



RFP: Restoring Dakota Culture & Landscape at Owámniyomi

Questions & Answers

UPDATED FEBRUARY 7, 2024

Q&A TO BE POSTED WEEKLY AT [OWAMNIYOMNI.ORG/PROCUREMENT](https://owamniyomni.org/procurement)

What does the RFP mean by “Tribal Engagement”? How will the Consultant Team engage with Tribes?

Owámniyomni Okhódayapi has convened a Tribal Working Group comprising representatives of the four Mni Sota Dakota Nations to guide this work. The Consultant Team will attend Tribal Working Group meetings and may be asked to participate in visits to Tribal Council meetings, or contribute to Owámniyomni Okhódayapi’s preparation for Tribal engagement events such as wacipis (or powwows).

The RFP also mentions a need for Phase III archaeological mitigation services. How does that fit into the Tribal engagement portion of the project, and what is the current status of the archaeological survey?

It is anticipated that Phase III mitigation planning will be necessary because a small US Army Lock control station will be demolished in order to achieve the restoration of Indigenous landscape, and the building is more than 50 years old. Completed Phase I and Phase II studies will be provided to the Consultant Team. Those studies identify the Upper Lock as a historically significant complex, and the mill ruins and water works as historic resources. Owámniyomni Okhódayapi has also completed a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) study for this site, identifying the river, its upstream creek, the Falls, the islands, and other features as significant. The TCP is included in the RFP exhibits. The project must comply with all federal guidance (NEPA, NHPA).

Can the Teaming Directory be released to Directory participants earlier than February 21st? Teams may already be formed by then.

Yes. Owámníyomni Okhódayapi has considered this request and decided that the Teaming Directory can be shared earlier than the planned release date of February 21. The Teaming Directory will not be posted publicly; only those who are participants in the Directory will receive this information. The initial distribution will take place via email on Wednesday, January 31, and will be repeated every Wednesday thereafter through February 21, to include email releases on January 31, February 7, February 14, and February 21.

Can you share more about the role of Mni Sota Dakota knowledge keepers, and how OO will evaluate cultural competency on each Consultant Team?

Owámníyomni Okhódayapi is actively inviting Mni Sota Dakota knowledge keepers to be centered in the programming, design, and restoration at Owámníyomni as consulting advisors, engaged by and embedded in a contracted Consultant Team. This team member will play an essential role at the center of their Team, providing guidance and ensuring that their team hears, understands, and prioritizes Dakota voices and knowledge in shaping the direction of the project. Teams' approach to this role should reflect Owámníyomni Okhódayapi's mission, and should honor our commitment to be guided by the Dakota Nations in this work. Teams that understand the value of knowledge keepers, and ensure their presence at a leadership and decision-making level, will be attractive to the Selection Committee. We have encouraged all types of knowledge keepers to consider this opportunity, including elders, artists, language speakers, or those with knowledge of medicines, Indigenous land management, and water rights.

Is there an in-person option for attendance at the Pre-proposal Conference on February 15th?

There is no in-person meeting option for the pre-proposal conference.

If teams are interested in exploring the site in person during the proposal process, would it be possible to meet with Owámníyomni Okhódayapi staff or leadership as part of that visit?

Teams are welcome to experience the public areas of the site in person. However, no in-person site visits with staff and leadership are currently planned. We ask that Teams utilize the information about the site that has been made available on Owámníyomni Okhódayapi's website, in the text of the RFP, and in the supplemental references that have been linked in Exhibit A, during the pre-proposal stage. Specific questions about site conditions or site elements are welcome, and can be submitted and promptly answered through the Q&A

process. In addition, we will have a navigable 3d view of the site open in Google Maps at the pre-proposal conference to facilitate answering site related questions.

The cover sheet of the RFP indicates a due date at 3/22, however within the RFP on p4, 3/15 is cited as the due date and on p6, again cited as 3/22 . Please confirm the intended submission date is 3/22.

The correct submission date is March 22, 2024. The erroneous date on page 4 of the RFP has been corrected in the RFP PDF.

I am concerned that the Dakota knowledge keepers will be “rolled over” and exploited by big firms, who may just approach this as “checking the box” but not really adjust their way of working. How will that be avoided?

Owámniyomni Okhódayapi’s primary mission is to restore Dakota presence and indigenous landscape at Owámniyomni. Knowledge keepers will be the only members of each team who can bring authenticity, trust, and relationships to the process. The Selection Committee will be looking for an approach demonstrating an understanding of that. Additionally, our process design will underscore this intention. We view Dakota knowledge keepers as part of a three-way network of communication and concept development, which looks like this:



Are there specific goals or requirements for Small & Underutilized Businesses?

No.

Are we to acknowledge receipt of any addenda, and if so, in what manner?

If any addenda are published, they will be publicly available on the procurement page. We do not require you to acknowledge receipt of any addenda. All materials necessary for teams to prepare a proposal will be provided on the procurement page.