



REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

8th St. Streetscape Project (from Congress Ave. to West Ave.)

Budget: \$77,000

Artist Information meeting: 6 pm (CST), June 19, 2013

Deadline to Apply: 5:00 pm (CST), EXTENDED TO JULY 26, 2013

Project Summary

The City of Austin Art in Public Places (AIPP) program of the Cultural Arts Division, Economic Growth & Redevelopment Services Office (EGRSO) seeks to commission a professional visual artist, or artist team to design, fabricate and install artwork for the streetscape along 8th Street between Congress and West Avenues.

The City of Austin requests qualifications from professional visual artists, or artist teams, **who live and work in the Austin metropolitan area which includes Travis, Williamson, Bastrop, Caldwell, and Hays Counties**. The total artwork budget is \$77,000. Submission deadline is 5:00 pm on **July 26, 2013**.

Project Background

The 8th Street Reconstruction project from West Avenue to Congress Avenue was funded by the 2006 and 2010 bond elections and incorporates the guiding principles outlined in the **Downtown Great Streets Master Plan**. The intent of Great Streets is to transform Austin's public right-of-ways into great public spaces. The typical Great Streets layout includes: sidewalks 18 or 32 feet in width; street furnishings that include benches, bike racks and trash receptacles; and street trees that are spaced so that there is a contiguous canopy at maturity to provide shade. More information on Austin's Great Street program can be found at www.austintexas.gov/page/great-streets.

The improvements being constructed on 8th Street between West Avenue and Congress Avenue include

- Full depth reconstruction of the roadway
- Upgrades to water, wastewater, & storm drain system
- A traffic circle with adjacent rain gardens at Rio Grande St.
- New curbs, gutters, and driveways as necessary
- Improvements to pedestrian mobility including wider sidewalks with a reduction of vehicular lanes between Congress Ave. and San Antonio St.
- New trees, planters, street lights, benches, trash bins, bike racks
- Traffic signal improvements

This road reconstruction project began in August 2012 and is being completed in phases in order to minimize disruption to businesses and residents. Scheduled completion is March of 2014. The commissioned artwork will be installed after construction ends and the artist will be responsible for obtaining all required permits and installing independent of the larger construction project.

8th Street from Congress Ave. to West Ave.

This 7-block streetscape spans the very urban setting at Congress Avenue, west to the more residential blocks near West Avenue that are part of OANA, the Original Austin Neighborhood Association (www.originalaustin.org). As noted on the map below, the civic landmarks from west to east include: the (A) City Municipal Building at Colorado; (B) the historic U.S. Court House between Colorado and Lavaca (currently used for offices); (C) the John Henry Faulk Central Library between Guadalupe and San Antonio (which will be the new location for the Austin History Center); (D) the Austin Women’s Club between San Antonio and Nueces; and (E) the Khabele School at Rio Grande (which is attended by more than 200 6th-12th graders). There also several office buildings, a parking garage, and between San Antonio and Rio Grande the terrain is markedly hilly. The traffic-calming circle being built at the Rio Grande intersection is part of the north-south Bicycle Boulevard that will connect 4th Street to 24th Street, as a way to encourage safe bicycle transit.



Map of area noting civic landmarks.



8th St. looking west towards West Ave.



8th St. looking west from Congress Ave.

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 8th Streetscape Project is to select an artist/artist team who will design artwork that:

- » is visually engaging but in no way impedes the safety of drivers, bikers, pedestrians and residents of this 7-block streetscape
- » strengthens the identity of this 7-block corridor
- » is durable enough to hold up to the rigors of streetscape conditions
- » contributes to a local, regional and national contemporary art dialogue
- » enriches or adds to the depth/breadth of the City of Austin's public art collection.

Budget

The funds for this project are derived from the 2% for public art portion of the eligible construction budget for the 8th Street Capital Improvement Project. The total award for an artist contract is \$77,000, inclusive of design, fabrication and installation, engineering and permitting fees, travel and shipping expenses, insurance and 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 as long as they meet the safety and durability parameters of the project. **Artwork must be designed so that it does not reflect light in any way that could confuse drivers; does not contain signage or components that would obscure or interrupt traffic patterns; does not interfere with utilities in the vicinity; and complies with all accessibility requirements.** A variety of durable media will be considered.

Preferred locations for the artwork have been identified to be:

Site 1 THE TRAFFIC CIRCLE AT RIO GRANDE ST.

This is located in the residential area near the Khabele School where 8th St. intersects with the new Rio Grande Bicycle Boulevard. It is surrounded by small rain gardens which are shallow, vegetated depressions planted with native plants and grasses designed to absorb and filter runoff from impervious surfaces. These help to conserve water and protect our water quality.

Artwork would be located within a 28-foot diameter circle inside the ring of pavers. It is important to consider that any artwork NOT attract any pedestrian traffic – in particular children from the adjacent Khabele School. Part of the design challenge would be to create a work that is to be experienced from a distance and be out of reach – or have plantings around it that would discourage curious pedestrians from coming onto the circle. In addition, there is a 3' diameter manhole located in the center of the traffic circle that needs to remain accessible for utility maintenance. There is the possibility of providing night lighting for the artwork that is not disruptive to adjacent residents; however this would come out the artist's budget.



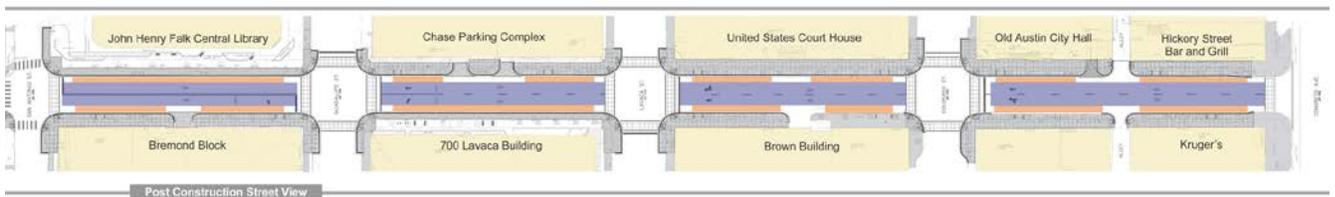
Rio Grande traffic circle under construction in April 2013.

(See attached additional drawings of the traffic circle on page 7.)

Site 2 ALONG THE WIDENED SIDEWALK AREAS BETWEEN CONGRESS AVE. & SAN ANTONIO ST.

Of particular interest is the area adjacent to what is now the John Henry Faulk Central Library. In the next few years the Central Library will vacate to its new location on Cesar Chavez, and the Faulk building will be remodeled to be the home of the Austin History Center, the central archives of Austin’s history.

Artworks in the pedestrian right of way can be designed to be of more interest to pedestrians and could be imbedded into the plane of the walking surface, as long as all ADA requirements are met.



Planned streetscape between San Antonio St. and Congress Ave.

(See attached additional drawings on page 8 & 9.)

Note: Additional locations along this 7-block streetscape could be considered if they are feasible, important to the concept of the artist, and within the parameters of the project.

Artist Information Meeting

An Artist Information meeting will be held on **June 19, 2013 at 6:00 pm (CST) in the Cultural Arts Division Training Room at 201 E. Second Street, Austin, TX 78701.** (There is construction underway on Second Street, however parking is available in the Convention Center Parking garage which can be accessed from Brazos St. and San Jacinto St.) AIPP staff and other advisors will present information on the project and answer questions from interested artists. The presentation from the meeting, as well as answers to questions asked, will be available on the AIPP website at www.austintexas.gov/department/aipp-opportunities until the application deadline.

Artist Eligibility

Professional visual artists, or artist teams, at least 18 years of age who live and work in the Austin metropolitan area are eligible to apply. This includes Travis, Williamson, Bastrop, Caldwell, and Hays counties. Full-time, permanent City of Austin employees and project consultants and their employees and sub-consultants are ineligible to apply.

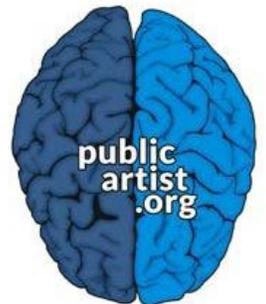
Evaluation Criteria

In addition to the standard AIPP project selection criteria found on the City of Austin's Art in Public Places website (www.austintexas.gov/aipp/selectioncriteria.htm), 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 the right of way; and
- » expressed interest in creating artwork for this streetscape.

Selection Process

Applications must be received online via www.PublicArtist.org no later than 5:00 pm (CST) on July 12, 2013. For technical assistance with your application, please contact info@publicartist.org or 210-701-0775 (9am – 5pm CST). Applicants will be required to submit a letter of interest stating preliminary conceptual direction, resume, images of recent and relevant work, and references. After the application deadline, Art in Public Places will convene a selection panel to evaluate artist qualifications.



Selection Panel includes:

- » Gary Webernich, artist, Chair of the Austin Community College Art Department
- » Leah Davis, AIA, Andersson Wise Architects
- » Melissa Berry, Arts & Parks Director, Downtown Austin Alliance

Project Advisors may include:

- » Humberto Rey, Great Street Program, Planning and Development Review, City of Austin
- » Richard Duane, Project Manager, Public Works, City of Austin
- » Lee Austin, Engineer, Transportation Department, City of Austin
- » Chad Crager, Neighborhood Connectivity/Bike Program City of Austin
- » TBD, Austin History Center, Library Department, City of Austin

- » Blair Fox, representative of the Original Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA)
- » TBD, representative of the Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association (DANA)
- » TBD, AIPP Panel Representative

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

The selection panel will recommend up to three finalists to interview. From those finalists, one artist or artist team and one alternate will be recommended to the Art in Public Places Panel and Austin Arts Commission for approval. The contract also requires authorization from City Council prior to negotiation and execution.

The selected artist(s) will be put under a design/commission contract. 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

May 29, 2013

Request for Qualifications (RFQ) released

June 19, 2013

Artist Information Meeting

~~*July 12, 2013*~~ ***JULY 26, 2013***

Deadline for RFQ submission

~~*Week of July 22, 2013*~~ *Week of August 5, 2013*

Selection Committee review of qualifications and selection of finalists for interview

~~*Week of July 29, 2013*~~ *August 12, 2013*

Finalist interviews

August 2013

*Approval of Artist and Alternate by AIPP Panel, Austin Arts Commission
City Council approval of artist contract*

September 2013

Negotiate/execute Design/Commission contract

December 2013

Mid-Design presentation to AIPP Panel

January 2014

Final Design review by AIPP Panel and Austin Arts Commission

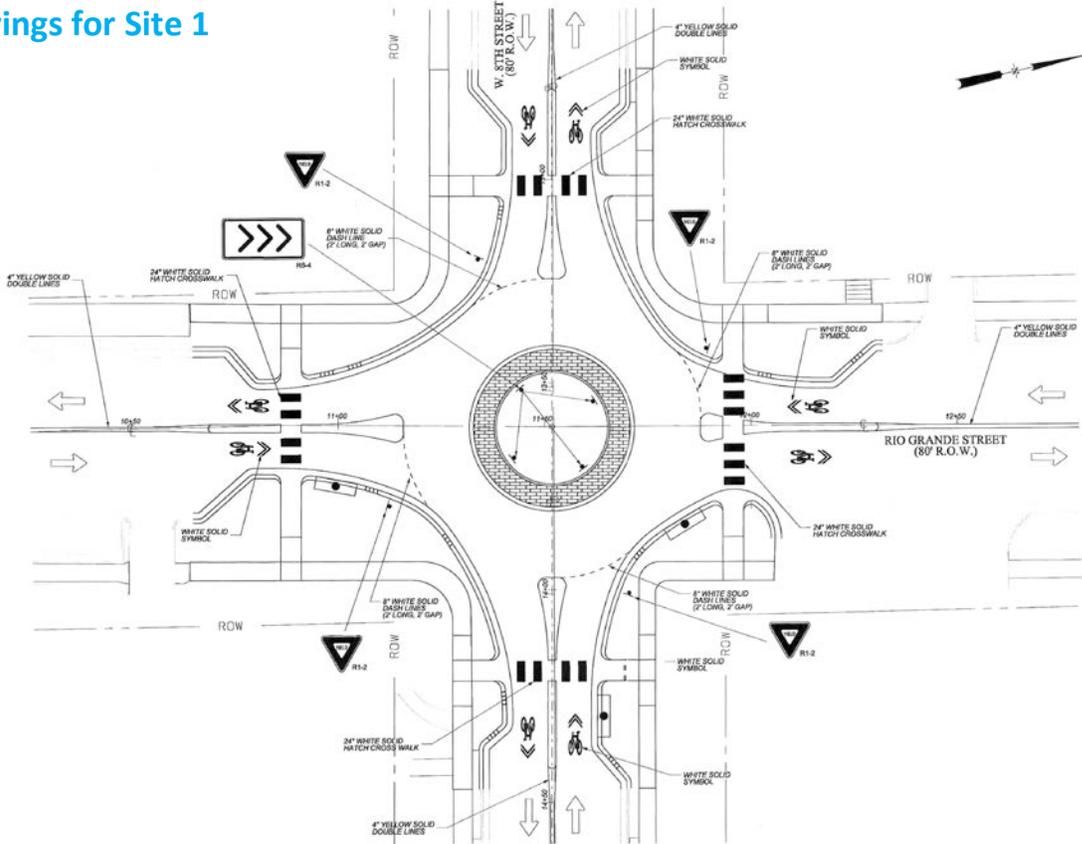
March 2014

STREET RECONSTRUCTION COMPLETE

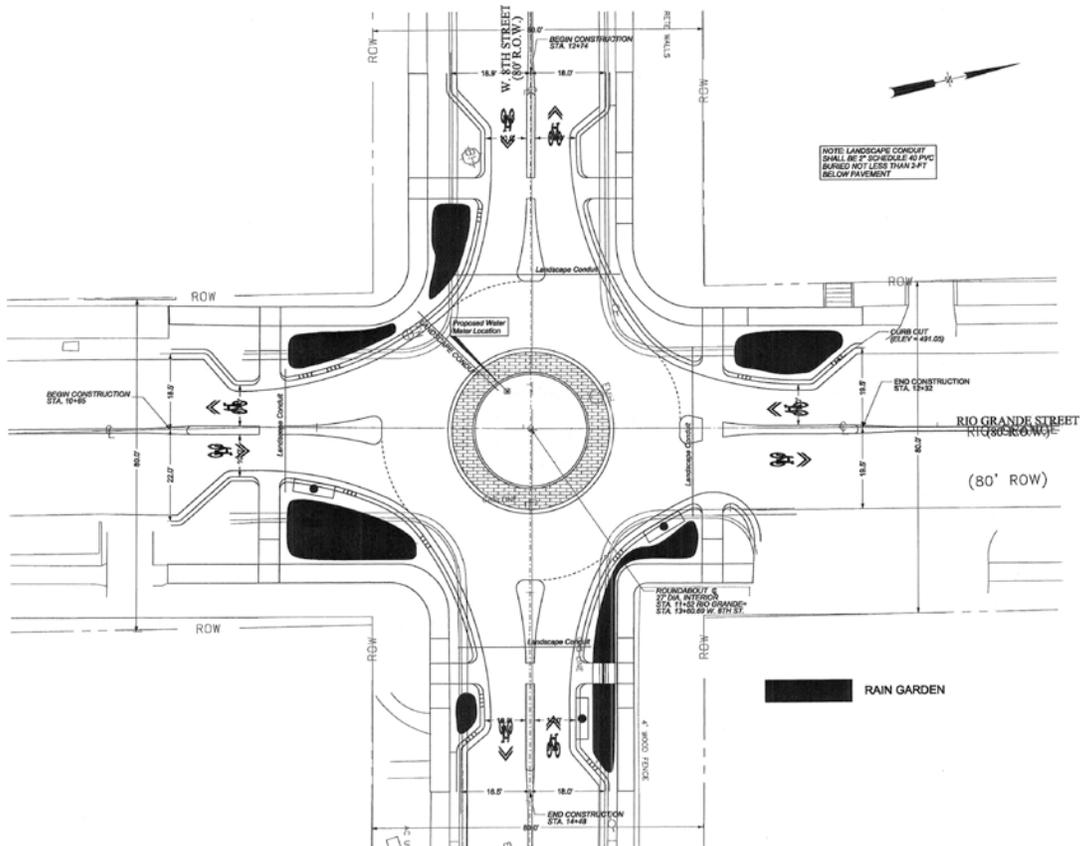
TBD 2014

Artwork installed

Drawings for Site 1

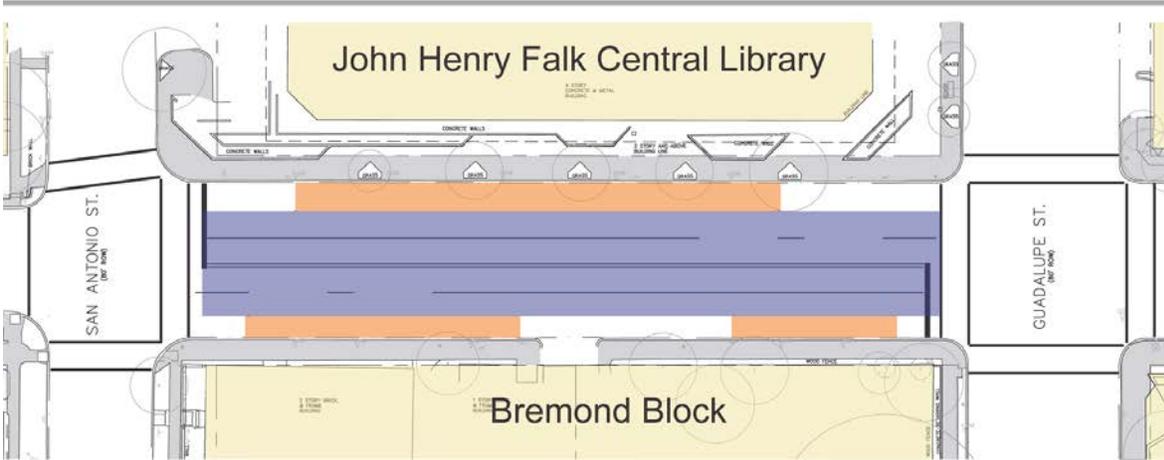


Traffic circle at Rio Grande; plan view with bicycle striping and signage.

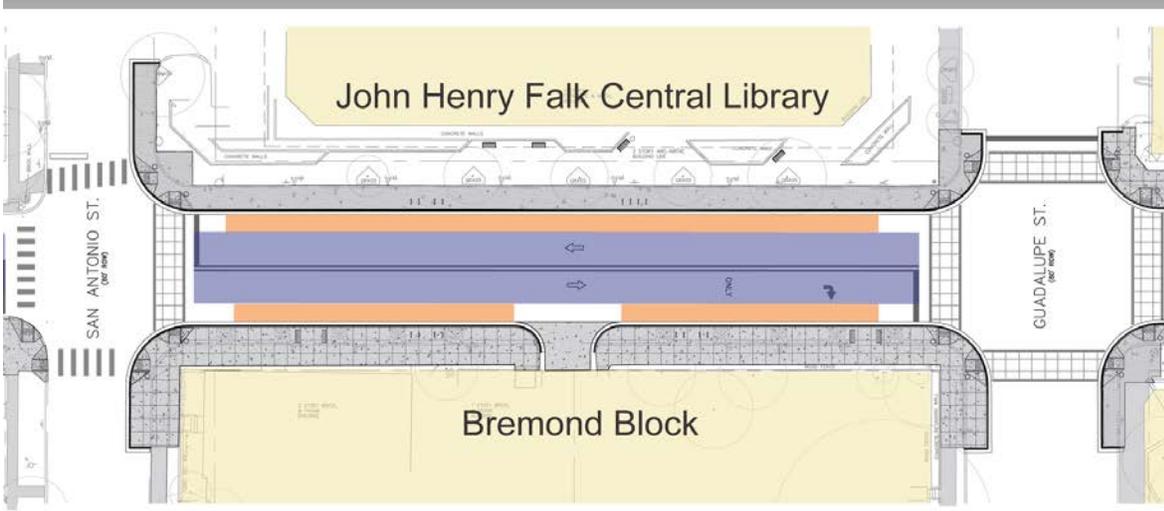


The traffic circle at Rio Grande; plan view with rain garden locations

Drawings for Site 2



Current Street View

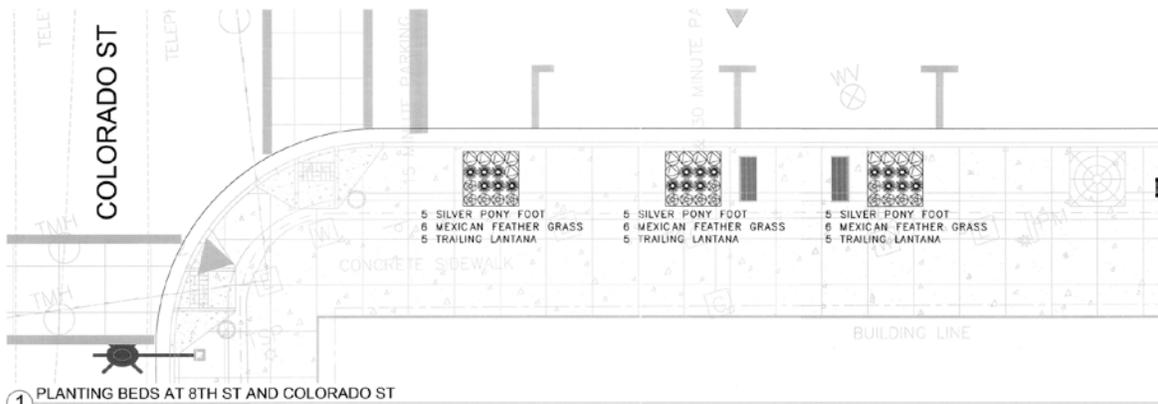


Post Construction Street View

- Buildings
- Sidewalks
- Parking
- Street



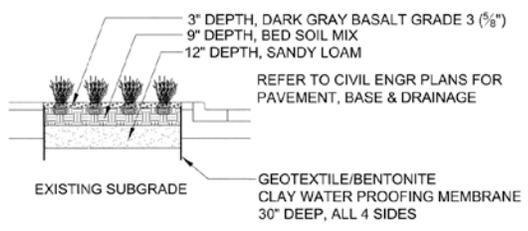
Comparison of current configuration between Guadalupe and San Antonio Streets and the planned streetscape with widened sidewalks and reduced traffic lanes.



① PLANTING BEDS AT 8TH ST AND COLORADO ST
SCALE: 1"=5'

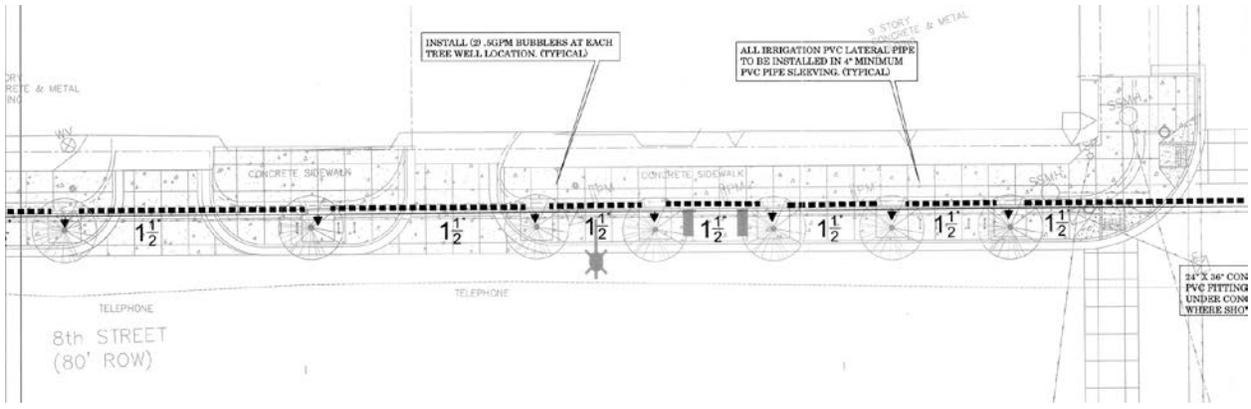
PLANT SCHEDULE

SYM	QTY	SIZE	NAME	SPACING
	18	1 GAL	Stipa tenuissima MEXICAN FEATHER GRASS	18" OC
	15	1 GAL	Dichondra argentea SILVER PONYFOOT	18" OC
	15	1 GAL	Lantana montevidensis TRAILING LANTANA	18" OC



② SECTION AT PLANTING BED
SCALE: 1"=2'

Typical Landscape plan (8th and Colorado).



Typical Landscape plan.

Contact/Questions

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