

## REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

### Austin Convention Center 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Garage Elevators

Budget: \$74,000

Artist Information Meeting: 12:00-1:00pm (CST), January 28, 2016

**Deadline to Apply: 5:00 pm (CST), February 18, 2016**

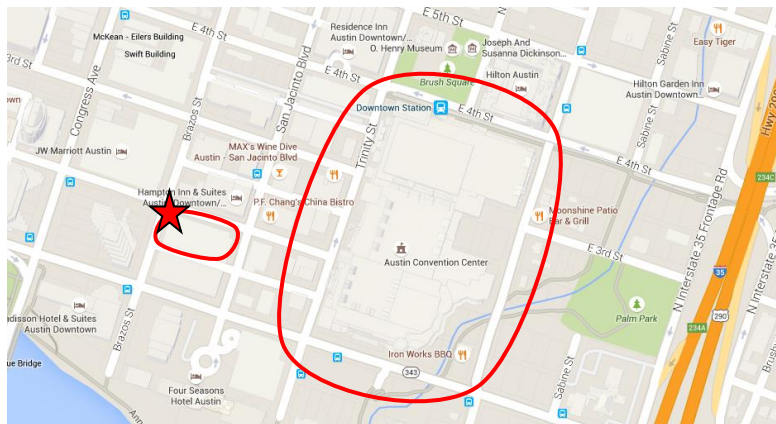
### Project Summary

The City of Austin Art in Public Places (AIPP) program of the Cultural Arts Division, Economic Development Department (EDD), seeks to commission a permanent public artwork for the Austin Convention Center (ACC) 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Garage Elevators project. The artwork created for this opportunity will reflect the mission of the ACC to promote Austin as a premier destination, energize the urban fabric of the street intersection and employ integrated design approaches and/or sustainable materials in the creation of the artwork.

AIPP seeks qualifications from professional visual artists, or artist teams, who live in the Austin metropolitan area. This includes Travis, Williamson, Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Burnet, and Blanco counties. The total budget available for this project is \$74,000.

### Site/ Facility Background

In 1983, Austin City Council unveiled a concept for a \$35 million convention center as part of a \$350 million complex of hotels and parkland on the south shore of Town Lake (now [Lady Bird Lake](#)). Resistance to this plan by neighborhood groups near the proposed site and downtown business leaders caused the city to consider several other sites, finally choosing a downtown site near Waller Creek, at 500 East Cesar Chavez, for construction. Financing was provided for by a \$69 million bond sale, approved on July 29, 1989. The grand opening ceremony took place on July 4, 1992. On September 1, 1999, construction began on an expansion aimed at nearly doubling the size of the facility from 441,000 square feet to 881,400 square feet. The grand reopening of the expanded facility took place on May 18, 2002. The enlarged Convention Center's five exhibit halls have a combined 247,052 square feet of column-free space. There are 54 meeting rooms and two ballrooms.



*Large red circle outlines the location of the Austin Convention Center. The smaller red circle defines the location of the 2nd Street parking garage. Star denotes location of artwork opportunity.*

Austin Convention Center 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Garage AIPP RFQ

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## Public Art at the Convention Center

In 2006, AIPP commissioned artist Ann Adams to design an exterior piece for Austin Energy's chiller facility at the corner of 5th Street and Red River, which is part of the ACC. Traditionally a fiber artist, Adams interpreted her work into the public realm by designing *Big Chiller Blues*, ten thousand square feet of glass tiles in shades of blue installed at the corner of 5th Street and Red River.

The Austin Convention Center houses several other public artworks commissioned by the AIPP program, including: *Index for Contemplation* by Margo Sawyer; *Waller Creek Shelves* by Damian Priour, *Confabulating Orbits* by Ben Livingston, *Texas Botanicals* by Jill Bedgood, and *Macro/ Micro Culture* by Rolando Briseño.



*Big Chiller Blues*, 2005 by Ann Adams

The complete list of public artwork at the Austin Convention Center can be found here:

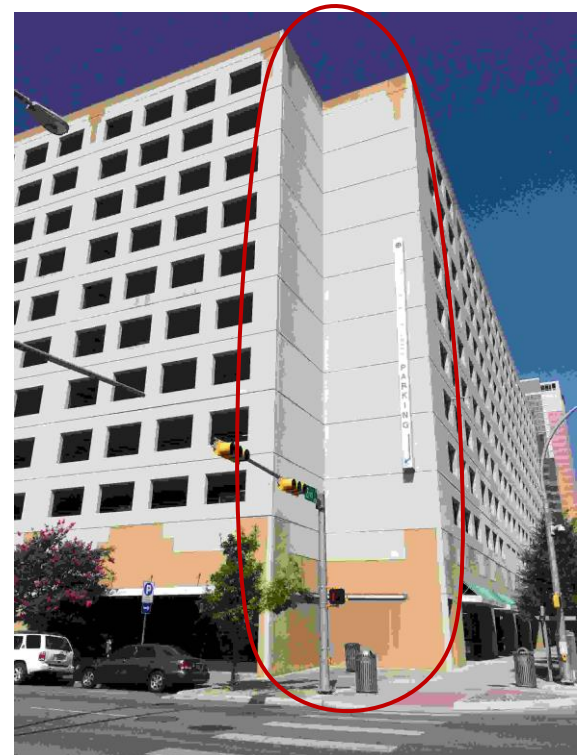
[http://www.publicartarchive.org/search/apachesolr\\_search/convention%20center?filters=im\\_work\\_coll\\_nid%3A65554](http://www.publicartarchive.org/search/apachesolr_search/convention%20center?filters=im_work_coll_nid%3A65554)

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Garage Elevators

The Austin Convention Center Department manages the Austin Convention Center and two corresponding parking garages, as part of the Department's downtown footprint. Located between San Jacinto and Brazos, and Cesar Chavez and 2nd Street, it is one of the Austin Convention Center's two parking garages. This garage serves the downtown community, a mix of residents, visitors, and workers.

At present, the garage has one set of elevators on the west side (Brazos Street entrance) of the building, while the east side (San Jacinto Street entrance) houses a stairwell. To reduce wait times for patrons of the garage and enhance their experience, two new elevators will be installed on the northeast corner of the Convention Center Parking, at 2nd Street and San Jacinto Blvd.

Funding for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Garage Elevators was approved as part of the Austin Convention Center Department's FY 2015 budget, and is being managed by the Austin Convention Center and Public Works Departments. It will include the design and construction of an elevator bank with two elevators, and ADA-compliant thresholds. The City hired McKinney York Architects to develop the schematic design. Completion of construction documents is anticipated in 2016 with construction beginning in summer of 2016.



Site of new elevator bank at the Austin Convention Center's Parking Garage at San Jacinto and 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Austin Convention Center 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Garage AIPP RFQ

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## Budget

The AIPP funding for this project is generated from 2% of the estimated construction budget for the 2nd Street Garage Elevators and an eligible portion from other construction within the Convention Center. The total award for an artist contract is **\$74,000** inclusive of design, fabrication and installation, including engineering and permitting fees, travel and shipping expenses, insurance and other project-related costs.



*Left: Existing conditions of the Austin Convention Center Parking Garage, located at 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and San Jacinto.  
Right: Early rendering of the new elevator – subject to change. (Rendering courtesy of McKinney York Architects)*

## Public Art Goals & Priorities

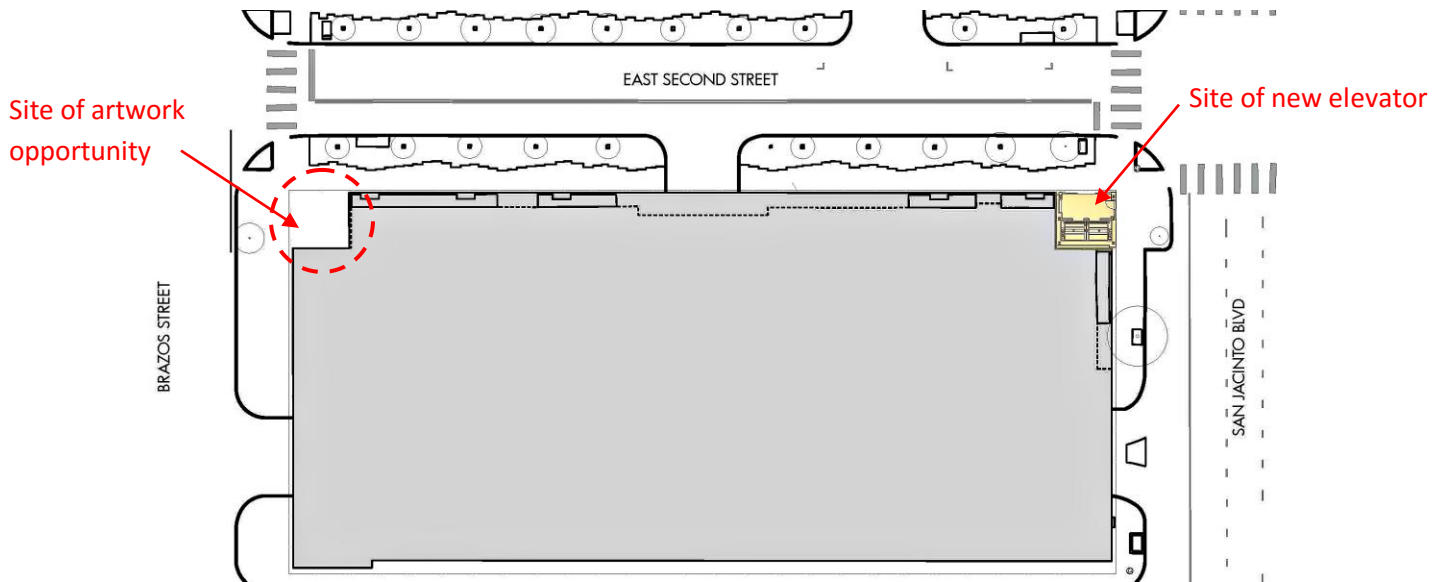
The Art in Public Places program seeks to commission works of art of redeeming quality that advance public understanding of visual art and enhance the aesthetic quality of public places through the selection of a qualified artist or artist team who can innovatively and thoughtfully design within the context of this project. The goal of the 2nd Street Garage Elevators project is to select an artist/artist team who will design artwork that:

- » reflects the mission of the Austin Convention Center to promote Austin as a premier destination for business and leisure;
- » energizes the urban fabric of the street intersection;
- » employs integrated design approaches and/or sustainable materials;
- » is easily maintained and vandal resistant in an exterior environment;
- » contributes to the depth/breadth of the City of Austin's public art collection.



## Artwork Opportunity

This site is at a busy downtown intersection, diagonally across the street from one of Austin's premier hotels. This commission provides the opportunity to create a highly visible landmark in downtown Austin. The site for this artwork opportunity is the northwest corner of the parking garage at the corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and Brazos. (The new elevator bank will be located at the corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and San Jacinto.)

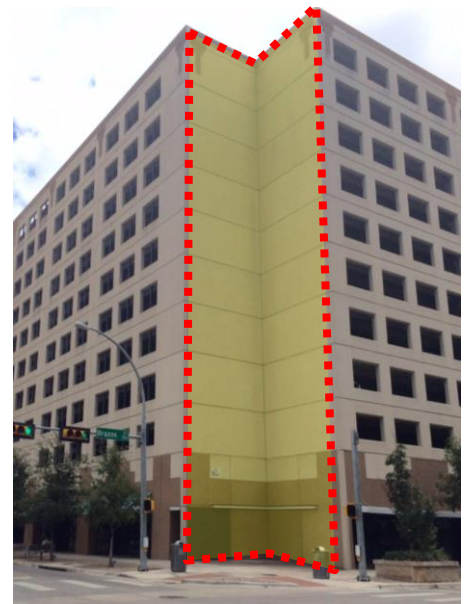


The selected artist will engage the entire height of the building corner and may include the ground plane within their work. This artwork opportunity is expected to encompass the verticality of the building. It may also incorporate the ground plane, but it not required to do so.

The selected artist will work with the project design team, designing an artwork that supports a cohesive experience of the building as a whole. The artist will also be expected to work within the schedule for construction, without impeding operation, public safety and building access. A range of materials and conceptual approaches are welcome for this commission as long as the parameters and goals of the project are met.

## Artist Information Meeting

An artist information meeting will be held at the Cultural Arts Division offices (201 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> St.) on **January 28, 2016 at 12pm (CST)** to explain the parameters of the project and outline the application procedures. The meeting will include a visit to the site of the artwork opportunity. AIPP staff and project representatives will be available to answer questions and AIPP staff will also review the application procedures. The presented materials, along with Q&A, will be posted to City's website after the meeting: [www.austintexas.gov/departments/aipp-opportunities](http://www.austintexas.gov/departments/aipp-opportunities).



## Artist Eligibility

Professional visual artists, or artist teams, at least 18 years of age who live and work in the seven county Austin metropolitan area (Williamson, Travis, Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Burnet and Blanco counties) are eligible 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.”

Full-time, permanent City of Austin employees including employees of the Austin Convention Center Department and the Economic Development Department, and project consultants and their employees and sub-consultants are ineligible to apply. Applications not meeting all eligibility criteria will be withdrawn from consideration.

*Artists who currently have one active contract with the Art in Public Places program or who have more than two permanent works in the AIPP Collection are ineligible to apply. Artist teams are considered as separate entities; their projects do not count as projects by the individual artists.*

## Evaluation Criteria

The selection of an artist, or artist team, shall be based on whose qualifications best meet the requirements contained in this Request for Qualifications. In addition to the standard AIPP project selection criteria found on the City of Austin’s Art in Public Places website under **Guidelines & Policies**, [www.austintexas.gov/department/aipp-policies](http://www.austintexas.gov/department/aipp-policies), the Selection Panel will also review and consider the following evaluation criteria:

- » Artistic merit and technical expertise
- » Demonstrated successful, innovative and effective approach to public art projects of a similar scope
- » Ability to successfully execute a public art project
- » Expressed interest in creating artwork within this project’s site and context.

## Selection Process

A Request for Qualifications will be distributed to professional visual artists who live and work in Williamson, Travis, Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Burnet and Blanco counties. Applications must be submitted through PublicArtist.org by the deadline **February 18, 2016 at 5:00pm (CST)**. The City of Austin Art in Public Places Panel will convene a selection panel to evaluate the submissions.

The Selection Panel will review qualifications (images of work, resume, letter of interest, references) and select 3 - 5 finalists to develop conceptual proposals *unless there is consensus on the selection of recommending one applicant and one alternate*. Each finalist will be paid a stipend of \$1,000 to cover time and materials for development of a conceptual proposal.

**Meeting #1: Finalist Orientation, March 22, 2016 at 3pm (CST)** - Finalists will meet with key staff and project stakeholders for an orientation to the project, including a site visit and review of site opportunities and constraints. The goal of this meeting is to provide finalists with the information needed to produce conceptual proposals.

**Meeting #2: Finalist Interviews and Proposals, April 12, 2016 at 1pm (CST)** - Finalists will be asked to propose a concept for artwork that reflect the artwork goals defined in the Request for Qualifications. Finalists will present

their proposals during interviews with the Selection Panel. The finalists will be requested to include the following in their proposal:

- » Preliminary drawing(s), image(s), a short video, or any other type of media showing the proposed art project in the specific site to scale, which include a description of form, materials, colors and textures
- » A brief written narrative describing artist intention, to include a brief description of the fabrication/installation process and expected maintenance requirements
- » Preliminary budget, including all costs to bring the artwork from concept through project completion
- » Team members' or sub-consultants' qualifications and their history with projects of similar scope.

From the interviewed finalists, one artist, or artist team, and an alternate will be recommended to the Art in Public Places Panel and Arts Commission for approval. The contract requires authorization from City Council prior to negotiation and execution. The selected artist(s) will be put under a contract to coordinate with the City and project stakeholders 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 stakeholder groups and relevant City Boards and Commissions.

## Submission Requirements

Applications must be received online via [www.PublicArtist.org](http://www.PublicArtist.org) no later than **5:00 pm (CST) on February 18, 2016**. 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).

The application includes:

- » Letter of Interest stating why they are interested, what makes them a good match for the project, and how they might approach it
- » 10 images of completed relevant artwork with the required descriptions
- » 3-page resume
- » 3 professional references.

## Selection Committee (Selection Panel & Project Advisors)

A three member Selection Panel will be assembled that includes at least one visual artist. Project Advisors will be invited to participate in the process to provide assistance and expertise to the selection panel. Possible selection panel members include, in alphabetical order:

- » **Nicole Blair**, Architect, Austin, TX
- » **Melissa Borrell**, Visual Artist, Austin, TX
- » **Jamie Chioco**, Designer, Chicoco Design, Austin, TX
- » **Rachel Cook**, Associate Curator, DiverseWorks, Houston, TX
- » **Susan Mickey**, Designer, Head of the Design and Technology program, UT Austin
- » **Melissa Miller**, Visual artist, Austin, TX
- » **Chuck Nave**, Structural Engineer, Austin, TX
- » **Lise Ragbir**, Visual Arts Professional, Austin, TX
- » **Jacob Villanueva**, New Media Visual Artist; Creative Director, Texas Tribune, Austin, TX

## Project Advisors

Project advisors will be invited to participate in the process to provide assistance and expertise during the proposal evaluation process. The project advisors to the panel may include:

- » **Burton Jones**, Project Manager, Public Works Department, City of Austin
- » **David Thomas**, Facilities Manager, Austin Convention Center, City of Austin
- » **Curtis Jolly**, Operations Manager, Austin Convention Center, City of Austin
- » **Al York**, Project Architect, McKinney York Architects
- » **Dharmesh Patel**, Art in Public Places Panel liaison

## Project Schedule *(subject to change)*

December 2015	Approval of Prospectus by AIPP Panel and Austin Arts Commission
January 7, 2016	Request for Qualifications (RFQ) released
January 28, 2016	Artist Information Meeting
February 18, 2016	<b>RFQ Deadline for Applications</b>
March 10, 2016	Selection of Finalists
March 22, 2016	Finalist Orientation Meeting
April 12, 2016	Finalist Interviews and Selection of Artist + Alternate
May 9 + 16, 2016	Approval of Artist and Alternate by AIPP Panel and Arts Commission
May or June 2016	City Council authorizes negotiation and execution of contract
July 2016	Mid-Design review
<i>Summer 2016</i>	<i>Construction Documents Scheduled for Completion</i>
Sept. or Oct. 2016	Final Design review
TBD	Notice to Proceed with Fabrication
<i>February 2016</i>	<i>CIP Construction Begins</i>
TBD	Artwork installed

## Contact/Questions

Shirley Rempe, Art in Public Places Project Manager

(512) 974-9316 or [shirley.rempe@austintexas.gov](mailto:shirley.rempe@austintexas.gov)

<http://www.austintexas.gov/department/aipp-opportunities>