

Questions & Answers

The Architecture of Nathan Johnson: Historic Resource Survey and Multiple Property Documentation Form

RFP-CASE-00451313

March 20, 2026

1. Are there any caps on budget that we should be aware of related to the grant funding?

The NPS grant for the project is \$75,000 and represents the total available project budget for the contractor. No additional funds are anticipated. The SHPO will provide support to the selected contractor during the project through regular meetings, correspondence, and reviews, and will participate in activities such as the public meetings.

2. Is the Michigan Strategic Fund able to share the amount of the 2024 National Park Service (NPS) Underrepresented Communities grant received for the project?

See the answer to question #1.

3. Is the MSF able to share the total project budget, if one has been identified?

See the answer to question #1.

4. Does the contractor need to be currently licensed to operate in the State of Michigan in order to submit a response to this RFP?

Bidders must be registered to do business in the State of Michigan.

5. For the "Prior Experience" section II-A-5, is a physical address required for project contacts/references? Or is a phone number and/or email address sufficient?

A phone number and email address are sufficient.

6. Can the selected contractor present the final MPDF and NR nomination virtually to the SHPRB and HDAB or is in-person attendance required.

While in person presentations are encouraged/preferred, virtual presentations are also acceptable. Guidelines available from the National Register Coordinator upon request.

7. Is it the Michigan Strategic Fund's preference that oral history recordings be audio or video?

No preference as long as the recording is high quality.

8. Does the Michigan Strategic Fund have additional funding to compensate oral history narrators for their time?

See the answer to question #1. The full project budget will be made available to the contractor, who should enumerate their proposed expenses as part of their cost proposal.

9. Can the project completion meeting be held virtually, or is in-person presentation required?

This may be held virtually.

10. How do you anticipate the historic context narratives for the Historic Context Statement, Survey Report, and MPDF will differ, if at all?

We anticipate that there will be overlap between the documents, but the three reports will concentrate on different areas. We expect the Historic Context Statement to at a minimum broadly cover the impact of Nathan Johnson's architecture and mentorship of minority architects. This will also include a broad overview and analysis of his place in modern architecture in southeast Michigan.

The Survey Report should concentrate on the physical structures that are identified during the project. While it will include some of the information mentioned above, it should be distilled down to what is relevant to the specific buildings and themes identified during the survey.

The MPDF will establish registration requirements and property types for listing buildings designed by Johnson. While it doesn't need to repeat the context verbatim, it will need to distill down the relevant information to establish the foundation for making decisions about significance.

11. Would you be able to share the approximate number of resources that will need to be included in the survey, and their approximate locations (i.e. are they all located in Detroit, or will travel around the state of MI be needed)?

Please see page 3 of the RFP. Bidders should assume no more than 100 resources and that most (>90%) will be in the Detroit metropolitan area. There may be a handful of others located in southeast Michigan.

12. Is the SHPO Partnership with Noir Design Parti for the advising and review of submitted drafts of the Survey and MPDF? Are the fees for Noir Design Parti's billable hours covered by the SHPO or the consultant?

Noir Design Parti will be involved in meetings, review of submitted deliverables, and selection of the property to be nominated to the National Register. The consultant does not need to account for fees for Noir Design Parti.

13. Would it be possible to propose a shorter schedule or are you committed to the project running until March 2029?

Bidders may propose a schedule that they feel is appropriate for the project. However, schedules must account for the minimum number/length of SHPO reviews as identified on page 16, Technical Work Plans, and all required deliverables as identified on pages 10-15. Proposed schedules will be incorporated into the contract as binding milestones. As such, bidders are encouraged to ensure that they have provided sufficient time for completing each task.

14. Does the SHPO or other project partners know where Johnson's personal papers, or papers from his firm, were archived?

Noir Design Parti has collected records related to Johnson's life and work and will be involved in providing resources and contacts, but the contractor will be expected to conduct primary research into Johnson's life and work.

15. If the site nominated to the National Register is within the City of Detroit, will nomination-related deliverables also be reviewed by HDAB?

The City of Detroit is a Certified Local Government and an important partner in the review process for National Register nominations. While SHPO transmits the nomination to HDAB staff, the consultant will be expected to arrange a presentation with HDAB. If a location outside of the City of Detroit is selected but is also in a CLG community, the consultant would contact SHPO to determine the process for community review.

16. Please confirm the total budget available for this project, inclusive of grant funding and any additional funding.

See the answer to question #1.