



October 15, 2015

Request for Proposal (RFP) – Exhibit Designer and Fabricator for Discovery Center Interactives

Approximate Project Value: \$20,000-30,000
The budget range includes design, labor, and materials
Time Frame: Completed April 2016

The New Bedford Whaling Museum (NBWM) is soliciting RFP's from contractors interested in designing and fabricating three interactive exhibits in the Museum's new Discovery Center on the first floor of the Wattles Jacobs Education Center. The primary audience for these exhibits will be children and families of all ages and the exhibits are expected to be installed for a period of ten years. Each interactive component will allow visitors to experience one of the activities that whalemens carried out aboard a Yankee whaleship.

A successful proposal will reflect the authentic look and feel of a 19th century whaleship experience and not a playground. Visitors will be able to engage with content physically and intellectually through experiential learning and play to better understand the broader stories told at the Museum regarding a life at sea. These interactive components will be installed on a semi-permanent basis, and high marks will be given to proposals that consider durability, safety, and ease of maintenance and repair. Interpretive text panels, multi-media such as video, audio, and other content will be provided by Museum staff and their graphic designers. Content, text panels, and graphic design will be provided to the contractor by Museum staff and/or graphic designers. Where there are digital components, the expectation is that the designer/fabricator will work with a NBWM selected digital designer to create the appropriate structure for the interactive. Concept drawings for reference only follow below.

Exhibit elements will include:

1. Thar She Blows!

This exhibit will present two visitors at a time with the illusion of a whale watch station atop the mast to understand the challenges, dangers and thrills of seeing the world and whales high above a whaleship's deck. A platform could be affixed to a swaying mast with waist high hoop rings that allows kids to simulate the experience of being in the crow's nest. There are existing spars, netting, pulleys, and sails from the former fo'c'sle exhibit which would need to be incorporated into the design. The ship's rigging could be utilized to suggest the allusion of height as could floor treatments such as a photograph taken from a real whaleship or a video screen of the same.

2. Simple Machines

Learning physics through play using pulleys and friction, 2-4 young sailors at a time will haul 'blubber' using a series of pulleys of varying efficiency. Kids could attach faux strips of "blubber" to a hook and lift it from the hold to determine which pulley has the most mechanical advantage. This interactive will prompt users to examine why some pulley systems work easily, while others require exhaustive force to lift the same amount. Contextualizing the activity on the deck of a whaleship will engage the visitor not only in the educational science component, but with text panels and images they will learn about ship design and life at sea as a Yankee Whaler.

3. Steady As She Goes

This activity allows a lot of choice, role playing and creativity as children can dress up as a ship's captain or crew member and stand behind a direct feed video against a green screen and watch themselves steering the ship in stormy and calm weather replete with sounds of the waves and wind, birds and creaking ship. Still photos of the green screen experience can be emailed to the family's account. This exhibit would require a low stage for one user or one small group of users at a time with a ramp for handicapped access. Technical support for the digital components and equipment will be provided by Museum staff and audio/visual designers.

Response should be sent to:

cconnett@whalingmuseum.org

If an accompanying hard copy is sent, please mail to:

New Bedford Whaling Museum

Attn: Christina Connett

18 Johnny Cake Hill

New Bedford, MA 02740

Deadline: Response must be received by **November 13, 2015**

The request for proposal does not commit NBWM to award a contract or to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of the proposal. NBWM reserves the right to extend the due date for the proposal, to accept or reject any or all proposals received as a result of this request, to negotiate with any qualified consultant, or to cancel the RFP in part or in its entirety.

**Request for Proposal – Exhibit Designer and Fabricator for
Discovery Center Interactives (continued)**

Screening and Selection: A screening committee will review the submittals and rank proposals. The highest ranked proposals will be asked to interview.

Expected Sequence of Events

Pre-bid Q & A for applicants at the New Bedford Whaling Museum: October 28 from 10:00-11:00. Register with cconnett@whalingmuseum.org if attending in person need call in instructions.

Receipt of RFPs: November 13

Review and selection of qualified applicants: November 17

Interview top selected applicants: November 18 - November 24

Final selection of applicants: November 27

Response requirements:

Response should include, but is not limited to the following information:

1. Resume.
2. Background, history, and project experience.
3. Describe organizational approach.
4. Describe how you would address the following:
 - a. Design and Work Plan Strategy
 - b. Onsite Project Management Approach
 - c. Progress Meetings
 - d. Cost Estimating
 - e. Scheduling
5. Outline the proposed fee schedule.
6. Identify and describe any sub-contractors (sub-consultants) that will be used.
7. Provide client references.
8. Provide examples of work of completed projects.
9. Describe any experience working with projects of this nature.
10. Describe any relevant experience with integrated design or design charrette.

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General Requirements

Provide Certificate of Insurance for the insurance that, if selected, will need to be in force at all times during the contract period. Insurance company coverage must be with a current AM Best's rating of no less than A and include the following coverages:

Commercial General Liability \$1,000,000 each occurrence

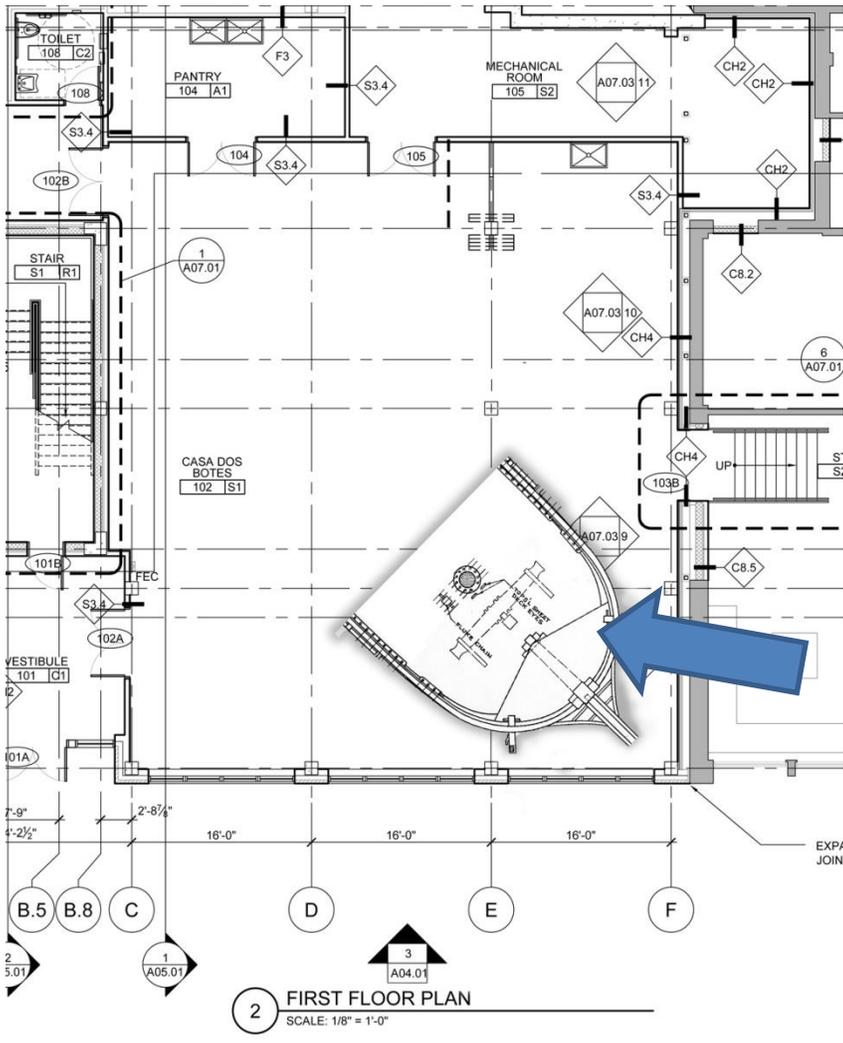
Excess/Umbrella Liability \$1,000,000

Workers Compensation Statutory Limits

- a) Indemnification endorsement covering the additional insured's and owner.
- b) Insurance to be primary and non-contributory.
- c) Contain no exclusions for means, methods, techniques, sequences or procedures.
- d) General Aggregate to apply on a per project basis.
- e) Contain a deductible of no more the \$ 25,000.

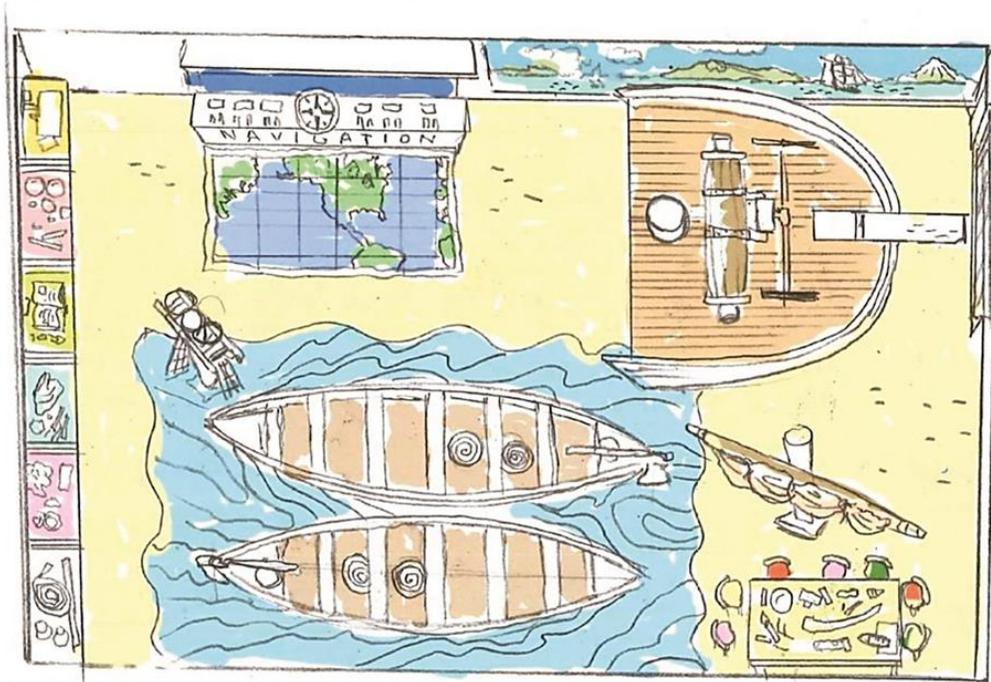
All proposal packages received by NBWM will become NBWM's property for use as deemed appropriate.

The New Bedford Whaling Museum is an equal opportunity Employer. Every effort will be made to ensure that all persons, regardless of race, religion, gender, color and national origin have equal access to contracts and other business opportunities with NBWM.



Separate exhibit of life sized bow of a whaleship. Interactives exhibits described in this RFP will occupy other areas of the space

These concept drawings are for reference only



Discovery Center: conceptual layout



Discovery Center: The Yankee and Azorean whaleboat interactive



Discovery Center: The crow's nest interactive



Discovery Center: Furling the sails