

## CPARB Education Committee Proposal

**Purpose:** To advance best practices in alternative project delivery methods by supporting training and mentorship programs offered through partner organizations and ensuring that CPARB is promoting true best practices through legislation and other activities.

**Findings:** The use of alternative project delivery methods offer great potential for the State and other public agencies to deliver more value in construction projects and to increase participation of disadvantaged businesses through qualification based selection and teaming agreements.

The use of alternative project delivery is expanding across the nation. As this happens, the delivery methods themselves are evolving quickly. Staying up to date on the best practices is critical to the continued success of the delivery methods and the participants. In response, several professional organizations have begun to offer a variety of educational programs related specifically to growing the necessary skill sets, including the AIA, AGC, DBIA, SCUP, ASCE, MCA, OMWBE, EIU, ACEC, Foster School of Business Ascend Program,...

In addition to these educational programs, the industry is recognizing the importance of “hands on” learning, especially for firms new to the practice of alternative delivery. Several mentorship programs have recently been developed where less experienced firms can partner with more experienced firms or third parties focused on facilitating these delivery methods. For example, WSDOT’s Mentor Protégé Program partners established mentor firms with disadvantaged businesses. These mentorship programs present a tremendous opportunity to foster small businesses and to expand the use of best practices.

Rather than recreating any of these training programs, we believe the most effective role for the Education Committee is to provide access to existing content, monitor, coordinate and promote these existing programs. The intent is to increase access and participation while ensuring that true best practices are being promoted.

By staying in tune with these training activities, the Education Committee will also be in the position of creating an effective feedback loop to CPARB about best practices. This information could be reviewed on an annual basis and support changes to legislation, best practices guides, and qualification criteria.

**Work of the Committee:** The first step will be to inventory and review all the existing programs and define the criteria by which they should be evaluated. Our goal is to ensure that these programs are in fact advancing best practices (as defined by task forces like the Design Build task force) with regard to alternative public works and inclusion. Then a simple list and description of these programs on the CPARB website can give firms across the industry the ability to quickly see the full spectrum of opportunities being offered and assess each one for their particular situation. The goal would be to complete this inventory and have descriptions posted within the first six months.

With the list of programs, the Committee can then turn to providing content, coordinating, and monitoring feedback from them. While each one is typically tailored to a specific audience, the Education Committee can provide foundational information and coordinate the programs across the industry. This cross fertilization would allow programs to potentially build on one another as training advances. It would also ensure that best practices are being discussed from different perspectives. This work will require continual contact with the organizations doing the training as they adjust their programs for agreed upon best practices.

### **Work Group Assigned:**

- Mike McCormick
- Steve Crawford
- Shari Purves-Reiter
- Talia Baker