

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Pressler Street Extension

Budget: \$60,000

Artist Information Meeting: 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. on May 13, 2014

Deadline: 5:00 pm (CST), June 5, 2014

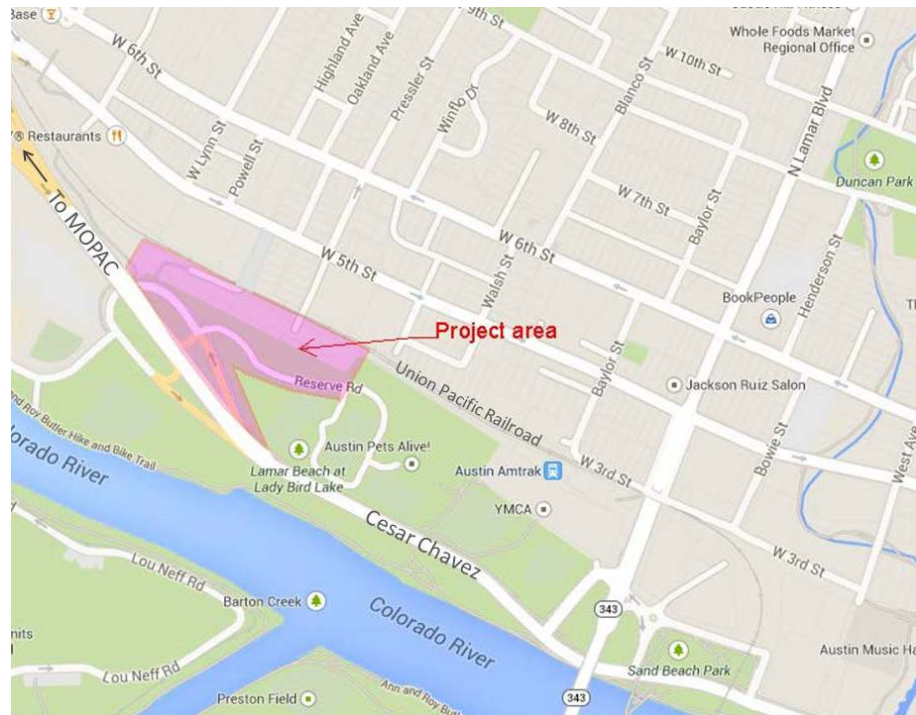
Project Summary

The City of Austin Art in Public Places (AIPP) program of the Cultural Arts Division, Economic Development Department (EDD) seeks to commission a professional visual artist, or artist team, to design and fabricate artwork for Pressler Street Extension project located between Cesar Chavez and West 5th Street, in proximity to Reserve Road in Austin.

The City of Austin requests qualifications from professional visual artists, or artist teams, who live or work in Texas. The total budget available for this project is \$60,000. An artist information meeting will be held from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. on May 13th. **Submission deadline** is 5:00 pm (CST) on June 5, 2014.

Project Background

The Pressler Street Extension project, funded by the 2012 bond election, will provide multi-modal connectivity within context-sensitive design. The project will serve all roadway users. The project will create a critical gateway into downtown once the MoPac managed lanes are implemented. In addition, the project will allow for the creation of railroad quiet zone. Currently Union Pacific Railroad engineers sound their horn when crossing Pressler Street, waking neighbors during late night crossings.



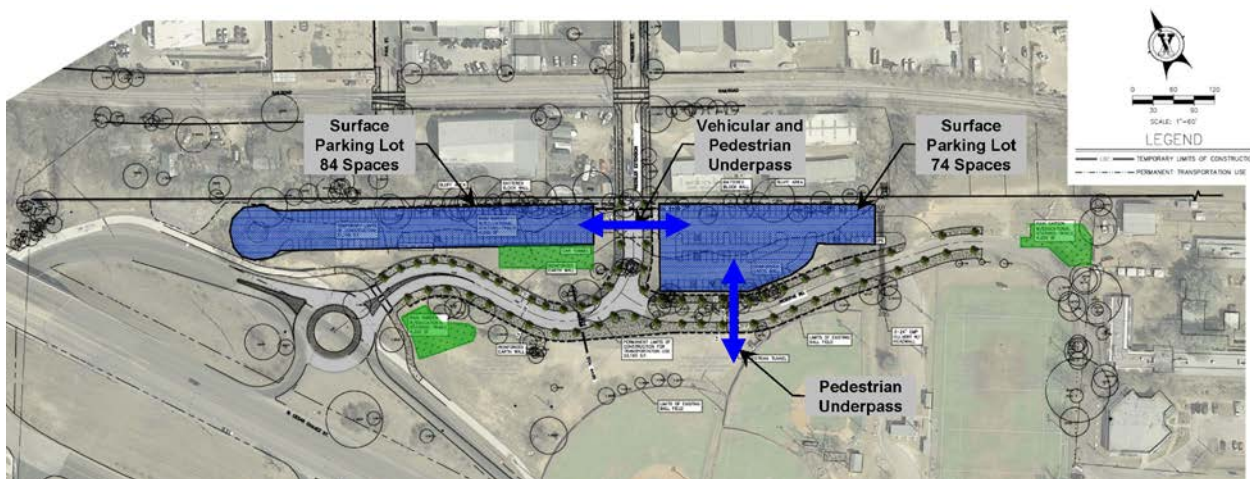
The project will extend Pressler Street south of 5th Street, creating a north-south connection between West 5th and Cesar Chavez and between Ladybird Lake and Old West Austin. The extension will cross an existing Union Pacific railroad crossing that requires upgrading to accommodate public traffic. Upgrades are planned to include gates, signs, markings and other treatments necessary to designate the crossing as a quiet zone.



Existing Site Conditions

This project will extend two-lane Pressler Street south to Reserve Road. Reserve Road runs parallel to West Cesar Chavez and provides access to the Lamar Beach, which is part of the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department, and the facility currently being leased by Austin Pets Alive animal shelter. The improvements currently being planned for the Pressler Street Extension project include:

- A traffic circle
- Rain garden(s) to clean runoff before it returns to Austin's water ways, which may include interpretive signage to educate the public about rain gardens;
- Surface parking;
- New curbs and gutters;
- Improvements to pedestrian and bicycle mobility; and
- New trees and lighting.



Proposed Design

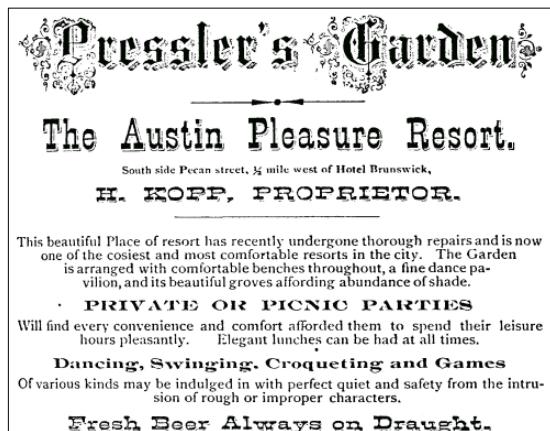
Site Context

This project is within, or in proximity to, residential, recreational, industrial and commercial areas that are part the [Old West Austin Neighborhood Association](#) (OWANA). The athletic fields are heavily used, and parking is at a premium during games and practices. The fields are managed by [West Austin Youth Association](#). The terrain between the current end of Pressler Street and the athletic fields has a significant drop in grade – approximately 22’.

Current land uses in the project area include:

- WAYA (West Austin Youth Association) athletic fields;
- Austin Pets Alive animal shelter;
- LAB (Lance Armstrong Bikeway) ;
- Union Pacific Railroad; and
- Lamar Beach at Town Lake

This site has long been used for recreation. Pressler's Garden was built in the early 1870s around a steam brewery started by Paul Pressler, and were located at West 6th and Pressler. Shaded by large live oaks, Pressler's Garden spread from 6th Street down to the river and had a boathouse, a croquet court, a rifle club, swings, an alligator pit, and a pavilion. It operated for more than 30 years before being swallowed by residential development.



Public Art Goals and 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 Pressler Street Extension AIPP Project is to select an artist/artist team who will design artwork that:

- is visually engaging and reflects the unique cultural identity of the project area;
- contributes to a local, regional and national contemporary art dialogue;
- is durable enough to hold up to the rigors of the site conditions, and is very low maintenance;
- contributes to the depth/breadth of the City of Austin's public art collection.

Artwork Opportunity

This public art opportunity is open to a wide range of ideas to be proposed by the selected artist, or artist team. A variety of durable media will be considered. At each site, artwork will not impede the movement of drivers, bikers or pedestrians. A painted mural is expressly not invited as a response for

this call to artists, due to the amount of on-going maintenance required. Possible locations for the artwork are identified as:

Pedestrian Underpass

A pedestrian way is planned to run under the new Pressler Street Extension, connecting people moving between the new site parking and the playing fields. Dimensions of the underpass space are planned to be approximately 14' tall x 28' wide x 60' long (dimensions may change).

- The artwork should address the architectural space, enriching the experience of moving through this space, while not impeding safety.
- The underpass space will be lit. The artist may choose to affect the lighting of this space as the artwork opportunity.



Example of pedestrian/bike underpass, Malmö Sweden

Retaining Wall

A 10' to 17' tall by 325' long retaining wall is needed so that Pressler Street Extension can descend from its elevation at the north end of the site to connect with the new traffic circle to the west. This vertical surface is the art opportunity at Site 2, including a possible transition to the lower level.

- The artwork should activate the wall in some way.
- Artwork which encourages climbing the wall is expressly not invited, due to safety constraints.

Overlook

On top of the retaining wall, where Reserve Road and Pressler Street meet, there is a flat area at the terminus of the view down Pressler, overlooking Ladybird Lake. This area is likely to receive special landscape treatment and may be a pedestrian node, or resting spot to overlook the park. The artwork opportunity could take advantage of the dynamic opportunity provided by the raised elevation by:

- Providing a moment of interactivity or a framework, allowing the pedestrian or bicyclist to engage with the view.
- Create a focal point to enliven the view as people move south on Pressler from W 5th.

➤ *Other sites are possible, as determined through the design process and through stakeholder feedback.*

➤ *Please note that the term pedestrian in this document includes people who use wheelchairs.*

Budget

The funds for this project are derived from the 2% for public art portion of the eligible construction budget for the Pressler Street Extension Project. The total award for an artist contract is **\$60,000**, inclusive of design, fabrication and installation, including engineering and permitting fees, travel and shipping expenses, insurance and other project-related costs.

Artist Information Meeting

An Artist Information meeting will be held from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 13th in the Boards and Commissions Room, Room 1101, Austin City Hall, 325 W. 2nd Street, Austin, TX 78701. Free parking is available in City Hall; be sure to bring your parking ticket with you to the meeting. 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 in the state of Texas are eligible to apply. Full-time, permanent City of Austin employees and project consultants and their employees and sub-consultants are ineligible to apply.

Evaluation Criteria

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/sites/default/files/files/aipp_selection_criteria.pdf) the Selection Panel will 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 in a culturally rich and complex area with multiple stakeholders; and
- » expressed interest in creating artwork for the opportunities presented by this Request for Qualifications.

Selection Process

Applications must be received online via www.PublicArtist.org no later than 5:00 pm (CST) on June 5, 2014. Art in Public Places will convene a selection panel to evaluate artist qualifications.

The selection panel and project advisors will work together to review the applications, including letter of interest, images of recent and relevant work, resume(s), and other information submitted by applicants.

Project advisors include:

- » Jules Parrish, Project Manager, Public Works, City of Austin
- » Gary Schatz, Assistant Director, Transportation Management, Transportation Department, City of Austin
- » TBD, Neighborhood Connectivity/Bike Program City of Austin
- » Ricardo Soliz, Parks and Recreation Department, City of Austin
- » Jade Walker, AIPP Panel Project Liaison
- » TBD, Pressler Street Extension design team member(s)
- » TBD, West Austin Youth Association
- » TBD, Old West Austin Neighborhood Association
- » TBD, OWA Neighborhood Plan Contact Team (NPCT)

The selection panel will recommend up to three finalists to interview. Those finalists will be interviewed via Skype by the selection panel and project advisors. 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 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 stakeholder groups.

Submission Requirements

Applicants must submit applications through www.PublicArtist.org

Schedule *(subject to change)*

April 23, 2014	Request for Qualifications (RFQ) released
May 13, 2014	Artist Information Meeting, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., Austin City Hall, Rm 1101
June 5, 2014 at 5 p.m.	Deadline for RFQ submission
June 2014	Selection Panel review of submission and selection of finalists for interview
July 2014	Finalist interviews; selection of artist and alternate by Selection Committee
August 2014	Approval of Artist and Alternate by AIPP Panel Approval of Artist and Alternate by Arts Commission
September 2014	City Council approval of artist contract
October 2014	Negotiate/execute artist design contract
November 2014	Project kick-off meeting
December 1, 2014	Mid-Design presentation to AIPP Panel
Feb or March 2015	Final Design approval by AIPP Panel Final Design approval by Austin Arts Commission
April 2015	Negotiate/execute artist commission contract
January 2016	Artwork installed
January 2016	Pressler Street Extension construction complete