



Tennessee Technological University

Capital Projects & Planning

220 W. 10th Street, Room 116, Cookeville TN 38505
(931) 372-3524

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Designer Recommendations

Project:	University Tower (SBC 2/12/26)
Category:	Capital Maintenance
Total Budget:	\$2,700,000.00
MACC:	\$2,450,000.00
Designer Fee:	\$ 163,680.00
SBC Project No:	364/011-01-2026

Project Scope: Construct a university tower at the intersection of University Drive and Wilmore Way as depicted in the campus master plan.

1. **Community Tectonics Architects, Inc.**

The firm's portfolio reflects extensive experience designing comparable tower structures and iconic architectural features, with each example underscoring a thoughtful response to site conditions and sensitivity to historical context. Collectively, these examples demonstrate the firm's proven ability to design distinctive, iconic elements that contribute meaningfully to campus identity and sense of place.

The firm clearly understands that this project is conceptually established within the TTU Master Plan, and that their responsibility is to thoughtfully advance that concept in a manner that reflects and elevates the university's long-term vision. In addition, the firm has highlighted the importance of adhering to TTU's architectural standards. Together, these qualities illustrate a well-aligned, context-sensitive approach that supports the university's goals for a signature campus landmark.

2. **Wier Boerner Allin Architecture, PLLC**

Project examples demonstrate the firm's ability to integrate established campus architecture with modern elements. The proposed team members have a strong understanding of the campus architectural language and how to carry those influences forward into new projects.

The firm also has prior experience collaborating with the proposed consultant team members. Project examples further demonstrate their success refining budgets for TTU projects. They have consistently reimagined projects to align final designs with established budgets without sacrificing quality or relying on additional funding.

3. **Bauer Askew Architecture pllc**

The project examples demonstrate the firm's familiarity with the campus master plan and its development, including the University Tower, and reflect an understanding of the importance of maintaining the campus's architectural character. All relevant consultants are included on the proposed team, and the firm has prior experience collaborating with them. The proposal also emphasizes creating iconic elements that support artistic expression and meaningful campus experiences.

However, while the proposal conveys strong interest in the project, it provides limited detail on the specific approach to project execution and delivery. Many of the assertions presented are general in nature and could apply to any design firm pursuing this work, rather than clearly distinguishing the firm's methodology or value

A total of 4 firms were solicited to submit Letters of Interest for this project.

Firm Name	Location
Bauer Askew Architecture pllc	Nashville, TN
Community Tectonics Architects, Inc.	Knoxville, TN
Upland Design Group PLLC	Crossville, TN
Wier Boerner Allin Architecture, PLLC	Nashville, TN



Office of Capital Planning

Designer Recommendations

Project: Welcome Center Renovation
East Tennessee State University
SBC# 369/005-01-2026

Category: Minor

Total Budget: \$1,600,000

MACC: \$1,331,000

Designer Fee: \$ 117,070

Project Approved: SBC February 12, 2026

Interior renovation to create a new Welcome Center in the D.P. Culp Student Center.

1. Cain, Rash, West Architects

The CRW team demonstrates very strong experience in design and construction administration for renovation projects of similar size and scope. They demonstrate strong knowledge of state process and have successfully completed many projects at ETSU. Their consultants demonstrate very strong knowledge and experience with ETSU systems and processes. As a local firm with well qualified and adequate staffing, CRW is positioned well to tackle the demands of the project's timeline.

2. Shaw & Shanks Architects, P.C.

This firm is local and has solid reference projects of similar scope.

A total of 12 firms submitted Letters of Interest for this project:

Firm	Location
Brand Interior Design	Nashville
Cain Rash West Architects	Kingsport
Daniels + Chandler Architects, LLC dba Daniels Chandler LLC	Nashville
Lewis Group Architects	Knoxville
MBI Companies Inc.	Knoxville
McCarty Holsaple McCarty Architects, Inc.	Knoxville
Reedy & Sykes Architecture and Design LLC	Elizabethton
Sanders / Pace Architecture, LLC	Knoxville
Shaw & Shanks, Architects, P.C.	Johnson City
The Architecture Collaborative, LLC (TAC)	Knoxville
Thompson & Litton, Inc.	Johnson City
Tinker Ma, LLC	Chattanooga