.e. perfect bound, saddle stitching, etc.). No metal or plastic coils allowed. No loose pages or folders. **Responses that do not meet these requirements will be disqualified.**

Please send a digital copy of the response via email to *jfox@uark.edu* in addition to the printed booklets.

To avoid potential conflicts of interest, respondents should not communicate with university faculty or staff about this project. This document provides the relevant information for assembling a Statement of Qualifications. If you have questions about the selection process or the project scope, you can send them via email to jfox@uark.edu.

Content requirements:

Include the information below and organize it in an easily accessible manner. You do not need to divide the response into chapters exactly matching the descriptions below. **Responses that do not include the required licensure information will be disqualified.**

1. Proof of licensure or eligibility:

   Architects: All firms shall be licensed, or eligible for licensure, in the State of Arkansas. Eligible firms not currently licensed in Arkansas must send a letter to the Arkansas State Board of Architects (501-682-3171/501-682-3172 fax) stating their intent to respond to an RFQ issued by the University of Arkansas. Please include the project name, submittal date, and proof of valid NCARB certification in the letter. Consulting and joint venture firms are also required to be licensed by the Arkansas State Board of Architects. Notification to the State Board must be made PRIOR to responding to this solicitation, and **A COPY OF EITHER A VALID ARKANSAS LICENSE OR THE LETTER OF INTENT TO THE STATE BOARD DESCRIBED ABOVE FOR ALL TEAM MEMBER FIRMS MUST BE INCLUDED WITH THE RESPONSE** . The final selected firm(s) will have 30 days to make application for corporate licensure after they are awarded the contract.

Landscape Architects: All firms shall be licensed by the Arkansas State Board of Architects, Landscape Architects, and Interior Designers. A COPY OF A VALID ARKANSAS LICENSE MUST BE INCLUDED WITH THE SUBMITTAL.

Civil Engineers: All engineers shall hold individual licenses in the State of Arkansas, and all engineering firms shall hold a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) issued by the Arkansas State Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Professional Surveyors. Joint venture firms are also required to hold a COA. A COPY OF A VALID ARKANSAS CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORIZATION MUST BE INCLUDED WITH THE SUBMITTAL.

2. Organizational chart for design team and all consultants
3. **Specific project experience** (within the past five years) with destination event facilities, conference centers, wedding venues, and similar gathering spaces, demonstrating expertise in architectural placemaking, indoor-outdoor event environments, acoustics, lighting design, hospitality-focused guest experiences, and integration within natural or environmentally sensitive settings.
4. Current office size, personnel description, and workload
5. Experience constructing projects under nationally-recognized sustainable rating systems
6. Experience with fully commissioned projects
7. Proof of current professional liability insurance coverage ($1,000,000 minimum required)
8. List of projects currently under contract with state agencies or educational facilities

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES REQUIRED

PROGRAMMING, FEASIBILITY ASSESSMENTS, GRAPHIC PRESENTATION, SITE PLANNING, CIVIL ENGINEERING, BUILDING LANDSCAPE DESIGN, INTERIOR DESIGN, GRAPHICS AND WAYFINDING DESIGN, COST EVALUATION, SCHEMATIC DESIGN, DESIGN DEVELOPMENT, CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS, CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION, AND PROJECT CLOSEOUT.

LOCATION

The Gover Family Event Center will be located east of the existing Anthony Chapel.

