

The Betty Dunkerley Campus Background and Improvements

The campus was originally developed in 1959 as the Texas School for the Deaf-East Campus. The City purchased the property in 2002 from the State of Texas and moved the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department administrative offices and the Office of Vital Records to the campus.

The City opened the Austin Animal Center in 2011, with funding from the 2006 bond election. The Center has been serving the Austin/Travis County citizens since that time and it includes comfortable, hygienic housing for animals, medical facilities, spaces for educational and prevention activities, and a park-like setting for visitors.

The enhancements at the campus will include new adoption kennels, as well as a new pet adoption visitation room and exercise and play yards at the Austin Animal Center, new visitor parking, loop road re-construction, improvements to storm drainage, walkways, directional signage and landscape.

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 this Artist-in-Residence project is to select an artist who will design artwork that:

- honors the mission of the Austin Animal Center, whose goal is to place all adoptable animals in forever homes, by taking inspiration from the concept of pets as family;
- honors the work of the Office of Vital Records, by considering the notion of identity;
- improves the experience of visitors, staff/volunteers and animals at the campus;
- is easily maintained and vandal resistant in an exterior environment; and
- contributes to the depth/breadth of the City of Austin's public art collection.

The artwork installation realized through the artist-in-residence project will be sited on the campus, as determined through the residency design process. The intervention(s) on site must not impede the operations of the Austin Animal Center or the Office of Vital Records, or pose any safety risk or harm, and must be approved by the Austin Animal Center, Health and Human Services Department and other identified stakeholder groups before proceeding with fabrication and installation. At the conclusion of the residency period and upon approval of the design, a separate commission contract for fabrication and installation will be negotiated with the artist.

Artwork Opportunity

In an effort to create artwork that reflects the culture and commitment to the community of both the Austin Animal Center and the Office of Vital Records, the artist-in-residence will document the people and operations of both facilities. The artist-in-residence will spend approximately 10-15 hours per week observing and documenting their activities over a 2-3 month period. During the residency period, the artist will create a design for interventions to be sited within the Betty Dunkerley Campus, and will go through the AIPP approval process. The selected artist is encouraged to consider an intervention which could enliven the campus for both people and animals by creating a moment of play or physical interactivity. Upon final design approval, a separate

commission contract will be negotiated for fabrication and installation of the design. A variety of media will be considered, however the works should be particularly durable, sustainable, and very low maintenance. The work will be permanent with an expected life-span of a minimum of twenty (20) years.

Budget

The AIPP funding for this project is generated from 2% of the Betty Dunkerley Campus Infrastructure Improvement Plan. The campus improvements will be funded both by 2012 bond money and by funding allocation from Austin City Council as part of the Fiscal 2016 budget. The total award for the artist contract is \$55,700, inclusive of design, fabrication and installation, including engineering and permitting fees, travel and shipping expenses, insurance and other project-related costs.

Approximate Budget Breakdown:

Residency/Design Period: \$12,000

Fabrication and Installation Period: \$43,700

Total: \$55,700

The \$12,000 residency budget includes all expenses related to the residency period. During the residency, the artist will observe and document the work of the Austin Animal Center staff and volunteers and the Office of Vital Records staff. The artist will be expected to seek input from formal and informal focus groups or interviews of staff, create opportunities for design reviews or feedback-gathering from stakeholders, and formulate a final design for integrating artwork within the facility.

The final design must include a summary of residency work/findings, narrative description, images of the proposed artwork in situ, scope of work for the installation of the artwork, budget, schedule, and care/maintenance instructions. The artist will go to the AIPP Panel for mid design review and will require final design approval from the AIPP Panel and Arts Commission.

Selection Process: Direct Select

AIPP staff recommends the direct selection of artist Jimmy Van Luu for this artist-in-residency opportunity. This recommendation is supported by the staff representatives of Austin Animal Center and Health and Human Services Department. This selection process recommendation will be presented to the AIPP Panel and the Arts Commission for final approval. Upon Arts Commission approval, Jimmy Van Luu would be put under an artist-in-residence contract to include the residency, community involvement and design. The artist will be required to coordinate with Austin Animal Center staff and the Vital Records staff throughout the process. The final design will be required to be approved by the AIPP Panel and Arts Commission. Upon final design approval, a separate commission contract will be negotiated for fabrication and installation of the design.

Direct Select Artist: Jimmy Van Luu

A distinguished graphic designer as well as a visual artist, Jimmy Van Luu has extensive experience creating graphic identities for clients. In 2006, Jimmy was awarded a commission to create a permanent exterior public artwork sited on the quadrangle of the Betty Dunkerley Campus. Upon completion of this artwork, *Letterscape* was selected for recognition by the Americans for the Arts, Public Art Network Year in Review, 2009. He has demonstrated both artistic excellence and the ability to successfully execute this public art project, on time and on budget. The artist, who will be working on site to rehabilitate *Letterscape*, is intimately knowledgeable about the campus and is sensitive to the needs of the Austin Animal Center and the Health and Human Services Department.

His expertise and thoughtful approach as an artist and design professional is recognized, having most recently been invited to participate as an Artist-in-Resident at the Ragdale Foundation in Lake Forest, IL and as an AIPP project Selection Panelist. While teaching at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Jimmy helped found Figure One, an exhibition space whose goal was to connect the School of Art + Design with the broader community through redefining the public's understanding of the arts. Additionally, as its inaugural director, he developed extensive community-focused programming, including a residency program for local artists.

Jimmy is currently an Assistant Professor teaching graphic design and branding at St. Edward's University. He also owns and operates Independent Project Lab, a multi-disciplinary design practice.

Selection Criteria

The selection of an artist, or artist team, shall be based on whose qualifications best meet the requirements and project goals contained in this prospectus. In addition to the standard project selection criteria found on the City of Austin's Art in Public Places website (http://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/aipp_selection_criteria.pdf), the AIPP Panel will review and consider the following evaluation criteria:

- » artistic merit and technical expertise;
- » demonstrated ability to successfully execute public art projects, of a similar scope, on time and on budget;
- » expressed interest in creating artwork within the project's site and community context;
- » experience working collaboratively within a community context or in a residency setting.

Tentative Schedule (Subject to Change)

May 2016

Approval of prospectus and direct select by AIPP Panel and Austin Arts Commission

June 2016

AIPP Project Kick-off Meeting

Summer 2016

Artist residency

August 2016

Mid Design review

October 2016

Final Design review

Fall 2016

Sponsor project construction begins

March 2017

Artwork fabrication begins

Fall 2017

Artwork installation

Fall 2017

Sponsor project construction complete

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