**ATTACHMENT D**

**ORGANIZATIONAL DESCRIPTION & PROJECT MANAGER QUALIFICATIONS**

Friends of the Lock & Dam (FL&D) was incorporated in Minnesota by interested citizens as a 501c3 public nonprofit on February 23, 2016. The mission of Friends of the Lock & Dam is to “re-purpose the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock to a world class destination visitor and interpretive center, consistent with the Central Riverfront Regional Park Master Plan and fully integrated with the Water Works/RiverFirst Initiative.”

The FL&D Board of Directors is comprised of civic leaders who have a deep commitment to public service, cultural and educational enrichment, and placemaking. Many have been committed contributors, in some case over decades, to plans, projects and initiatives to enhance the public realm and riverfront in Minneapolis. Its founder and President, Paul Reyelts, retired from Valspar, where he served for XX years as Chief Financial Officer, in XXXX. In addition to his service to FL&D, Paul is a board member of the Minneapolis Parks Foundation, the Minneapolis Foundation, and [other relevant boards or sevice?]. Paul is the chief fundraiser for Water Works Park and Gold Medal Park, for which he has raised a combined XXXXX.

This project will be overseen by the FL&D board and managed by Kjersti Monson, whose biography follows.

**Kjersti Monson, Director, Friends of the Lock & Dam.**

Kjersti has been with Friends of the Lock and Dam since mid 2016, and has been directing The Falls Initiative since the end of that year. She works directly with the FL&D board, public agency partners, coalition organizations, and community members to build and maintain constituencies and advance The Falls Initiative. She manages all aspects of the project, including coordination and oversight of legal and legislative activity, organizational and consultant management, and real estate strategy and due diligence. Prior to her work with FL&D, Kjersti served as the Director of Planning for the City of Minneapolis from 2013-2016 (an R.T. Rybak appointee). Her legacy achievement at the City was the Downtown Public Realm Framework Plan (Pathways to Places), a joint City’Park Board plan for enhanced parks & streets that successfully engaged 13 neighborhoods and 28 organizations, for which she won a *2025 Leadership Award* in 2016. Prior to her time at the City, she led the Real Estate Strategy market sector, U.S. Eastern region, at AECOM, a multinational architecture and engineering firm headquartered in Los Angeles. Kjersti holds a Masters in Urban Planning (with distinction) and a Masters in Landscape Architecture from Harvard University. In 2004, as a Fulbright Fellow at Katholieke Universitat in Leuven, just outside of Brussels, she conducted research on public-private partnership in urban development. Kjersti is an Affiliate Researcher at the Minnesota Design Center (UMN), a member of the Executive Committee at the Center for Transportation Studies (UMN), and a member of the Implementation Committee for Destination Transformation 2030, the tourism master plan.