



## Request for Qualifications

**Project:** Montopolis Recreation and Community Center - Phase II  
Community Artists Opportunities

**Opportunity:** Four artwork opportunities

**Artwork Budgets:** Exterior sculpture - \$90,000  
Exterior stairwell wall - \$70,000  
Exterior window screens - \$40,000  
Interior lobby wall - \$40,000

**Deadline to Apply: Thursday, February 21, 2019 at 5:00 pm (CST)**

### Project Summary

The City of Austin Art in Public Places (AIPP) program of the Cultural Arts Division, Economic Development Department (EDD) seeks to commission visual artists, or artist teams, to design and fabricate four different artworks for the new Montopolis Recreation and Community Center at 1200 Montopolis Drive, Austin, TX 78741, a joint-use facility between the Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) and the Austin Public Health Department (APH). It is the intent of this project to create public artwork opportunities which feature Austin artists with lived experience in the Montopolis neighborhood.

### Project Background

Approved by Austin voters as part of 2012 Bond Election, the City of Austin began the Design Phase of the project in December 2015, which included preliminary, schematic, and design development and construction document phases. During this phase, the City hosted several public meetings to gather community feedback on the design of the new facility.



Designed by McKinney York Architects, the new recreation and community building will house current and proposed recreational services including after-school activities, youth sport and specialized classes, education programs, exercise and fitness classes, health, wellness and nutrition programs, senior activities, neighborhood center services, seasonal services, and other health services for preventative care. The City of Austin's Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) Austin Public Health Department (APH) currently manage many activities and programs collaboratively. There will be a gymnasium, meeting rooms, a commercial kitchen and community event spaces. The facility is estimated to be approximately 33,000 square feet. The total area of the site is 7.6 acres. 5.05 acres of that area has a parkland use restrictions and the remaining 2.55 acres can be used for any City of Austin programs.

The construction Bidding and Contract Award Phase will be completed by June 2018. Construction of the new facility is scheduled to begin in summer 2018 and to be complete in spring 2020.

## Facility History

The current Montopolis Recreation Center was originally owned by Dolores Catholic Church. In 1971, the City of Austin entered into an agreement to operate the building as an extension of PARD services. In 1973, PARD purchased the building and the surrounding land. In 1974, a deed was executed by the City to dedicate 2.55 acres of land for community



use. The Montopolis Recreation Center has served the community for over four decades. The existing facility is in poor condition and can no longer meet the needs of a growing and vibrant community.

The Montopolis community is a multi-cultural and bi-lingual community in East Austin. The buildings have been an integral part of the community for more than 40 years, therefore, it is important to the City and the Montopolis community that the new facility reflects of the community and history of the area and historical and cultural values are incorporated into the new building's final design.

More information can be found at: [www.austintexas.gov/department/montopolis-recreation-center](http://www.austintexas.gov/department/montopolis-recreation-center)  
More information about the history of Montopolis can be found in Austin's Montopolis Neighborhood (Images of America Series) by Dr. Fred McGhee, published in 2014 by Arcadia Publishing.

## Public Art Intent and Goals

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 a qualified artist or artist team who can innovatively and thoughtfully design within the context of this project. The goals of each opportunity are to select artists, in collaboration with project stakeholders and City staff, who will design artwork that:

- » Incorporates colors, imagery and themes that reflect the aesthetic qualities of the community;
- » Through community engagement, suggests the future aspirations of the people of the Montopolis neighborhood;
- » Responds to the story of the facility from 1971 to present and the activism of the surrounding community;
- » Integrates seamlessly into the design of the facility and grounds;
- » Is made from durable and low maintenance materials;
- » Enriches or adds to the depth/breadth of the City of Austin's public art collection.

The proposed artworks should be integrated into the available scope of construction, to the greatest extent possible, without impeding operation, safety and access. Artwork should be sited in areas accessible to the public within the building envelope. A range of materials and conceptual approaches are welcome for these commissions as long as the parameters and goals of the project are met.

## Budget

The funds for this project are derived from the 2% for public art portion of the City of Austin's contribution to the estimated construction budget. Each opportunity is inclusive of design team collaboration, design, fabrication, and installation of artwork (including shipping expenses and insurance), travel, and other project related costs.

A total artwork budget of \$240,000 will be divided between four community artist artwork opportunities.

Exterior sculpture - \$90,000

Exterior stairwell wall - \$70,000

Exterior window screens - \$40,000

Interior lobby wall - \$40,000

## Principal Artist + Artist Cohort

A Principal Artist was selected to create an original artwork at the Montopolis Recreation and Community Center project for the interior gym wall area. In addition to creating an artwork for the site, the Principal Artist will work with the neighborhood advisory group to solicit community artists to submit applications for the remaining four opportunities, focusing on artists who have a connection to, and/or lived experience with, the Montopolis neighborhood. The Principal Art's role will include creating an Artist Cohort to stimulate mentorship, guiding the overall aesthetic of the artworks, creating a positive team environment and providing professional development resources.

AIPP staff will assist the Principal Artist in coordinating and creating a schedule of workshops for professional development, including support in presentation skills, budgeting, scheduling, time management, fabrication and installation management for the Artist Cohort.

Artist Cohort must participate in professional development and design meetings. These will be crafted to fit the needs of the selected artists and provide training on community engagement best practices; budget development; installation techniques; managing time/resources/fabricators/sub-contractors, etc.; skills for preparing approval documents and how to make the most of presentations.

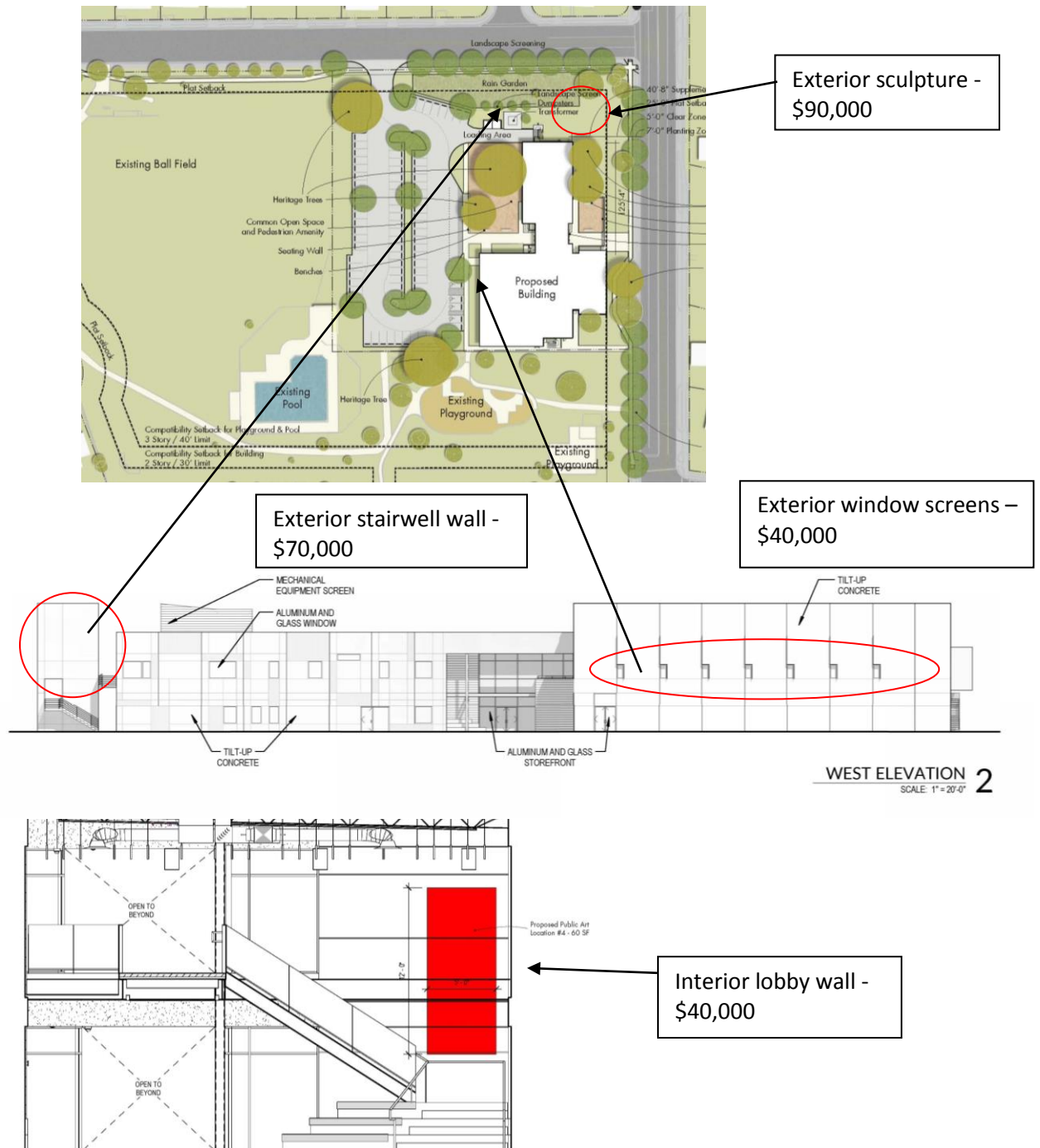
## Artwork Opportunity

Four public art opportunities are open to a wide range of ideas to be proposed by the Community Artists, or artist team, in consultation with the project's design team. The artist(s) is/are expected to gather community input in the development of their design.

Applicants are encouraged to apply for each individual artwork opportunity as they see fit. The artwork opportunities are:

- Exterior sculpture located in the plaza near the front entrance - \$90,000
- Exterior stairwell wall - \$70,000
- Exterior window shade screens - \$40,000
- Interior lobby wall - \$40,000

See images below:



## Artist Scope of Work

### Community Engagement Phase

Once selected, the artist will engage with the neighborhood community and the design team and consider their response in preparing the final design. The artist will work with AIPP staff in planning and executing community engagement, meeting(s), outreach and community participation.

### Design Phase

After the artist has engaged the community, they will submit the following material for the final design proposal:

- **Written Narrative** describing the proposed artwork, including relationship of the artwork to the location, compatibility with the community/neighbors in proximity to the site, and installation plan. The narrative should describe how the artist engaged with the community. The selected artist or artist team will define the process of installation, including if he or she intends to contract a third-party for, or engage the community for assistance with, installation.
- **In-Context Images** of proposed artwork, such as sketches or renderings showing what the artwork will look like in place at the proposed site. The artist will determine the artistic expression, scope, design, color, size, material and texture of the artwork in conversation with the community surrounding the project location, subject to approval by the City.
- **Preliminary Itemized Budget** including a materials list which conveys the installation method to be used. The artists will be responsible for development of a final budget to include all costs to create the mural including but not limited to installation, de-installation, site restoration, permitting, and insurance. A sample budget sheet can be found online at: <http://austintexas.gov/departments/aipp-resources>. Tools or equipment for fabrication or installation are considered capital assets and are not eligible expenses. Rental of tools or equipment are acceptable expenses. No fund matching or crowd sourcing may be applied.

### Installation Phase

In addition, the selected artist or team will provide the following services:

- **Site Preparation.** The artist is responsible for preparing the site to receive art. For artwork on the bathhouse itself, this includes cleaning the surface of the wall and removing loose debris and, in the instance of a painted mural, priming the mural area in advance of painting.
- **Safety.** The artist is responsible for working safely within the public space, redirecting any pedestrian traffic so that there is no conflict with artist work space.



- **Installation.** The artist is responsible for fabricating and installing the artwork or overseeing its fabrication and installation.

## Artist Information Meeting

An artist information meeting and application workshop will be held at the following dates and locations.

**January 12, 2019; 12:00 to 1:30 pm** - PODER Offices, 4926 East Cesar Chavez Street, 78702

**January 19, 2019; 12:00 to 1:30 pm** - African American Cultural & Heritage Facility, 912 E 11<sup>th</sup>, 78702

**February 9, 2019; 12:00 to 1:30 pm** - PODER Offices at 4926 East Cesar Chavez Street, 78702

Additional application support will be offered by AIPP staff throughout the application period. Other information meetings and application workshops will be scheduled and posted.

## Artist Eligibility

Artists who have a connection to or a lived experience with the Montopolis neighborhood are encouraged to apply, regardless of experience. Applicants do not need to have professional artist experience, or professional degree to apply. First-time applicants are encouraged to apply.

Visual artists, or artist teams, at least 18 years of age who live and work in Williamson, Travis, Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Burnet and Blanco counties are eligible to apply. All artists on the 2018-2020 Local Pre-Qualified Artist Pool are eligible to apply.

Full-time, permanent City of Austin employees including employees of the Parks and Recreation Department, Austin Public Health and the Economic Development Department are *ineligible* to apply. Employees of the project consultants and sub-consultants are also *ineligible* to apply.

## Evaluation Criteria

The selection of an artist, or artist team, shall be based on whose qualifications best meet the goals and eligibility requirements contained in this Prospectus. The Selection Panel will review and consider the following evaluation criteria:

- » expressed interest in creating artwork for the Montopolis community;
- » artistic merit and technical expertise;
- » demonstrated ability to successfully participate in a collaborative community environment.

## Selection Process

The City of Austin Art in Public Places Panel will convene a Selection Panel to evaluate the submissions. The Selection Panel shall review qualifications (portfolio, resume, letter of interest, references) and select one artist or artist team and one alternate for each of the four opportunities. Up to three finalists may be selected per opportunity for interviews. This recommendation will be presented to the Art in Public Places Panel and Arts Commission for approval.

Two of the opportunities will require City Council authority to contract with the selected artists.

The selected artist(s) will be put under a design contract to coordinate with the community stakeholder group, the City and the project's design team to develop a comprehensive design for artwork. The final design is subject to approval by the Art in Public Places Panel and the Austin Arts Commission and may be subject to review by other relevant City Boards and Commissions and additional stakeholder groups.

## Submission Process

**Applications must be received online via [www.PublicArtist.org](http://www.PublicArtist.org) no later than Thursday, February 21, 2019 at 5:00 pm (CST).**

For technical assistance with your application, please contact [info@publicartist.org](mailto:info@publicartist.org) or 210-701-0775 (9:00 am – 5:00 pm). Art in Public Places will convene a selection panel to evaluate artist qualifications.

Applications include:

- Letter of Interest explaining your relationship to the Montopolis neighborhood and/or Recreation Center;
- 10 images of artworks with descriptions (additional detail images of artworks are acceptable);
- Resume; and
- 3 contacts for references (no letters of reference needed).

## Selection Committee (Selection Panel + Project Advisors)

Voting Selection Panelists may include:

- Fidencio Duran – Principal Artist for Montopolis Recreation and Community Center AIPP project
- Claudia Aparecia Quimundi – graphic designer and artist
- Jill Ramirez – Executive Director, Serie Project
- Paloma Mayorga – artist
- Candace Briceño – artist
- Jennie Alvarado – artist

The Community Advisors will remain in a consultative role with the AIPP project throughout the commission. Project Advisors may include:

- Susana Almanza – Montopolis Neighborhood Association
- Anita Villalobos – Montopolis Recreation Center Advisory Board
- Georgia Steen – Montopolis Neighborhood Association
- Alberto Mejia – Senior Director of Community Programs, Creative Action
- Amanda Jasso – Mexican American Community Archivist, Austin Library History Center
- Noelle Shelly – Friends of Riverside

AIPP and AAC Project Advisors may include:

- » Jacob Villanueva – liaison, Art in Public Places Panel
- » Felipe Garza – liaison, Austin Arts Commission, District 3

City of Austin Project Advisors may include:

- » David Smythe-Macaulay – Project Manager, Public Works Department
- » Kevin Johnson – Project Manager, Parks and Recreation Department
- » Filip Gecic – Project Manager, Austin Public Health Department

- » Michelle Rojas – Program Supervisor, Montopolis Recreation Center
- » Gina Saenz - Recreation Programs Manager, Parks and Recreation Department
- » Javier Ramirez – Project Manager, Austin Water Department
- » Brian Carlson – Project Manager, McKinney York Architects

## Commitment to Equity

Art in Public Places embraces cultural equity. It is the goal of the program to ensure as many people as possible have meaningful engagements with public art and access to viewing, experiencing, and creating artwork. AIPP actively seeks to provide members of historically underrepresented communities, which can include identities such as Black or African-American, Arab-American, Asian-American, Hispanic or LatinX, Pacific Islander, Indigenous Nations, LGBTQIA, or a person with a disability, with equitable access to public art opportunities. In support of this commitment, the program will make every effort to expand access to the collection and programmatic decision-making. For each project, every effort will be made to comprise project selection panels and finalist pools for AIPP commissions with representatives from a variety of historically underrepresented communities to better reflect the diversity of Austin.

## Schedule (subject to change)

### 2018

August 2018	Facility construction begins
December 20	Request for Qualifications released (9 weeks)

### 2019

January + February	Artist Information Meeting + application workshop
<b>February 21</b>	<b>Deadline for RFQ submissions</b>
March 6	Selection panel review of applications
March 22	Artist interviews
April 1 & 15	Approval of artists and alternates by AIPP Panel and Arts Commission
April 16	<u>Exterior Window</u> and <u>Interior Lobby Wall</u> contracts executed
June 6	Approval of <u>Exterior Sculpture</u> and <u>Exterior Stairwell</u> contracts by Austin City Council
June 7	<u>Exterior Sculpture</u> and <u>Exterior Stairwell</u> contracts executed
June 8	Principal Artist + Artist Cohort kick-off meeting
June + July	Professional Development meetings for Mid Design
August 5	Artist Cohort Mid-Design presentation to AIPP Panel
August + September	Professional Development meetings for Final Design
October 7	Artist Cohort Final Design presentation for approval to AIPP Panel



October 21                      Artist Cohort Final Design Approvals to Arts Commission

October 26                      Artist Cohort sign under commission contracts

November + December      Artworks fabrication & installation coordination

[2020](#)

February-March                Anticipated project completion

### **Contact/Questions**

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