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May 2, 2022

Talia Baker, CPARB Administrative Staff
Engineering & Architectural Services
Washington State Department of Enterprise Services

RE: Letter of Interest for CPARB Chair

Dear CPARB members,

I respectfully submit my letter of interest to serve as CPARB Chair. It has been a privilege to serve this past year with and for you. I would be honored to continue the important work of bringing us together, in collaboration to make productive progress.

As CPARB Chair, I facilitated (with OMWBE expertise from Marika Barto) the board developing and adopting a set of CPARB shared commitments that will hopefully assist us in being a better board. Thank you for your partnership to include this critical work. I understand the importance of listening, learning, and bringing the diverse industry perspectives to our work of improving public contracting and RCW39.10, and access for all. DES and I also worked to update our CPARB website and our board meeting agendas so that information is more readily accessible – for both CPARB members and others who are interested in our work. It included a consolidated calendar-at-a-glance and a visual dashboard of key activities/deliverables to keep us on track. I've also added a Chair Report to make our board communication and transparency even better.

While I have been a member of the board for 3 years, my involvement in CPARB spans over a decade: first as CPARB Port proxy in 2005, then participating in many subcommittees and serving on the PRC for three years. While PRC Chair, I ensured that owner certifications and project applications were conducted per RCW39.10 with fellow committee members. It's been a pleasure to work together and build consensus amongst the many stakeholders, find common ground, and develop workable policy solutions that advance our industry for the public benefit. CPARB subcommittees that I actively participated in over the last 16 years include:

Business Equity/Diverse Business Inclusion

Heavy Civil GC/CM - completed

GC/CM Best Practices

IPD Best Value Task Force- completed

Board Development

RCW 39.10 reauthorization - completed

Data Collection - completed

Prompt Pay - completed

Design-Build Statute Review - completed

Best Value selection - completed

Design-Build Best Practices - completed

Bidder responsibility - completed

As a licensed Civil Engineer and Certified Construction Manager, I bring 34 years of horizontal and vertical construction experience from the Maritime, Aviation, Transportation and Environmental Remediation industries. I am the Assistant Director of Engineering, responsible for construction management oversight of major construction projects, Project Labor Agreements, and Apprenticeships at the Port for the last 14 years.

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More than half of my career has focused on delivering projects using RCW 39.10 alternative delivery methods (General Contractor/Construction Manager, Design-Build, Progressive Design-Build, and Job Order Contracting). My breadth of industry knowledge from both the public and private sector is a benefit to CPARB as we continue to bring many diverse voices together in order to most effectively deliver projects for the entire state of Washington. As a public sector leader, I believe in mentoring, coaching, and leading project teams in order to create a culture of inclusivity and prepare owners for successful alternative delivery. To that end, I also participate as a trainer to improve our entire industry.

Related specifically to DEI, I currently serve on the DBIA DEI Subcommittee for the NW Region locally and have worked to educate and improve diversity and inclusion for our construction industry. In addition to engaging in DEI leadership work for many years within Washington State, I am also now Co-Chair for the National League of Cities Race Equity and Leadership (REAL) committee. On these committees, we are uplifting voices not heard previously, addressing inequities and removing barriers to opportunities and access. We provide opportunities for peer support and develop case studies and best practices to create shared resources.

We have many construction projects to deliver in Washington state, and it is critical that our public works opportunities are accessible to all and that we nurture and grow diverse businesses and workers. Success will depend on our ability to cultivate and sustain small, women, veteran and minority-owned businesses in partnership with general contractors, prime designers, and labor. I am excited to publish our BE/DBI best practices report in response to SB5032, section 20, to advance equity in our construction industry. I believe my highly collaborative leadership style helps advance the board's work in the most inclusive and respectful way.

The prolonged pandemic and the other market factors have challenged our industry. We know we are not out of the woods yet. As Chair, I look forward to guiding the board as we emerge from all virtual meetings and navigating the "new" normal. There's a lot of work to do, with GCCM Best Practices, Board Development, Small Works, Bid Listing and likely other work coming. As we finish the current committee work, we will need to restart the Website and Training Committee that has not yet begun its work. It may also be helpful to start a Legislative strategic planning subcommittee to focus on how we best understand and communicate with state legislators, and craft policy language.

I am very hopeful about what we can accomplish together with the many diverse perspectives and voices of legacy and new board members. I remain committed to the important work we are doing as a board, both the work itself and in how we best work together respectfully and inclusively. The Port of Seattle understands and continues to support the level of time required to successfully serve in this important leadership role. Thank you and I appreciate your consideration of my continued service as CPARB Chair.



Sincerely,

Janice Zahn, PE, CCM, EMPA