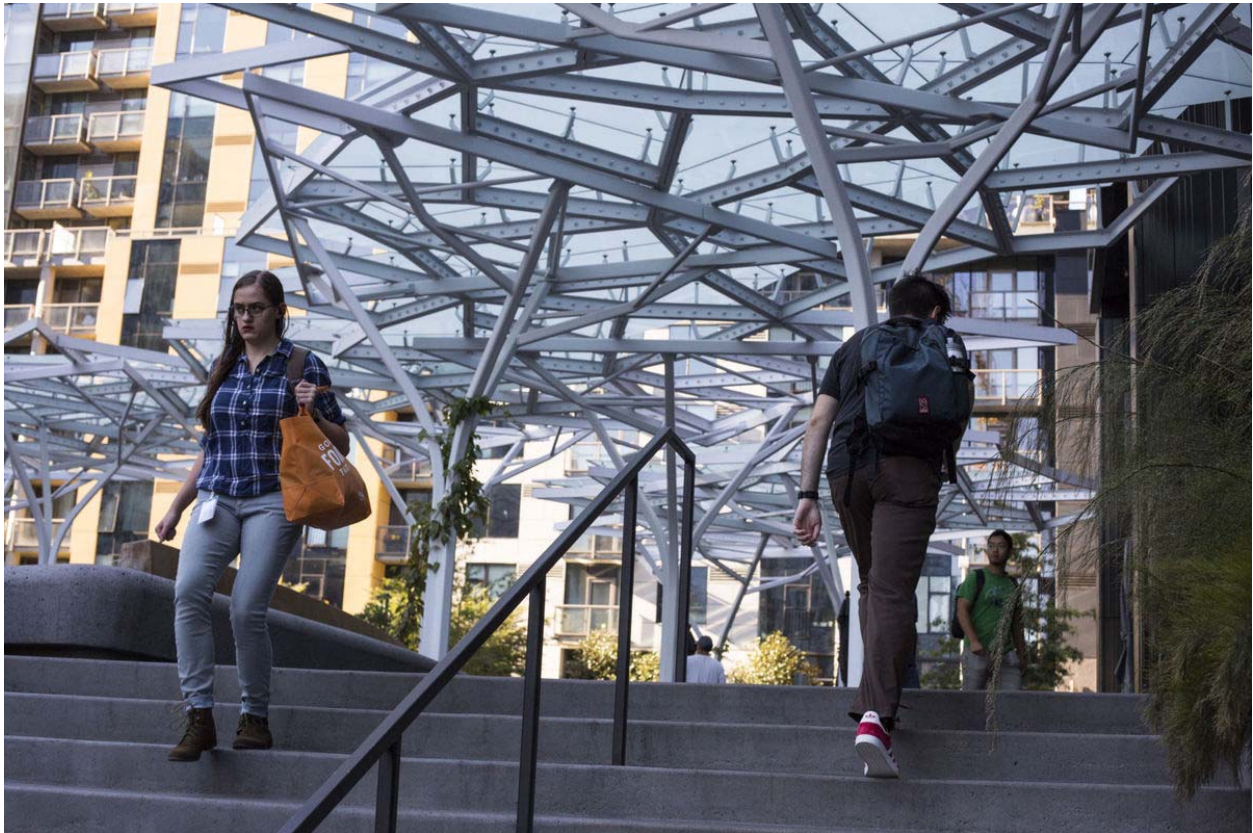


ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Amazon says it received 238 proposals for HQ2

By Joseph Pisani - Associated Press – October 23, 2017



People walk next to the Day 1 building at the Amazon headquarters in Seattle. David Ryder/For The Washington Post.

NEW YORK • Amazon said Monday that it received 238 proposals from cities and regions in the United States, Canada and Mexico hoping to be the home of the company's second headquarters.

The online retailer kicked off its hunt for a second home base in September, promising to bring 50,000 new jobs and spend more than \$5 billion on construction. Proposals were due last week, and Amazon made clear that tax breaks and grants would be a big deciding factor on where it chooses to land.

Amazon.com Inc. said the proposals came from 43 U.S. states as well as Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico, three Mexican states and six Canadian provinces. In a tweet, the company said it was "excited to review each of them."

Besides looking for financial incentives, Amazon had stipulated that it was seeking to be near a metropolitan area with more than a million people; be able to attract top technical talent; be



Amazon says it received 238 proposals from cities and regions in 54 states, provinces, districts and territories across North America. (from www.amazon.com)

within 45 minutes of an international airport; have direct access to mass transit; and be able to expand that headquarters to as much as 8 million square feet in the next decade.

The St. Louis area bid, submitted Thursday, calls for the e-commerce company to locate downtown, along the riverfront just to the north and across the Mississippi River on East St. Louis area riverfront land. Local officials refused to release any details on financial incentives, saying they would remain confidential because of a nondisclosure agreement with Amazon.

Gov. Eric Greitens' administration separately submitted a proposal that envisioned St. Louis and Kansas City connected by an unproven people-mover called the Hyperloop.

Generous tax breaks and other incentives can erode a city's tax base. For the winner, it could be worth it, since an Amazon headquarters could draw other tech businesses and their well-educated, highly paid employees.

The seven U.S. states that Amazon said did not apply were: Arkansas, Hawaii, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont and Wyoming.

Ahead of the deadline, some cities turned to stunts to try and stand out: Representatives from Tucson, Ariz., sent a 21-foot tall cactus to Amazon's Seattle headquarters; New York lit the Empire State Building orange to match Amazon's smile logo.

The company plans to remain in its sprawling Seattle headquarters, and the second one will be "a full equal" to it, founder and CEO Jeff Bezos said in September. Amazon has said that it will announce a decision sometime next year.

AMAZON HQ2 FRONT-RUNNERS



Atlanta



Boston



Chicago



Dallas



Newark, N.J.



Washington, D.C.

AMAZON HQ2 'INTERESTING OUTLIERS'



St. Louis



Austin, Texas



Florida cities

TNS, AP PHOTOS

John Boyd, head of the Boyd Co. site-location consulting firm in Princeton, N.J., has looked at many of the proposals submitted by cities and regions last week. Boyd identified a group of likely front-runners, including Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Newark, N.J., and the Washington, D.C., area. Boyd said he also liked pitches by several "outliers," including St. Louis. Read more at stltoday.com (Illustration by Josh Renaud/Post-Dispatch)