



## Prospectus

Project: Sabine Street Promenade

Artwork Budget: \$37,800

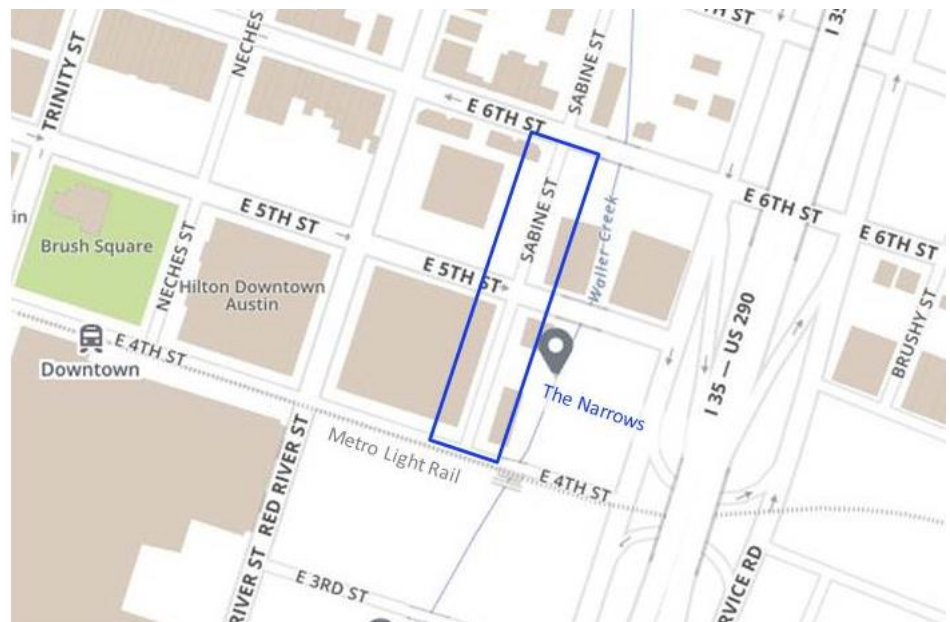
### Project Summary

The City of Austin Art in Public Places (AIPP) program of the Cultural Arts Division, Economic Development Department seeks to commission permanent exterior public artwork that connects conceptually to the energy flow of Waller Creek and creates a moment of restoration by recharging the viewers' batteries literally and/or metaphorically.

### Project Background

The project, known as the Sabine Street Promenade, is located along Sabine Street between 4th and 6th Streets. The project will transform a one-way roadway and sidewalk into a "festival street" style right-of-way design that gives priority to bikes and pedestrians.

The new design of the street will enhance connectivity between the existing Lance Armstrong Bikeway and the historic buildings, pedestrian activity, and planned downtown Great Streets along the eastern stretches of 5th, and 6th Streets. The creation of a thoroughfare for cyclists and pedestrians along the west side of the right-of-way is intended to provide a "festival street" environment for events without disrupting local access for vehicular traffic.



Funded by the 2010 bond [Prop 1 Mobility] and the 2012 bond [Prop 12 Transportation and Mobility] as well as a grant from the Texas Department of Transportation, the Sabine Street Promenade project was approved by Council in 2013, and is being managed by the Public Works Department. The project was designed by Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates (MVAA) to 30% design, when the City of Austin Engineering Services Division in-house staff took over to create construction documents reflecting MVAA's design. Completion of construction documents is anticipated in the first quarter of 2016 with construction completed by the fourth quarter of 2019.

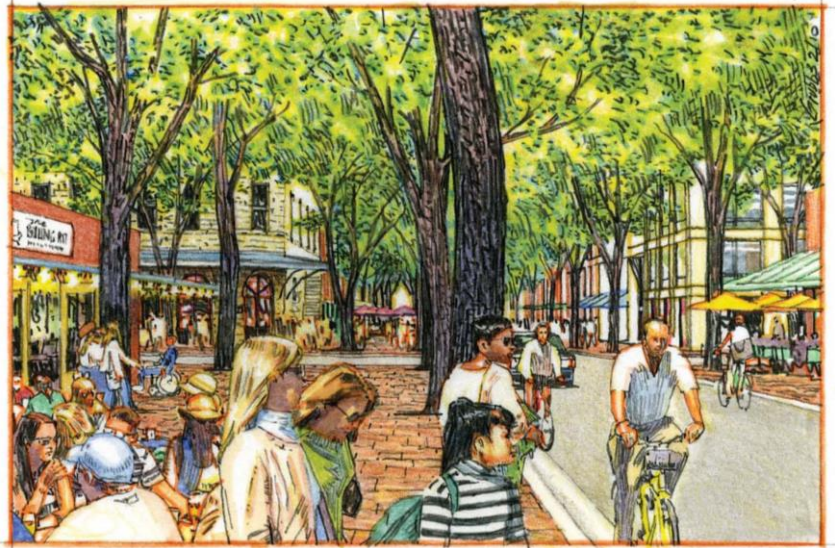
### Waller Creek District Master Plan

Waller Creek District Master Plan, by ROMA Design Group with local partners McCann Adams Studio, Urban Design Group, Raymond Chan and Associates and Studio 8 Architects, was adopted by the City of Austin on June 24, 2010. The master plan references Sabine Street many times - the following is particularly appropriate to the public art component:

### ***“Streets as Public Spaces***

*With its Great Streets Program, Austin has recognized the role of streets to be more than that of moving vehicular traffic and their importance as multi-use corridors that serve as part of the open space system of the city. Streets provide light, air, greenery and landscape as well as space for the sociable engagement of the population[...] By far, the greatest opportunity within the Waller Creek District is **Sabine Street**.”*

*“A richly landscaped environment with[...]trees, a wide pedestrian promenade and space for outdoor cafés and seating can extend the sense of the landscape and open space character of the corridor. Further, it can help to create a more sociable and attractive setting for the public life of the city which in turn can become a catalyst for the revitalization of the area as a mixed use district, housing cultural, creative and entertainment uses tied to East Sixth Street.”*



*“**Sabine Street** also offers the opportunity to in effect broaden the boundaries of the creek corridor within its most constrained reaches [...] the mid-block alley remnants in the portion of the creek corridor between Seventh and Fourth Streets can play a significant role in creating a smaller scale network of linkages that will increase variety and interest of the pedestrian experience.”*



### **Sixth Street**

Sixth Street is recognized as the **Sixth Street Historic District**, shown in orange at left, and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on December 30, 1975. It was formerly named Pecan Street under Austin's older naming convention, which had east-west streets named after trees and north-south streets named after Texas rivers (the latter convention remains in place).

*The area of the Sabine Street Promenade project is outlined in a red dashed line at left. The blue delineates the flow of Waller Creek.*

### **Budget**

The AIPP funding for this project is generated from the Sabine Street Promenade CIP project (2010 and 2012 Bond). The total award for an artist contract is **\$37,800**, inclusive of design, fabrication and installation, including engineering and permitting fees, travel and shipping expenses, insurance and other project-related costs.





View of proposed Sabine Street, at the intersection Fifth Street looking south. Bike lane and bollards are shown – existing railing and stairs will be replaced by new railing and some of the stairs will become seating opportunities. Parking will be on the east side of the street only.



Same view as above of Sabine Street's existing conditions at the intersection Fifth Street, looking south. *Big Chiller Blues* is shown at right.



Proposed landscapes areas, railing and bench along the west side of Sabine Street between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Streets.



View of proposed Sabine Street at the intersection Sixth Street looking south. Bike lane and bollards will be added to the street and the curb will be removed, making it a “woonerf” or festival street. The tree shown at the left is the same tree shown in the photo below at the left.



View of existing Sabine Street, at the intersection Sixth Street, looking south.

## Public Art Goals & Priorities

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 Sabine Street Promenade AIPP Project is to select an artist/artist team who will design artwork that:

- » takes inspiration from nearby Waller Creek by connecting conceptually to the notion of energy flow;



- » creates a moment of connection or restoration through the provision of amenities, such as shade, light, solar powered system for charging devices, solar powered system cooling system, enhanced seating, a game to play at the site or other ideas for amenities;
- » will be attractive for the viewer to interact with, while creating an integrated and aesthetically positive impact on the streetscape;
- » is sustainable, easily maintained and vandal resistant in an exterior environment; and
- » contributes to the depth/breadth of the City of Austin's public art collection.

## Artwork Opportunity

The artwork should enhance the experience of being in the Waller Creek District by creating the opportunity for the viewer to 'recharge their batteries', literally and/or metaphorically. A range of materials and conceptual approaches are welcome for this commission as long as the parameters of the project are met.

The selected artist will integrate their artwork into the planned site improvements, such as the railing, bench(es), bollard(s), planter(s) or steps. The artist could affect one or more of the ten planter/benches planned for Sabine Street, shown at right.



Planned planter/benches and bollards

As part of the design phase, the selected artist will propose their location for the artwork, subject to City approval, within the public right-of-way along Sabine Street between Fourth and Sixth Streets. The selected artist will take care not to obstruct the pedestrian way with the artwork. Artwork should not encroach into the National Historic District at Sixth Street.



Planned railing, bench, and steps between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> along the west side of Sabine Street

## Artist Eligibility

Professional visual artists, or artist teams, who were selected for the 2015-2017 Prequalified Artist Pool and who live and/or work in the Austin metro area are eligible for this opportunity. Artist teams with one Austin-based artist are eligible. Artists who are under an active contract with the Art in Public Places program at the time of application or who have more than two commissioned, permanent projects in the AIPP Collection are ineligible to apply. Applications not meeting all eligibility criteria will be

withdrawn from consideration.

## Selection Process: Pre-Qualified Artist Pool Request for Proposals

Through a rigorous selection process, the AIPP program developed a Pre-Qualified Artist Pool of exceptional emerging and established public artists working in a variety of visual media and artistic approaches. The Selection Panel for the 2015-2017 Pre-Qualified Artist Pool consisted of:

- » Chris Cowden, Arts professional, Director, Women & Their Work, Austin
- » Rebecca Banyas, Public Arts Professional, Portland, OR
- » Jay Colombo, Design professional, Project Architect, Michael Hsu Office of Architecture, Austin
- » Oscar Magallanes, Artist, Los Angeles, CA
- » John Yancey, Artist, Professor of Art, University of Texas at Austin, Austin

Using the 2015-2017 Pre-Qualified Artist Pool, a list of eligible artists will be provided to the Project Team, made up of the AIPP Panel Liaison, Design Team members, Project Advisors and Sponsor Department staff. The Project Team may include:

- » Randy Harvey, Sponsor Project Manager, Public Works, City of Austin
- » Tonya Swartzendruber, Principal Planner, Urban Design, Planning and Zoning Department, City of Austin
- » Kristen Pipkin, Watershed Protection Department, Waller Creek Conservancy Staff Liaison
- » Dharmesh Patel, AIPP Panel Liaison
- » TBD, Waller Creek Conservancy
- » Melissa Barry, Downtown Austin Alliance
- » Lucia Athens, Office of Sustainability and member of the Waller Creek Local Government Corporation, City of Austin

The Project Team will be advised by:

- » Meghan Wells, Cultural Arts Division Manager, Economic Development Department, City of Austin
- » Sue Lambe, AIPP Project Manager, Cultural Arts Division, Economic Development Department, City of Austin

In accordance with the Pre-Qualified Artist Pool policy guidelines, the Project Team will select who is to be invited to submit a proposal. Up to five artists from the list of eligible artists will be invited to submit proposals for this project.

- » AIPP staff will confirm that the invited artist is interested in proposing a concept for this project.
- » Each invitee accepting this opportunity will receive a \$750 stipend to submit a proposal, including an image (or images) of their proposed concept; a narrative statement explaining their interest in the project, expected maintenance and how they would address the project goals within the available budget.
- » A Pre-Proposal meeting for the invited artists will be held to explain the parameters of the project and outline the proposal process. AIPP staff and members of the Project Team will be available to answer questions.

The Project Team will convene a panel to hear the artists present their proposals, and then make a selection. The Project Team will recommend one artist and one alternate.

The recommendation will be presented to the Art in Public Places Panel and Arts Commission for approval. The approved artist(s) will then be put under a contract to coordinate with the City and project team to develop a final design, which is subject to approval by the AIPP Panel and the Austin Arts Commission prior to fabrication and installation.

## Selection Criteria

The selection of an artist, or artist team, shall be based on whose qualifications best meet the requirements contained in this Prospectus. The Selection Panel for the 2015-2017 Pre-Qualified Artist Pool followed the standard AIPP project selection criteria found on the City of Austin's Art in Public Places website under **Guidelines & Policies**, [www.austintexas.gov/department/aipp-policies](http://www.austintexas.gov/department/aipp-policies). Using the list of local artists from the 2015-2017 Pre-Qualified Artist Pool, the Project Team will review their qualifications, considering the following evaluation criteria:

- » demonstrated successful and effective approach to public art projects of a similar scope;
- » technical expertise and the demonstrated ability to successfully execute a public art project; and
- » expressed interest in creating artwork within this context and setting.

## Tentative Schedule (Subject to Change)

### 2015

Sept – Dec.	Staff works with Waller Creek Conservancy staff on the AIPP project prospectus
November 16	Approval of Prospectus by AIPP Panel

### 2016

January 4	Approval of Revision of Selection Process by AIPP Panel
January 25	Approval of Prospectus by Austin Arts Commission
January 26	Eligible artists' qualifications from the 2015-2017 Pre-Qualified Artist Pool are sent to the Project Team.
February 3	Meeting: Project Team chooses up to five artists to submit proposals for this project.
February 4	Proposers are informed of selection; AIPP staff confirms they are interested in proposing a concept for this project. The Request for Proposals released to the selected artists.
February 23	Pre-Proposal Meeting
March 23	Deadline for submissions
March 30	Interviews and Selection of Artist + Alternate (due to SXSW)
April 4 + 18	Approval of Selection Process Recommendation by AIPP Panel and Arts Commission
April 30	Artist(s) under contract (doesn't need to go to Council)
May	Staff briefing process to date to the Waller Creek Conservancy Arts Committee Sponsor Project Construction begins

June or July	Mid-Design review
October	Final Design review
November	Upon Notice to Proceed, fabrication begins
TBD	Artwork installation complete