2020 Year in Review
Art in Public Places Program

Art in Public Places (AIPP) is a program of the Cultural Arts Division within the Economic Development Dept.
Since 1985, the Art in Public Places (AIPP) program has executed the Art in Public Places Ordinance, commissioning and managing works of public art for City of Austin facilities.
What is public art?

Public art is an artist's response to our time and place combined with our community's own sense of who we are.
Why public art?

Public art is a part of our public history, part of our evolving culture and our collective memory.
2020 Accomplishments
AIPP artists continued work through the pandemic, working with communities and updating the public about their commissions via video and social media.

AIPP staff made repairs to artwork and hired artists and art conservators to repair artwork, for a total of 14 repairs in 2020.

AIPP staff continued the work of the program, managing many opportunities for local artists to be paid to create artwork in 2020.

Through many virtual meetings, the Art in Public Places Panel reviewed, discussed, edited and approved revisions to the AIPP Guidelines.

Deaccession is a best practice tool for museums and art collections worldwide to manage their artwork. Austin City Council approved the recommendations of a Special Deaccession Jury to remove five public art works from the AIPP Collection.
Be Well Murals

AIPP contracted with Raasin in the Sun to curate and manage artwork by six local artists to create messages of wellness in this time of pandemic. Thanks to RaasinIntheSun.org and to the amazing Artists: Luis Angulo, Samara Barks, Kimie Flores, Niz G, Rex Hamilton and Carmen Rangel

Photos by Joe Ybarra
AIPP supported Capitol View Arts and Austin Justice Coalition with the planning and execution of their street murals, installed in time for the observance of Juneteenth 2020.

Black Austin/Artists Matter Murals

Photos by Sue Lambe
Art in Public Places Program
Installations
Kempelen’s Owls, inspired by the native Great Horned Owl, are perched here on 12-sided bases, or dodecahedrons, experience.

The artists point to Austin's connection to nature and close relationship with technology. These owls certainly turn heads and reward those curious with an interactive experience.
Title: *Amphibious*
Artist: Legge Lewis Legge

Location: Sabine Street  
City Department: Austin Transportation Department  
Material: Bronze  
Budget: $37,800

*Amphibious* presents a hidden natural ecosystem in the middle of an urban landscape. The work is comprised of 35 life-size cast bronze sculptures of the different frogs and toads that either currently inhabit the areas in and around Waller Creek or that might inhabit the creek after restoration.
Title: *Cloud Pavilion*
Artist: Beili Liu
Location: 812 Electric Drive
City Department: Austin Energy
Materials: stainless steel, concrete
Budget: $202,000

*Cloud Pavilion* carefully responds to the functions happening inside Austin Energy’s District Cooling Plant #3, making visible the evaporative process used by the plant to sustainably provide cooling for downtown buildings.
Title: Pájaros
Artist: Yareth Fernandez
Location: Dove Springs Recreation Center
City Department: PARD
Materials: Acrylic and Adhesive
Budget: $44,000

Symbolizing freedom and community for the Dove Springs neighborhood, a murmuration of over 200 acrylic birds swirl through the Dove Springs Recreation Center. The artist was inspired by working with Mendez Middle School art students to create birds using tangram puzzles.

Artist Yareth Fernandez explained that an individual bird may seem small, but when flying together, they are powerful.
Title: *Tracking the End of the Rainbow*

Artists: Ion Art (Sharon Keshishian and Daniel Hornung)

**Location:** 8th Street and Colorado Streets  
**Project:** 8th Street Improvement Project  
**City Department:** Austin Transportation Department  
**Materials:** Steel, bronze, paint, stained glass  
**Budget:** $87,000

Reflecting the historic Chisholm Trail and today’s modern world, a psychedelic rainbow-painted horse and rider represent the concept that the further you go towards the desired objective, the farther away the objective withdraws. Cow, calf and horse tracks clue into the story of the horse and rider.
Austin Art in Public Places program
Artwork completed in 2020

Title: Abundance
Artist: Ryah Christensen + Sun McColgin
Location: Eilers Park
City Department: Parks + Recreation
Materials: concrete, ceramic tile, steel
Budget: $56,400

Abundance greets visitors to Eilers Park as two stacked cairns forming an archway. Upon further walking into the park, visitors discover more mosaic covered objects nestled into the natural habitat of Eilers Park. The mosaic patterns capture the creative power of nature and wild spirit that has drawn people here for generations. Photos by the artists.
Austin Art in Public Places program

Artwork completed in 2020

Title: Building Leadership in the Community
Artist: Fidencio Duran
Location: Montopolis Recreation and Community Center
City Departments: Parks and Recreation Dept. + Austin Public Health + Austin Water
Materials: Acrylic paint, wood, canvas
Budget: $110,000

Artist Fidencio Duran created an artwork that shares the intent of the Center’s founders: to serve the Montopolis community’s need for recreation, health services, education, and cultural events. These leaders and others worked in the continual effort to sustain the health and well-being of this significant bilingual, multicultural, working class community. Their efforts have established Montopolis as a leader towards greater equity for all of Austin’s citizens.

Six artists worked in a cohort to create multiple artworks at the Montopolis Recreation & Community Center, with Fidencio supporting the cohort.
Title: *Treasures and More*
Artist: Mary Jane Garza

Location: Montopolis Recreation and Community Center
City Departments: Parks and Recreation Dept. + Austin Public Health + Austin Water
Materials: wood, steel, paper, resin, mixed media
Budget: $40,000

Artist Mary Jane Garza collected artifacts from community members to assemble into the mixed media artwork she created for the Center. She carefully gathered multiple artifacts, historic documents and images of the neighborhood and its people and laid these onto a map of the area. The star at the center the artwork is shaped by these items that speak to the heart of the Montopolis Recreation and Community Center.
Austin Art in Public Places program
Artwork completed in 2020

Title: *Unity and Pride*
Artist: Peter Ortiz

Location: Montopolis Recreation and Community Center
City Departments: Parks and Recreation Dept. + Austin Public Health + Austin Water
Materials: Acrylic paint, aluminum, lights
Budget: $70,000

Capturing special memories of the area, artist Peter Ortiz has created large scale exterior mural that speaks to soul and home, capturing the essence of community in his painting.
Title: Essence of Montopolis
Artist: Rene Renteria
Location: Montopolis Recreation and Community Center
City Departments: Parks and Recreation Dept. + Austin Public Health + Austin Water
Materials: photographic series, color and black and white prints
Budget: $24,000

Artist captured images in 2018 to memorialize the original center and the neighborhood through a collection of 15 photographic prints which are now installed in the new Center.
Austin Art in Public Places Program
Artwork completed in 2020

Title: Everywhen
Artist: Agustina Rodriguez
Location: Montopolis Recreation and Community Center
City Departments: Parks and Recreation Dept. + Austin Public Health + Austin Water
Materials: steel, brass, concrete, paint, polish
Budget: $90,000

Everywhen tells the unique story of Montopolis’ past, present, and future, using color, materials and form as cultural code. The colors and forms were carefully designed to reference signature elements that have served to unify Montopolis, from the vibrant churches to the Montopolis Bridge to the flags of its multi-cultural identity.
Austin Art in Public Places program
Artwork completed in 2020

Title: *Window Shade Screens*
Artist: Matthew Briar Bonifacio Rodriguez
Location: Montopolis Recreation and Community Center
City Departments: Parks and Recreation Dept. + Austin Public Health + Austin Water
Materials: steel, paint
Budget: $40,000

These window screens provide shade for the building. Each screen has individual characters that describe the activities and sports that happen inside the gym.
Artist Laura Hajar was inspired to round out the story of Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services' role in our city as community problem solvers, caretakers, and public health and safety advocates. Hajar’s photographs are printed in ceramic frit which is embedded into glass and mounted on the buildings. Hajar captured images when she went out on several ride-alongs with EMS staff. The caring that staff put into the important work they do lead her to create these permanent public artworks.
Title: *Aurorae*
Artist: Fyoog
Location: Planning and Development Center at Highland Campus
City Departments: Finance Office; Development Services Center
Budget: $250,000

Artist studio Fyoog designed an artwork with a strong and supportive connection to the Planning and Development Center’s purpose as a bustling and collaborative hub, while balancing the need for a low maintenance design. The artists were inspired to create a sculpture that reflects the diversity of Austin, and that allows the artwork to appear to change based on the viewer’s position in relation to the sculpture.
Chicano Park Mural Restoration
Arte Texas Artist Team

Original Artist: Ramon Maldonado
Project Manager: Bertha Delgado
Participating Artists: Mondo “Tanner” Martinez, Angela Garcia, Anna Lillia Salinas, Fernando Valle

Location: Martin Pool at Edward Rendon Park
City Department: Parks and Recreation Dept.
Material: Acrylic Paint
Budget: $20,000

Working with a team of artists, original artist Ramon Maldonado recently completed the restoration of this mural at Martin Pool originally painted in the 1980's. Themes of Chicano culture and pride offer the viewer an East Austin history lesson.

Arte Texas captured stories and histories of the East Austin culture and experiences from the time that the original mural was created. These stories will be part of the Austin History Center archives.
How does the process work?
1. Select an artist
   6 - 8 months
   AIPP staff works w/ community

2. Artist research + design
   1 - 2 years+
   Artist inspired by conversations with community

3. Artist makes + installs art
   installation 1+ years

Review and approvals by AIPP Panel and the Arts Commission throughout
Have you seen these artworks?
These are in the Art in Public Places collection too!

*Tau Ceti*, 2018, by Josef Kristofoletti and located at SE corner of 2nd Street and Brazos Street.

*Split Diopter*, 2020 by Eric Eley located at the Creative Media Center at the Austin Film Studios, along Tilley Street near 51st Street.
City of Austin Art in Public Places staff

Top row, left to right
• Sue Lambe, Program Manager
• Anna Bradley, Senior Project Manager
• Marjorie Flanagan, Senior Project Manager
• Curt Gettman, Senior Project Manager

Second row, left to right
• Alex Irrera, Project/Collection Manager
• Laura Odegaard, Senior Project Manager
• Frank Wick, Senior Collection Manager
• Maria Teresa Bonet, Coordinator

Email aipp@austintexas.gov
Phone 512.974.7700
Find more information about the Art in Public Places Program and contact information for Cultural Arts Division staff at

www.AustinCreates.com

@cityofaustinarts

facebook.com/CityofAustinArts

@austintexasgov