



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL For Light Up Chinatown Spring 2026

Addendum: Questions and Answers Date: May 15, 2026

Q: Will there be a question and answer document? Where will it be shared?

A: The Q&A document will be shared on the [CPLDC website](#) and the NYS Contract Reporter.

Q: Is it problematic to not be certified in NYS?

A: It is not problematic assuming MWBE goals (30%) can be met during future subcontracting regarding project implementation. Only NYS Certified MWBE firms will count toward goal targets (RFP Section V. Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Requirements).

Q: How important is experience in NYC?

A: Experience in NYC and coordination with DOT/DOB are key factors. Submitted proposals will be evaluated based on four categories listed in RFP section IV. Evaluation Criteria. Category 2, Experience & Expertise, is described in the RFP as “Demonstrated experience with lighting design, public space activation, and comparable projects in NYC; experience with DOT/DOB coordination and public realm approvals.”

Q: Are there any sustainability goals (LEED, WELL, Net Zero, etc.)?

A: Not specifically defined, but we will be looking for the most economically, sustainable, and efficient designs that take into consideration available energy sources and other site conditions and approvals.

Q: How many issuances of documentation would you like us to include?

A: Not clear what this question is asking, but provide one copy of all important documents for responses to this RFP and additional copies can be submitted at a later date if needed.

Q: Is the budget covering Tasks 1 through 3 or Tasks 1 through 5?

A: The budget covers Tasks 1 through 5. “CPLDC has dedicated a total sum of \$600,000 to cover both the Consultant design costs associated with the scope of work within this RFP and the fabrication, fixture purchases, construction and contractor fees associated with a Phase I implementation. The Consultant’s fee proposal should be realistic in performing the necessary work to achieve a Phase I investment that has a meaningful impact to the community.” (RFP Section VI. Submission Requirements, Item 8. Fee Schedule)

Q: Is there a project schedule your team has already drafted, or anticipated durations for each phase?



A: Based on our understanding of the project, we believe the work can be performed within 12-18 months, but we are open to discuss adjustments to the project schedule should the lighting designer have expertise and knowledge that we have not considered.

Q: I understand that the overall project timeline is 12–18 months. Could you clarify if the DRI has an expectation for the start date for this project?

A: The project timeframe will begin once a contract has been executed between CPLDC and the lighting consultant.

Q: Does the toolbox need to be applied? How will the toolbox be used, or is it for demonstration only?

A: The toolbox must result in realistic applicable options for improving lighting. CPLDC will work with the selected consultant to determine a first phase scope of work to be implemented following the finalization of the toolbox.

Q: How does this lighting initiative differ from work done during the pandemic?

A: While pandemic-era lighting improved safety and lighting conditions, those were temporary installations. Under this RFP, DRI funds must be used for permanent fixtures rather than temporary installations.

Q: What if a storefront gets the toolbox application but another storefront changes it?

A: The toolbox should provide guidance, design, and implementation steps. It is not an application process.

Q: Will there be funding for additional lighting projects beyond the scope of this RFP?

A: The first phase of this RFP focuses on creating a "toolbox." While DRI funding is limited, this toolbox is intended to be a long-term resource that others can use for future work, expanding the project's impact. The ambition is for this project to be a catalyst not just for New York City, but for the 18 other Chinatowns across the country.

Q: Can the toolbox be used later for projects with their own independent funding?

A: Yes, the intent is for the toolbox to be a community resource. Although the RFP outlines a project with a discrete scope and funding, the DRI's purpose is to catalyze other projects, expanding its impact. Since grant funding is limited, this project could provide a framework for other projects to emerge independently.

Q: Can the Lighting Designer work with a Contractor to coordinate and administer the installation of light fixtures? Could this be more of a Design/Build partnership?

A: We can consider a design/build proposal with the understanding that we may choose to only proceed with the design scope of work at this time and thus the design scope and build scope must be clearly delineated, including separate fee proposals.



Q: For preparation/certification of all final designs and construction documents, can there be an EE onboarded to coordinate power requirements and stamp the drawings?

A: The lighting designer consultant should have full understanding of the electrical needs of each component within the toolbox, and thus should include the appropriate staff and/or subs as part of their team.

Q: Would you like us to hand over our documentation to the electrical contractor at the end of Task 5 and act in a review capacity throughout Task 4, or would you like us to assume full design services from Tasks 1–5?

A: This RFP is for a consultant/contractor team to complete Task 1-5 in full.

Q: Does the RFP include the toolbox's implementation or only its design?

A: The scope includes targeted projects that implement the toolbox. The first three tasks of the RFP build towards developing the toolbox (Task 3). This includes conducting a lighting survey and mapping priority corridors (Task 1), conducting an approval and permitting assessment (Task 2). Tasks 4 (Final Design, Construction Documents & Bidding for Phase I Work) and 5 (Implementation Oversight) involve implementing the toolbox and the installation of fixtures.

Q: Would you like us to include architectural lighting controls design, specification, and coordination, or will this be covered by the Electrical Engineer? Either way, we will provide a control intent narrative and/or zoning diagrams. If full controls are required, do you anticipate any dynamic/color-changing lighting?

A: This RFP is for a consultant/contractor team to complete Task 1-5 in full. The elements that comprise the toolbox may include off-the-shelf items and/or fabrication of unique fixtures. Please include in your proposal all staff, tasks, and requirements necessary to achieve the project goals. If unsure of a particular activity, feel free to propose such activity as an optional component.

Q: Please confirm that structural engineering details such as light pole bases, electrical equipment suspension, seismic bracing, and other supports requiring review and approval by a licensed engineer will fall under the Structural Engineer's scope, as these are not typically provided by the Lighting Designer.

A: The consultants/contractors responding to this RFP should have sufficient knowledge and experience to create a realistic toolbox of lighting interventions that can be implemented with a full understanding of the basic permitting, structural, and technical requirements. Site specific scope details that a contractor installing such elements would include are not part of this RFP scope of work. We anticipate some engineering expertise is necessary so that ideas closely consider approval, buildability, affordability, structural capability, etc.



Q: Is this RFP to implement the recommendations from the Sight Analysis and Lighting Survey developed by ARUP and SOM, which was included as an attachment to this RFP?

A: No, the designs from that study have not been adopted for implementation. The 2025 survey by ARUP and SOM is nonetheless an important resource. Applicants should review the report, which is a helpful tool to consider and build upon.

Q: Can the Contractor carry the Prime Agreement and secure any preliminary approvals for this scope of work?

A: This question is not clear, but the lighting design consultant/contractor must enter into a contractual agreement with CPLDC.

Q: Do you anticipate our participation in any client presentations and/or workshops? If so, how many and in what phases?

A: Yes, as part of the creation of the toolbox, we anticipate some public outreach and presentations. Please include in your proposal how and when you will incorporate these based on your expertise.

Q: Are there weekly or bi-weekly team meetings in addition to lighting-focused meetings that require the Lighting Designer's involvement?

A: We will hold regular progress meetings throughout the contract. Exact frequency can be determined together in order to ensure the successful implementation of the project. All appropriate contractor staff should be in attendance to address the specific agenda of each meeting.