



Prospectus: Green Water AIPP Project

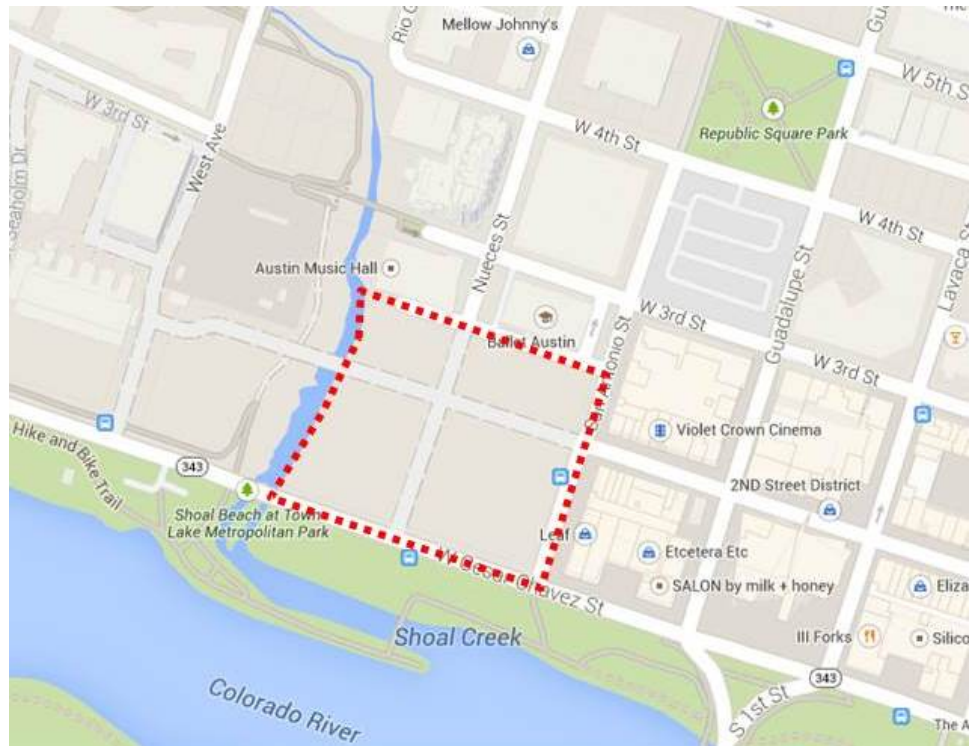
Artwork Budget: \$327,000

Project Summary

The City of Austin Art in Public Places (AIPP) program of the Cultural Arts Division, Economic Development Department seeks to commission a professional visual artist/artist to design an urban artwork that is physically interactive, includes light and sound, is easily maintained and vandal resistant.

Project Background

Located along Cesar Chavez, just north of Lady Bird Lake, The former Thomas C. Green Water Treatment Plant opened in 1925 and was Austin's first water treatment plant. The plant was decommissioned and deconstructed 2010. In June of 2008, Austin City Council approved a resolution authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute an agreement with Trammell Crow/Constructive Ventures, Inc./USAA, for the sale and redevelopment of the Green Water Treatment Plant and Energy Control Center. In April of 2012, City Council approved an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a Master Development Agreement with TC Green Master Developer, LLC. for the redevelopment of the property formerly occupied by the Thomas C. Green Water Treatment Plant.



Seaholm District

The project site is part of the Seaholm District, a former industrial section of southwest downtown Austin that is undergoing a transformation into a vibrant urban neighborhood. At the core of the district is the decommissioned Seaholm Power Plant which has been almost completely redeveloped into a landmark residential and retail destination. Construction is proceeding in the district and includes Austin's new state-of-the-art Central Library, the new butterfly suspension bridge over Shoal Creek at 2nd Street, the redevelopment of the former Energy Control Center and the Seaholm Wall surrounding the district's remaining power substation.

The Seaholm District was selected in 2012 as one of ten projects in North America to participate in an EcoDistricts Pilot Program. The Seaholm EcoDistrict is an effort between public, private, and non-profit stakeholders in Austin that is based on the efforts of sustainable urbanism championed by *EcoDistricts* (formerly the Portland Sustainability Institute). An ecodistrict is defined as a new model of public-private partnership that emphasizes innovation and deployment of district-scale best practices to create the neighborhoods of the future – resilient, vibrant, resource efficient and just.

Current Development Plans

The site is made up of four blocks, which are currently being developed block by block.

Block 1, at Cesar Chavez and San Antonio, is under construction now, and will be primarily a residential building, with offices, retail and parking on lower levels. **Block 23** will be completed next, at San Antonio and the extension of 2nd Street. This building is planned as an office tower of retail space – plans for the building are being finalized. **Block 188** is likely to be developed next, possibly as a hotel with condos, but design is in progress so final decisions are in flux. **Block 185** will be completed last and is currently being conceived as a multi-family tower over retail and parking. Design for this block has not yet begun; the ultimate configuration of the building is as yet undefined. Blocks 188 and 185 will border Shoal Creek and will look over to the new Central Library.



Budget

The AIPP appropriation for this project is generated through the April 2012 Master Development Agreement between the City of Austin and the developer of the four blocks, TC Green Master Developer, LLC. The total award for an artist contract is **\$327,000**, all-inclusive of design, fabrication and installation, including engineering and permitting fees, travel and shipping expenses, insurance and all other project-related costs.

Public Art Goals

The Art in Public Places program seeks to commission works of art of redeeming quality that advance public understanding of visual art and enhance the aesthetic quality of public places through the selection of a qualified artist or artist team who can innovatively and thoughtfully design within the context of this project. The goal of the Green Water AIPP Project is to select an artist/artist team who will design artwork that:

- » creates a sense of place through discovery or an unexpected experience for people of all ages;
- » is physically interactive, incorporating sound and light;

- » functions well in an urban environment, during the day or night;
- » is easily maintained and vandal resistant; and
- » contributes to the depth/breadth of the City of Austin’s public art collection.

Artwork Opportunity

The artist will work with the project design team and City of Austin staff to determine where and how to insert the artwork into the four block pedestrian–dominant area. The artwork may be a singular artwork or may be multiple artwork interventions, and should be aligned with sustainable principals of energy usage and maintenance.

The artwork must meet the project goals without disrupting or inconveniencing people living, working or recreating in the area. The artwork must be accessible to citizens and site visitors at all times, and so it will be placed within the public realm.

Artist Information Meeting

An artist information meeting will be held during the open application period to explain the parameters of the project and outline the application procedures. AIPP staff and project representatives will be available to answer questions.

Artist Eligibility

Professional visual artists, or artist teams, at least 18 years of age who live in the United States are eligible to apply. A professional visual artist is defined as *“A practitioner in the visual arts with an original self-conceptualized body of work, generally recognized by critics and peers as a professional possessing serious intent and ability.”*

Full-time, permanent City of Austin employees including employees of the Economic Development Department are ineligible to apply. Employees of the project consultants and sub-consultants are also ineligible to apply.

Artists who currently have one active contract with the Art in Public Places program or who have more than two permanent works in the AIPP Collection are ineligible to apply. Artist teams are considered as separate entities; their projects do not count as projects by the individual artists.

Applications not meeting all eligibility criteria will be withdrawn from consideration.

Selection Process: Invitational Request for Qualifications

An Invitational Request for Qualifications will be distributed to nominated professional visual artists who live and work in in the United States. Nominated artists will be required to apply online through PublicArtist.org by the deadline. The City of Austin Art in Public Places Panel will convene a Selection Panel to evaluate the submissions.

The Selection Panel will review qualifications (images of work, resume, letter of interest, references) and select 3 - 5 finalists to develop conceptual proposals. Each finalist will be paid a stipend of \$2,000 to

cover time and materials for development of a conceptual proposal. In addition, artists will be reimbursed for travel costs for two visits to Austin (see below).

Visit #1 - Finalists will visit Austin to meet with key staff and project stakeholders for an orientation to the project, including a site visit and review of site opportunities and constraints. The goal of this meeting is to provide finalists with the information needed to produce conceptual proposals.

Visit #2 - Finalists will be asked to share a concept for artwork that would reflect the RFQ goals in their proposals. Finalists will present their proposals during interviews with the Selection Panel. The finalists will be requested to include the following in their proposal:

- » *Preliminary drawings, images, a short video, or any other type of media showing the proposed art project in the specific site to scale, which include a description of form, materials, colors and textures;*
- » *A brief written narrative describing artist intention, to include a brief description of the fabrication/installation process and expected maintenance requirements; and*
- » *Preliminary budget, including all costs to bring the artwork from concept through project completion*
- » *Sub-consultants' qualifications and history with projects of similar scope.*

From the interviewed finalists, one artist, or artist team, and an alternate will be recommended to the Art in Public Places Panel and Arts Commission for approval. The contract requires authorization from City Council prior to negotiation and execution. The selected artist(s) will be put under a contract to coordinate with the City and project stakeholders to develop a comprehensive design for artwork. The final design is subject to approval by the Art in Public Places Panel and the Austin Arts Commission and may be subject to review by other stakeholder groups and relevant City Boards and Commissions.

Submission Requirements

Applications will include a Letter of Interest stating why the applicant is interested, what makes him/her a good match for the project, and how he/she might approach it; ten images and/or videos of completed relevant artwork with the required descriptions; a resume; and three professional references.

Selection Criteria

The selection of an artist, or artist team, shall be based on whose qualifications best meet the requirements contained in this Project Outline. In addition to the standard AIPP project selection criteria found on the City of Austin's Art in Public Places website www.austintexas.gov/department/aipp-policies, the Selection Panel will review and consider the following evaluation criteria:

- » artistic merit and technical expertise;
- » demonstrated successful, innovative and effective approach to public art projects of a similar scope;
- » ability to successfully execute a public art project; and
- » expressed interest in creating artwork within this complex urban setting.

Selection Committee (Selection Panel & Project Advisors)

A 5-member voting Selection Panel will be assembled that includes at least 2 visual artists and two members from Austin; to be selected from an AIPP Panel recommended list. List of possible selection panel members, as prioritized by the Art in Public Places Panel, includes:

National Artists:

1. Leo Villareal, *visual artist, NY*
2. Jen Lewin, *light + interactive sculptor, Boulder, CO*
3. Mouna Andraos or Melissa Monglat, *artists, Daily Tous Les Jours, NY*
4. Ivan Lozano, *visual artist, Chicago*

Alternates

Dan Corson, *visual artist, Seattle, WA*
Blessing Hancock, *visual artist, Tucson, AZ*
Bill FitzGibbons, *light artist, San Antonio, TX*

Local Artists:

1. Kristin Lucas, *UT faculty, multidisciplinary artist (media, installation, performance), Austin*
2. Jacob Villanueva, *new and digital media visual artist, Austin*

Alternates

Clay Odom, *designer/artist, Austin*
Steve Parker, *sound artist, Austin*

Curators/Public Art professionals:

1. Lucas Cowan, *Public Art Curator, Rose Kennedy Greenway*
2. Tom Eccles, *executive director of Bard's Center for Curatorial Studies; former director of the Public Art Fund.*
3. Rachel Cook, *Associate Curator; DiverseWork, Houston, TX*

Alternates

Lana Carlson, *lead curator and co-founder, POP Austin International Art Show, Austin*

Visual Arts professionals/Designers:

1. David Epstein, *Architect, Gensler, Green Water Project Design Team Consultant, Austin*
2. Lisa B. Woods, *user experience designer, leads local Art+Tech Meetu, Austin*

Alternates

Michael McDaniel, *designer, inventor and entrepreneur, Austin*
Itze Pavon, *Environmental Graphic Designer, Austin*

Project advisors will be invited to participate in the process to provide assistance and expertise to the selection panel. The project advisors to the panel may include:

- Adam Nims –*Development Group representative, Trammell Crow*
- Matt Green –*Development Group representative, KOR Group*
- TBD – *add'l. Development Group representative*
- TBD –*Tenant representative(s)*
- Fred Evins – *Project Manager, Economic Development Department, City of Austin*
- David Epstein – *Architect, Gensler, Project Design Consultant (if not a selection panelist)*
- Melissa Barry – *Downtown Austin Alliance*

- TBD – *Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association*
- TBD – *AIPP Panel Liaison*

No gallery owner, dealer, or art agent may serve as a juror due to the potential for conflict of interest. No juror may serve more than once in any two-year period in an attempt to bring a diversity of interests to the selection process and to more precisely match the expertise of the jury members to each project.

Tentative Schedule (Subject to Change)

2015

October 5 + 19	Approval of Prospectus by AIPP Panel + Austin Arts Commission
October 20	Send out Invitational Request for Qualifications to Nominated Artists
November 12	Nominated Artists Information Meeting – online meeting
November 30	Deadline for Invitational RFQ responses
Mid-December	Review of Artist Qualifications and Selection of Finalists

2016

Early January	Finalist Orientation in Austin
Mid February	Finalist proposal presentations; selection of artist and alternate
March	Approval of Selection Process Recommendation by AIPP Panel + Austin Arts Commission
April 2016	Council authority to negotiate contract with recommended artist
April 2016	Execute design contract with Artist
July or Aug	Mid-Design review (shortened due to proposal phase)
November	Final Design approval by AIPP Panel + Austin Arts Commission

2017

January	Fabrication begins
TBD	Artwork installed, as public area(s) become available