



PROCESS SUMMARY

Montopolis Parking Lot Expansion Project
ART IN PUBLIC PLACES PROJECT

SELECTION PANEL

- Paloma Mayorga – Artist and Assistant Director, Coronado Studio
- Juliet Whitsitt – Public Programs Manager, The Thinkery
- Brady Foster – Artist, The Metal Authority

ADVISORS

- Ilse Frank – AIPP Panel Liaison
- David Taylor – Project Manager, Public Works Department, City of Austin
- Raymundo Minjarez – AIA, Project Manager, Public Works, City of Austin
- Filip Gecic – Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department, City of Austin
- Annette Phinney – Montopolis WIC center manager

PROJECT SUMMARY

The City of Austin Art in Public Places (AIPP) program of the Cultural Arts Division, Economic Development Department (EDD) seeks to commission a professional visual artist or artist team to design and fabricate artwork for the Montopolis Parking Lot Expansion project located at 1416 Montopolis Drive in southeast Austin. The artwork should be interactive and family oriented as it relates to the specific project goals. The City of Austin requests qualifications from professional visual artists who live or work within 150 miles of Austin, Texas. One artist or artist team and one alternate will be recommended for the project.

The total budget available for this project is \$42,000. The application deadline is Thursday, March 20, 2014, 5:00 pm CST.

Montopolis Neighborhood Center is a center that provides services for low and moderate-income families such as supplemental nutrition and guidance for WIC clients, immunizations, STD & Tuberculosis screenings. The facility is increasing the number of parking spaces at Montopolis Neighborhood Center to include an additional nine parking spaces and resurface the existing lots.

Health and Human Services Department is in need of adequate space for departmental operations as the demand for services increase. A parking lot expansion for the Montopolis Neighborhood Center is needed to increase clients' access to services. Montopolis Neighborhood Center has 13 parking spaces, 8 of which are used by staff. WIC, Women, Infants and Children, Program is the primary program at this site. WIC has about 19,000 participants annually at the Montopolis Neighborhood Center.

Construction is scheduled to begin in October 2014. The anticipated project completion date is January 2015. The building may change from community based services to administrative based services estimated in 2017.

SELECTION PROCESS

A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was issued on Feb 3, 2013 to professional visual artists and artist teams, at least 18 years of age, who live within 150 mile radius of Austin.

RFQ announcement outreach:

- ¼ page color hand bill flyer announcing call was designed and distributed (400 count)
- Announcement and pdf of the RFQ was emailed to artists on the AIPP Texas database, mailing list, the AIPP newsletter and CAD newsletter, PAN network list serve, AIPP Facebook page, direct email to current AIPP panel
- Artist Information meeting for new Call to Artists vendor system: PublicArtist.org on 4/22/13
- Individual slide advertisements sent to Channel 6 on 2/22/14
- Facebook postings on 2/10/14 to pages: Glass Tire, Up Collective, Austin Creative Alliance, Pump Project, Big Medium, Canopy, Texas Biennial, Art Lies, Landmarks at UT, Art Alliance Austin, Women.Design.Build, Co-Lab project, Artpost
- St. Edwards art faculty Direct solicitation on 2/10/14 for call to artist
- Glasstire ad on 2/10/14
- Community Meet Up group 3/10/14
- Artist Information meeting was held on 2/19/14 and 2/26/14

The Selection Panel met with Advisors on March 31, 2014 to review the 26 eligible responses submitted by the advertised deadline including images of past work, resume, and letter of interest.

The Selection Panel selected the team of Amy Bunker, Travis Seeger and Foster Talge as the finalist and Melissa Borrell as the alternate. AIPP Panel approval is expected on April 7, 2014 and Arts Commission on April 21, 2014.

Selection Panel Comments

Team of Amy Bunker, Travis Seeger and Foster Talge:

Specifically chose work because of the variety of senses engaged – auditory, visual, texture. I would love to see a work that inspires parents, calms and engages children with sound and movement, creates conversations and reasons to stop and watch and listen.

Your ability to have 3 studios and wide variety of mediums, along with the multiple senses interaction of the trees has been your strongest suite. I suggest bring more color and whimsy to the project that is shown in your application.

The high interactive factors are what is most attractive for me about this group of artists for this particular project. I hope to see the auditory and visual aspect of Foster's trees mesh with the tactile experience and use of materials of Bunker and Seegers' work.

Melissa Borrell:

Beautiful work. I look forward to seeing this work in Public Places in the future. Very interactive, visually engaging.

Your work is amazing. It was difficult to not select you as the artist, as your aesthetic is phenomenal.

Attempt to work with a larger variety durable materials to scales of public work. Love it.

The elegance of the aesthetic of Borrell's work, as well as the visual interaction of the organic forms are what drew me to her work. I would be interested to see her work with more durable materials that would allow for a more physical experience of her pieces.

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES PANEL (Selection Process)

On January 6, 2014 the AIPP Panel approved the proposed project outline and selection process for the AIPP Montopolis Parking Lot Expansion Project. Panel member Walker made a motion to approve the Artist Selection Process. Panel Member Hammonds seconded. Motion passed (6-0-0). Panel member Little was absent.

AUSTIN ARTS COMMISSION (Selection Process)

On January 27, 2014 the Austin Arts Commission approved the AIPP Panel's recommended Artist Selection Process for the AIPP Montopolis Parking Lot Expansion Project. Made by: Wong Mok
Seconded by: Willenzik
Vote called: passed 6-0. Chair Barnes was absent

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES PANEL (Artist Selection)

On April 7, 2014 the AIPP Panel approved the recommendation of artist team Amy Bunker, Travis Seeger and Foster Talge as the finalist and artist Melissa Borrell as the alternate. Panel member Daigle made a motion to approve the selected artist team and alternate. Panel Member Hammonds seconded. Motion passed (5-0-0). Panel Member Jade Walker was absent. Panel member Chair was vacant.

AUSTIN ARTS COMMISSION (Artist Selection)

On April 21, 2014 the Arts Commission approved the recommendation of artist team Amy Bunker, Travis Seeger and Foster Talge as the finalist and artist Melissa Borrell as the alternate. Panel member Flores made a motion to approve the selected artist team and alternate. Panel Member Mok seconded. Motion passed (6-0-0). Commissioner Tinnon was absent.

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES PANEL (Design Approval)

On July 6, 2015 the AIPP Panel approved the final design for the AIPP Montopolis Parking Lot Expansion Project including budget addition for additional seating and ADA path. Panel Member Frank made a motion to approve. Panel Member Walker seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0-0. Panel Member Little was absent.