



Questions + Answers

Terminal/Apron Expansion and Improvements Project

Airport Entrance Project

at the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport

Q&A from the Artist Information Meeting

Q: What you are looking for now is not proposals but rather references of past work, correct?

A: Yes.

Q: What is the schedule for completion for the Terminal Expansion Project and Airport Entrance Project?

A: The Terminal Expansion Project construction will begin summer 2015 and is scheduled to be complete in fall 2017. The Airport Entrance Project will mirror that construction schedule even though it is not directly tied to the construction of the Terminal Expansion Project.

Q: Can the artwork for the Airport Entrance Project be overlaid on the existing signage monuments?

A: Yes. Keep in mind that the entrance was an award winning landscape design however due to current drought conditions it is no longer being used as it was intended (ie: the water is permanently shut off). The Aviation Department is open to integrating the artwork with the existing signage monuments however they are not interested in completely removing the monuments.

Q: Could you elaborate on the requirement to submit references?

A: Each of the projects requires that the applicant submit three references, who will be called if the artist is selected as a finalist. We look for people that you've worked with before who can attest to your good character, management skills and artistic capabilities. Name and contact information is all this is required for your reference.

Q: Is there a theme for either of these projects?

A: No, although you could say that the 'nature and character of Austin' is a common thread within each project and for the airport itself.

Q: Who is on the Artist Selection Panel for each of these projects?

A: We are in the process of locking down those selection panelists now. We will post a list of the artist selection panelists on our website for each Call as soon as they are confirmed.

Q: Can the artwork that each of our artist team members has accomplished be considered, even if they were part of a different team when they did the work?

A: Yes. When uploading your images to www.PublicArtist.org, you will have the opportunity to enter a description of the image, which you must fill in. You should explain the level of involvement each team member had for each image.

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Q. I am a studio artist and have not completed a public art project before. Am I eligible to apply for these Calls to Artists?

A: These two Calls to Artists have specifically included evaluation criteria which will review an artist's, or artist team's, experience with projects of similar scope. A goal of the Austin AIPP program is to support interested studio artists in branching out to the public art realm, so please keep your eye on our program for Calls to Artists which are smaller scale and scope to start your public art career.

Q. Will any preference be given to local artists in the selection process?

A: No. The eligibility for each Call to Artist is determined by the AIPP Panel and approved by the Austin Arts Commission. During the selection process, the artist selection panel will be charged with selecting an artist whose skills and expertise best fit the scope of work outlined in the RFQs, regardless of geographical location. However, the selected artist for the Terminal Expansion Project will be charged with identifying up to five additional artwork opportunities in, or near, the Expansion Project. These opportunities will be released as separate Calls to Artists to local artists only. The budgets for these projects will be separate from the \$1,000,000 allocated for the Terminal Expansion Project.

Q. What dimension for the artwork would be considered monumental for the Airport Entrance Project?

A: Specific dimensions have not been established. In terms of artist eligibility, the artist selection panel will determine if the previous project experience submitted by the applicant shows the artist's ability to bring a monumental scale to the project. In terms of creating an artwork that responds to the goal of monumentality, the selected artist will work with the project stakeholders, City staff and the AIPP Panel to design an artwork which meets that goal.

Q. Is the layout of the building and area for the artwork available for artists to review?

A: No, what you see in the slides from the Artist Information Meeting is all the information we currently have. The design team for the Terminal Expansion Project has not yet started work. The selected artist will be able to work with the design team to select the space for their artwork.

Q. How much wall space is available within the Terminal Expansion Project?

A: There will be 70,000 sf of space, but the wall configuration is yet to be defined.

Q. Is it possible to dig for foundations at the entrance to the Airport, since you mentioned that the area is crossed by utilities and easements.

A: Yes.

Additional Q&A

Q. The time provided for finalists to develop a proposal for the Airport Entrance Project, including understanding what is possible at the site, developing a concept, and creating renderings, is fast for a project of this magnitude. It looks like the finalists would only have a month, right?

A: The shortlisted artists will be notified right after the artist selection panel chooses finalists; the artist selection panel is currently scheduled to meet on October 17th. This would give the finalists from October 18 – December 4 to get their proposals together, which is about six weeks. The site orientation meeting is November 6. Please note that, once under contract, the selected artist's

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proposed design may need to change, possibly significantly, after going through the design process with City staff and project stakeholders.

Q. What is the budget for the three finalists for the Airport Entrance Project to develop their proposals?

A. The finalists will be paid an honorarium of \$5,000, inclusive of all travel costs and expenses to produce a proposal, and invited to Austin twice, once to gather information needed to produce conceptual proposals and again to present proposals to the artist selection panel.

Q. Are there any renderings of the landscape area for the Airport Entrance Project?

A. We will request the 1999 landscape plans from the Aviation Department and if the plans are available electronically, we will post them to our website.

Q. Is the landscape for the Airport Entrance Project going to be redone and can the artist be part of that discussion to optimize the impact and 'presentation' of the artwork?

A. The landscape is not going to be redone, outside of this artwork opportunity. The artist can impact the landscape, in partnership with ABIA staff, as determined through the artist design process.

Q. Is there power presently at the Airport Entrance Project location and will it be available?

A. There is power now in certain areas within the possible artwork location (see slide 16 in the Artist Information Meeting presentation). The artist may choose to use part of the artwork budget to bring power to his/her selected location.

Q. I work for a creative and design agency focusing on innovation in the digital age. Are companies eligible to submit an application for the Airport Entrance Project? In reading the eligibility requirements, it is not clear whether an organization is eligible.

A: Please review the Artist Eligibility section of the RFQ:

Artist Eligibility

Professional visual artists, or artist teams, at least 18 years of age who live and work within the United States are eligible to apply. Full-time, permanent City of Austin employees including employees of the Aviation Department and the Economic Development Department, and project consultants and their employees and sub-consultants are ineligible 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." Applications not meeting all eligibility criteria will be withdrawn from consideration.

Do critics and peers perceive your organization as an artist studio? If so, does your studio have an original self-conceptualized body of work? Is the work the product of an artistic process, meaning not client-driven? If you cannot answer an unequivocal "yes" to these questions, it is likely this project is not a fit for your organization to apply as the artist; however, you may consider applying as part of an artist team, with your organization as a sub-consultant to a lead artist.

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Q: Are painted murals appropriate for either opportunity?

A: Painted murals are not an appropriate medium for the Airport Entrance Project (exterior) however they could be a possibility for the Terminal Expansion Project (interior). Durability of any proposed material is a high priority.

Q: Is the Terminal Expansion Project currently under construction?

A: No, construction is not scheduled to begin until 2015.

Q: Who will be part of the project team from the Aviation Department?

A: The Aviation project manager, Janice White, will be a part of the project team Terminal Expansion Project. Aviation principal planner, Joe Medici, will be part of the project team for the Airport Entrance Project. Aviation exhibits coordinator, Matt Coldwell, will participate on both project teams. Other executive level staff in the Aviation department will be briefed during the course of the project.

Q: Will the architect for the Terminal Expansion Project serve on the selection panel?

A: The architectural team will likely participate in the selection process for the Terminal Expansion project in an advisory role.

Q: Are there currently any issues/problems with the airport entrance that the artwork will need to address?

A: No.

Q: Can the artwork for the Airport Entrance Project change the landscape in any way?

A: If the selected artist would like to propose a new approach to the landscape at the entrance to the airport, Aviation staff is open to discussing the artist's thoughts. It is important to note that the selected artist will not be working with a blank slate. There is a history and custom here we do not want to lose. Aviation staff fully expects the artist to be sensitive and respectful of the things that have preceded them here. But, the intention is not to stifle creativity and options that might bring the airport something better.

Q: Can artists apply for both projects?

A: Yes

Q: If an artist has been working in the U.S. long term, has a resident visa and pays U.S. taxes, works on U.S. based projects, has a U.S. address but lives outside the U.S., is he/she eligible for these calls?

A: No, the eligibility requirement states that the artist must reside in the US.

Q: Who is the design firm for the Terminal Expansion Project?

A: Gensler.

Q: Would security concerns rule out kinetic work in the Terminal Expansion Project?

A: No, kinetic works are not ruled out. However, any proposed artwork must comply with various security and operational requirements inherent with airport facilities.

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Q: Do submitted images have to be of completed and installed work or can renderings of work that is not yet completed be included?

A: Yes, you can include renderings of work not yet complete. Just be sure to clearly identify renderings versus completed work in the image descriptions.

Q: It is unclear if 4 to 5 artists will be selected or just one, with an alternate, for the Terminal Expansion Project. Can you clarify please?

A: For the Terminal Expansion Project, five finalists will be selected and interviewed. Each finalist will be awarded a \$2,000 honorarium, which includes travel and meal costs. From that five, one artist and one alternate will be selected for the commission. Part of the selected artist's scope of work will be to identify up to five additional artwork opportunities in collaboration with the architectural team. Those additional opportunities will be awarded through a separate selection process and budget.

Q: Can artists who are currently under contract with Art in Public Places apply to these RFQs?

A: Yes.

Q: If one artist is awarded the commission, can they delegate the work to other artists, under their direction, to produce the outcome envisioned by the selected artist?

A: Yes, the fabrication and installation of the work can be delegated to others, with the artist's oversight. However, the design must be developed by the artist, or artist team, who submits the application.

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