Gus Garcia Recreation Center Art in Public Places Project
Artist Information Meeting: Questions & Answers

Q: What kind of mural are the Friends of Gus Garcia looking for, and can it be more than two-dimensional?

The artist doesn’t have to have an idea in mind. If they are selected, they can work with the stakeholders, advisory board, and staff at the center to better understand what is needed and what they hope the artist will be inspired by. An artist doesn’t need to have a solution going into this call. They can submit their qualifications. Once they are selected, that is then the opportunity to develop the concept further, hopefully, be inspired by the community, and then work through the details.

On another note, a mural of this kind would most likely require looking into the building’s plans and structure, and perhaps the support system and engineering report, and devising a way to anchor the work to the wall. It might be helpful to remember that the budget for this project is $23,000.

Q: I’m an emerging artist, and I want to know how best to engage with this program (Austin Art in Public Places).

A: You are on the right track. Artist information meetings are one of the first points of contact with the AIPP program as well as with the specific Project Manager hand project you. The next step would be to begin an application on PublicArtist.org. Creating a profile with PublicArtist.org is free, as is applying to AIPP calls.

The Cultural Arts Division also has Virtual Open Office Hours twice a month. You can come to a Zoom meeting between 10 AM and 12 PM every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month and get your AIPP questions answered by an AIPP staff member. The link to that meeting is https://zoom.us/j/94549263216.

However, to specifically learn more about this call, the AIPP Gus Garcia Recreation Center project, contact AIPP Project Manager Maria Teresa Bonet with any questions. She can be reached at mariateresa.bonet@austintexas.gov.

Q: Will community be working with the selected artist during the actual “making process” of the mural? I am an emerging artist and would still like to apply.

A: Not necessarily. While there have been some projects where the community was involved in the work’s “making,” it is not required, and many other artists have chosen not to.

One way to think about it is that the community engagement comes early on into the process, and hopefully the artist does not come in with a concept or an idea of a design. We are hoping the artist works directly with the community and will be inspired by them and what they want to see at their recreation center. We hope the artist will really work hand in hand, talk and listen, and then bring back ideas and concepts, to the community to get their feedback and input and to see if it resonates with them. In the end they really are trying to address the goals – does the community feel like the artist capture the goals of the project in the design.

Q: What is the budget for this project?

A: $23,000, inclusive of project-related costs.