The City of Los Angeles invites you to apply for the position of:

Principal Architect

The Bureau of Engineering (Engineering) is seeking candidates for an important position in our dynamic, multi-disciplinary organization. We are looking for an individual who is a committed, licensed Architecture design professional interested in seeing projects built that serve the needs of the residents of the City of Los Angeles (City).

The Principal Architect position requires first and foremost an innovative, excellent design leader who can manage an exciting and broad portfolio of City-funded projects that are in design and construction. It also requires an individual who is an adept people manager, and a highly technical, professionally-trained, experienced Architect who can join a lively organization.

The ideal candidate is a design-focused, innovative, licensed Architect who is current with the state of the architectural industry in Southern California, and who has a commitment to thoughtfully-designed, world-class, inspired, sustainably-conceived public facilities.

Outstanding leadership, project planning, management, delegation, oversight, and mentoring skills are critical, as are excellent project estimating and budgeting expertise for a variety of project types, and the ability to manage a Division operational budget.

The Principal Architect leads the Architectural Division in Engineering in the planning, design and construction of a range of public facilities that includes new public buildings, parks and open spaces, historic restorations, streetscapes, mechanical and electrical projects, seismic building upgrades, tenant improvements, master plans, and more. We are committed to seeing our projects built and in service to the residents of our city.

The Architectural Division has approximately 80 staff who at any one moment are actively working on about 125 projects that include a wide variety of project typologies. The total construction value awarded annually averages approximately $70 M to $100 M.

The Architectural Division includes professionally trained and licensed Architects, Landscape Architects, Civil Engineers, Mechanical Engineers, Electrical Engineers, Structural Engineers, Project Management professionals, as well as experts in sustainable design and historic preservation, drafting technicians, and management and administrative staff.

The Principal Architect is also responsible for managing many outside professional design and engineering consultants who work on City projects and who provide planning and design services to the City. The Principal Architect steers their work and manages and negotiates their contracts and fees.

The person in this position is required to work closely with elected officials, and to communicate architectural and design ideas effectively in public at City Council meetings, at the Board of Public Works, at the Recreation and Parks Board, at community and Neighborhood Council meetings, and other forums.
The Requirements

Candidates can be current City of Los Angeles employees or experienced Architects from the private sector or other public sector offices with the demonstrated, required experience.

Reporting to the Chief Deputy City Engineer, the Principal Architect position is a civil service management position. The requirements are noted below:

- A valid license as an Architect issued by the California Architects Board.
- Two years of full-time paid professional experience at the level of Senior Architect with the City of Los Angeles directing design programs for a variety of projects;
- OR
- Four years of full-time paid professional experience as an Architect directing and supervising design programs involving complex, large-scale design projects including buildings for office use, public use, institutional use, industrial use, or recreational use, within the last ten years.

Candidates who lack six months or less of the required experience may file for this examination. However, they cannot be appointed until the full experience requirement is met.

How to Apply

Interested candidates should submit a notification request for Principal Architect at www.per.lacity.org. Select Job Seeker, Job Center, and Notification for Upcoming Jobs. Search for Principal Architect, and click the link to subscribe. Notifications will be emailed once the exam is open for filing. It is anticipated that the exam will open in April 2019.

Once the exam is open for filing, applications will be accepted online at www.per.lacity.org for a period of approximately four weeks. During the application process, candidates may be required to answer a series of questions regarding their qualifications for the position of Principal Architect. Submitted applications will be screened to determine whether candidates meet the minimum requirements.

Candidates who meet the minimum requirements may be invited to participate in the selection process, which may consist of: an advisory essay and an interview including a review of the candidate’s portfolio. For the portfolio, candidates will be asked to provide no more than five work examples performed under their direction in the recent past. More detailed information regarding the portfolio will be provided to candidates before the interviews.

The anticipated start date is summer 2019.

Questions regarding the position can be addressed to:

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Compensation and Benefits

The current salary range is $134,112 to $196,084 per year, depending on work history. Benefits include a retirement plan to which both the employee and City contribute, a deferred compensation plan, generous vacation and sick leave, 13 paid holidays per year, a flexible health benefits plan with medical, dental and vision coverage, and family and domestic partner leave. A relocation and temporary housing allowance can be considered.

Principal Architects serve a one-year probationary period.

The Bureau of Engineering

The City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Engineering, is a dynamic, 1,000 person, integrated design and project delivery organization for the construction of City projects, with in-house skills that include engineering, architecture, landscape architecture, environmental clearances, real estate acquisition, project and construction management, geotechnical expertise, and more. Our current active portfolio includes approximately 475 projects with a construction value of about $4 billion.

Engineering is the City of Los Angeles’ primary delivery organization for City-funded projects that are for all City departments except the Departments of Water and Power, LA World Airports, and the Harbor Department. The projects include buildings, parks, bridges, homeless facilities, streets and streetscapes, industrial facilities, wastewater facilities, stormwater facilities and more.

Engineering is committed to diversity in our staff. We work with a broad range of City clients and partners, including the Recreation and Parks Department, the Cultural Affairs Department, the Police Department, the Fire Department, LA Sanitation, the Department of Transportation, Metro, El Pueblo, the Chief Legislative Analyst, the City Administrative Officer, and others. For all our work, we coordinate closely with the 15 City Council offices and the Mayor’s office.

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