

Republic Square Park Phase II Improvements
Questions + Answers
Artist Information Meeting April 16, 2015
Cultural Arts Division Offices

Presenters: Anna Bradley, AIPP; Rey Hernandez, PARD and Susan Benz, Benz Resource Group Project Management.

Presentation: Site was founded in 1840, and was important to the Mexican-American culture in Austin. The park fell in to disrepair in the 1950's and was paved over as a parking lot.

In 1976 it was restored as a park in celebration of the bicenntenial. Relocated the resources for the Mexican-American community in 1929 Plan for Austin has reference to this plan. Recommend going to the History Center to review the history of the site.

2014 a new master plan was approved by Council for the site. Project partners in this effort are Austin Parks Foundation, the Downtown Austin Alliance and PARD. Design Workshop created the master plan for the park, and they proposed possible locations for amenities for the park. The design details and construction documentation for the park have not been executed yet, so specific materials to be used and design details are not yet in place.

Construction starts May of 2016 – complete March of 2017. Once the artist is selected, the expectation is that the artist would work with the design team, in order to collaborate with the design team and the contractor, for such things as access to electrical, or installation of foundations.

Q: Do you mean the contractor for the overall project will put in the artist's foundation?

A: If the project works out with timing and collaborative spirit, yes. This should allow for a savings of time and money for the installation. This doesn't mean that the sponsor project will pay for the artist's foundation –the cost of the foundation would remain the responsibility of the artist.

Q: Who is in charge of this project?

A: When you come to the table you will be dealing with three 'clients'. The project partners in this effort are Austin Parks Foundation and the Downtown Austin Alliance (who will partner on the fundraising, programming and facility maintenance) and PARD, who will be in charge of day-to-day maintenance, such as cutting the lawn. Each project partner has their area of purview. The stakeholders will be interested in understanding what your work will need for maintenance.

Q: Can you clarify how we would be contracted for this project, if we are the selected the artist?

A: Because of the speed of this project, we will contract with you via a combined Design/Commission

Q: If I am going to work with a fabricator, should I include portfolio images from that fabricator?

A: No. We are commissioning an artwork, so we need to see an original self-conceptualized body of work, generally recognized by critics and peers as a professional possessing serious intent and ability.

Q: So the artwork has to relate to what happened here historically, right?

A; No it doesn't but it is recommended that the selected artist take into account all the history of the site in the design phase of the work.

Q: How far along is the master plan?

A: It has been approved. But the overall design details and construction documents have not been done yet.

Q: You said the site has a plaza now?

A; Yes the federal courthouse built a plaza in 2012. There are existing pedestrian ways through the park. The existing deck (F and E) should not be touched – it is brand new, installed as part of the Federal Courthouse installation.

Q: There can't be any artwork in the Great Lawn, right?

A: you can't propose something that would get in the way

Q: Circular wall – are there any drawings of that?

A: It hasn't been designed yet.

Q: Is the master plan available?

A: The artists can go see it at the AIPP Website

Q: But there isn't anything to work from yet, right?

A: Yes, but that is the opportunity

The wall will not be a concrete formed wall – it will have more texture and color, to be determined through the sponsor project design project.

Q: The hills that are there now, do these stay?

No those will be removed. Note that there are heritage trees in the area, you cannot put anything in the critical root zone.

I think it is important to look through the master plan document so you get an understanding of the work.

The big picture is that we have this beautiful master plan that we can't afford. The details on how all this will happen will be determined.

Q: But how can I know what to propose if the details aren't complete?

A: Remember, this is Request for Qualifications! You do not need to submit a proposal – just submit your qualifications.

Q: Is there a preference in the Selection Panel, should the artwork engage one area or should it be multiple interventions?

It is wide open. Your artwork can be integrated into the site, it could be light-based, sound-based, a singular object or overlaid over park infrastructure.

Q: Who will the artist work with through the design phase of the work?

The artist will meet with the project advisors from each stakeholder group through the design process. Stakeholders include the Downtown Austin Alliance (DAA), the Austin Parks Foundation (APF), and representative from the Republic Square Partners Group

Q: Who is managing this project from AIPP?

Contact Anna Bradley, anna.bradley@austintexas.gov, if you have questions about your application. If you have technical questions, such as issues with the application system, or uploading photos, please go to publicartist.org and speak with the technical staff there. The phone number is **210-701-0775 (9am - 5pm CDT)**

Please don't wait until the last minute to apply, or you may miss out on this opportunity. Get this completed as soon as you can.