



REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Project: Airport Entrance Project at
Austin-Bergstrom International Airport

Budget: \$2,000,000

Artist Information Meeting: 2:00 – 3:00 pm (CDT), August 29, 2014

DEADLINE TO APPLY: 5:00 pm (CDT), September 30, 2014

Project Summary

The City of Austin Art in Public Places (AIPP) program of the Cultural Arts Division, Economic Development Department, seeks to commission a professional visual artist, or artist team, to design, fabricate, and install artwork for Airport Entrance AIPP project at the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport.

The City of Austin requests qualifications from professional visual artists, or artist team, who live in the United States. The total budget available for this project is \$2.0 million.

Project Background



The Airport Entrance Project at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (ABIA) is being funded by the Terminal/Apron Expansion and Improvements Project which will provide much needed space for the ever-expanding passenger and aircraft operations. The campus of ABIA has been an inviting gateway to Austin since it was built in 1999. The entrance drive was specifically designed to reflect Austin's landscape, with extensive native plantings and use of indigenous materials.

To learn about the many ways that ABIA has been recognized for excellence, including awards for design of the landscape, visit:

https://austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/images/Airport/about_ABIA/awards.pdf

See also <https://www.austintexas.gov/page/environmental-initiatives> for more information on the airport's environmental initiatives.

Austin-Bergstrom International Airport

The Austin-Bergstrom International Airport has served the Austin air traveler since 1999 and now serves over ten million air travelers annually. ABIA is committed to providing a sustainable air transportation portal that provides a friendly, Austin-style environment that reflects the nature and character of the City. With judicious and creative planning, ABIA continues to expand its facilities to keep up with anticipated customer demand.

In 2013, the City of Austin Cultural Arts Division awarded ABIA with a “Partner in the Arts” award, which are given annually to individuals and organizations which have made valuable contributions to the work of the Cultural Arts Division. AIPP currently has three projects underway at ABIA including the Consolidated Rental Car Facility, Terminal East Infill Project and the Spirit of Austin Lane Cell Phone Lot. www.austintexas.gov/airport

Public Art Intent & Goals

Art in Public Places seeks to commission works of art of redeeming quality that advance public understanding of visual art and enhances the aesthetic quality of public places through the selection of qualified artists who can innovatively and thoughtfully design within project context. The goal of the Airport Entrance Project is to select an artist who will, in collaboration with project stakeholders and City staff, design artwork that:

- » is dynamic and visually engaging at a monumental scale;
- » elicits a memorable sense of place from travelers;
- » harmoniously integrates into the site and reflects the nature and character of Austin;
- » supports the Airport’s commitment to sustainability;
- » contributes to a local, national and international contemporary art dialogue; and
- » serves as a significant piece within the artist’s oeuvre.

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. The total award for an artist contract is \$2,000,000, inclusive of stakeholder collaboration, design, fabrication, and installation of artwork (including shipping expenses and insurance), travel, and all other project related costs.

Artwork Opportunity

This public art opportunity is open to a wide range of ideas to be proposed by the selected artist, or artist team, in consultation with project stakeholders. The artwork is to be located in an exterior location to be proposed by the artist, working in collaboration with project stakeholders and City staff.

The artwork must serve as a unique entrance experience for the airport and may consist of a single intervention, or multiple interventions. A variety of media will be considered, **however artwork that is of monumental scale is desired.**

» The location will be at, or in proximity to, one of two entrances to the airport, or along an entrance road, and must comply with various security and operational requirements inherent with airport facilities.

» Possible locations and opportunities will be discussed in more detail during the Artist Information Meeting, which will be recorded and available On Demand at www.austincreates.com.

Artist Information Meeting

An Artist Information Meeting will be held at City Hall (301 W. 2nd Street; Austin, TX 78701) in the Boards and Commissions Room, on **Friday, August 29, 2014 from 2:00 – 3:00 pm (CDT)**. AIPP staff and Aviation staff will be presenting information on the project and answering questions from interested artists. It will be in an interactive webcast format to encourage broad and remote participation, recorded and posted on our website for viewing On Demand. **The interactive webinar portal will be accessible at:** www.austintexas.gov/department/aipp-opportunities.

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.

Evaluation Criteria

The selection of an artist, or artist team, shall be based on whose qualifications best meet the requirements contained in Request for Qualifications.

In addition to the standard AIPP project selection criteria found on the City of Austin’s Art in Public Places website (<http://www.austintexas.gov/department/aipp-policies>), the Selection Panel will review and consider the following evaluation criteria:

- » artistic merit and technical expertise;
- » demonstrated ability to successfully execute innovative public art projects in a complicated design environment;
- » demonstrated ability to successfully execute public art projects of a similar scope;
- » demonstrated ability to successfully execute a public art project on time and on budget; and
- » expressed interest in creating artwork for a growing international airport.

Selection Process

Applications must be received online via www.PublicArtist.org no later than 5:00 pm (CDT) on September 30, 2014. For technical assistance with your application, please contact info@publicartist.org or 210-701-0775 (9:00 am – 5:00 pm CDT).



Art in Public Places will convene a selection panel to evaluate artist qualifications. The selection panel and project advisors will work together to review artist or artist team applications, which will include a letter of interest, images of recent and relevant work, resume(s), and other information submitted by applicants.

Project advisors include:

- » Matt Coldwell, exhibit coordinator, Aviation Department, City of Austin
- » Ilse Frank, project liaison, Art in Public Places Panel
- » Robert Hengst, engineering and construction manager, Aviation Department, City of Austin
- » Joe Medici, principal planner, Aviation Department, City of Austin
- » Janice White, project manager, Aviation Department, City of Austin
- » TBD, commissioner, Airport Advisory Commission

The Selection Panel will recommend up to three finalists to develop conceptual proposals. The finalists will be paid an honorarium and invited to Austin twice:

Visit #1 - Thursday, November 6, 2014

Finalists will visit Austin to meet with key staff and project stakeholders for an orientation to the project, including a site walk and review of site opportunities and constraints. The goal of this meeting is to provide finalists with the information needed to produce conceptual proposals.

Visit #2 - Friday, December 5, 2014

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

- » *Preliminary drawings, images, 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; and*
- » *Preliminary budget, including all costs to bring the artwork from concept through project completion*
- » *Sub-consultants' qualifications and history with projects of similar scope.*

From those 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 relevant City Boards and Commissions and stakeholder groups.

Schedule, subject to change

August 19, 2014 - Request for Qualifications (RFQ) released

August 29, 2014, 2:00-3:00 pm (CDT) Artist Information Meeting
(interactive webinar to be recorded and available for viewing via web)

September 30, 2014, 5:00 pm (CDT) - Deadline for submission of qualifications

October 17, 2014

Selection Panel review of submissions and selection of finalists to submit proposals

November 6, 2014

Finalist orientation in Austin

December 5, 2014

Finalist proposal presentations; selection of artist and alternate

January 2015

Approval of Artist and Alternate by AIPP Panel

Approval of Artist and Alternate by Arts Commission

February 2015

City Council approval of artist contract

Negotiate/execute artist contract

March 2015

Kick-Off meeting with project team

May 2015

Mid-Design review by AIPP Panel

July 2015

Final Design review by AIPP Panel and Austin Arts Commission

Fall 2017 - Anticipated project completion

Contact/Questions

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