



Request for Qualifications

Project: Auditorium Shores Trailhead

Budget: \$28,500

Deadline: Thursday, June 27, 2013, 5:00pm(CST)

Project Summary

The City of Austin Art in Public Places (AIPP) program of the Cultural Arts Division, Economic Growth & Redevelopment Services Office (EGRSO) will seek to commission a professional visual artist or art team to design and fabricate artwork for the Auditorium Shores Trailhead area, located immediately west of the First Street Bridge near the south shore of Lady Bird Lake. The artwork should respond to the issue of climate change in Central Texas through specific project goals. The City of Austin will request qualifications from professional visual artists who live and work within 35 miles of Austin, Texas. One artist or artist team and one alternate will be recommended for the project.

The total budget available for artwork is \$28,500.

The application deadline is Thursday, June 27, 2013, 5:00 pm(CST).

Project Background

The City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department will be undertaking improvements to the Auditorium Shores Trailhead area to improve traffic circulation provide overall park amenities and enhance the aesthetic appeal. In an effort to create a destination location, the changes will include minor trail enhancements, new restrooms, an expanded parking lot, a new mobile vending area, an improved rest and stretch area, and a chilled drinking water station. The parking lot circulation will be improved to allow traffic to enter and exit more easily from West Riverside Drive. The project includes a water retention pond located within the parking lot that will improve the quality of water flowing into the lake. The hike and bike trail beneath the First Street Bridge will be widened to 15 feet and will include improved lighting and water drainage. TBG Partners, Inc. serve as the design consultants on the project, and are expected to complete the design by spring 2013, with construction estimated to begin in fall 2013.

Public Art Intent and Goals

The AIPP program seeks to commission works of art of redeeming quality that advance public understanding of visual art and to enhance the aesthetic quality of public places through the selection of a qualified artist who can creatively and thoughtfully design within the context of this project. For the Auditorium Shores Trailhead project, the AIPP program seeks to commission a contemporary work of art that satisfies the following goals:

- » Addresses the concept of climate change and its impact on the Central Texas environment, including but not limited to conditions of rain, drought, temperature, water conservation, flora/fauna/human ecosystems, and impact on natural resources;
- » Foster engagement between the artwork and the community through social interaction;
- » Incorporate new technology or on-site data collection to facilitate public dialogue and/or raise awareness about change in climate and environmental conditions.

Budget

The funds for this project are derived from the 2%-for-public-art portion of the estimated construction budgets of the Auditorium Shores Trailhead renovations. The total artwork budget is \$28,500, including design, fabrication and installation, permitting fees, travel and shipping expenses, insurance and other project related costs.

Artwork Opportunity

The artist has the opportunity to design a contemporary artwork that addresses the environmental impact of climate change in central Texas. The scientific community, both locally and globally, is continually working to better understand climate change and its effects, and how both the earth's environment and human societies will adapt to or cope with climate change. Current research focuses on those areas where the consequences of climate change on air quality, water quality, human health and ecosystem health are most observable. Austin's own environmental change can be examined in light of a variety of socio-scientific factors. This area of inquiry is ripe for artistic exploration and interpretation through a public art intervention at the Trailhead site.

It is desired for the artist to incorporate technology in some way, or to draw upon data provided by on-site instruments collected by the local scientific community. The artwork may engage electronic data from a rain gauge to be placed on site by the City's Watershed Protection Department, or may relate to or incorporate other scientific/technological tools. The artwork may involve various forms of light and/or sound, and may be informed by data collected from the rain gauge relating to rain measurement, wind speed, etc. A variety of durable materials suited for an outdoor environment may be considered, and any digital or electronic technology that is incorporated in the work should be expected to last at a minimum of 5-10 years, depending on its form and function, without significant deterioration or damage.

The artwork cannot be sited in or close to the banks of Lady Bird Lake, must be sited outside the flood plain, and must not engage the existing gazebo due to preservation concerns. However, there are several other available areas to site artwork within the Trailhead. Once under contract, the artist will have the opportunity to work closely with City staff and consultants in determining exact artwork site (see map on page 5).

Artist Eligibility

Professional visual artists at least 18 years of age residing within 35 miles of Austin are eligible. Full-time, permanent City of Austin employees including employees of the Public Works Department and the Economic Growth & Redevelopment Services Office and project consultants and their employees and sub-consultants are ineligible.

Evaluation Criteria

The selection of an artist shall be based on the qualifications that best meet the requirements contained in this Project Outline. In addition to the standard AIPP project selection criteria (<http://www.austintexas.gov/aipp/selectioncriteria.htm>) found on the website, 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; and
- » Willingness, interest and ability to design a work of art in the context of Parks and Recreation Department.

Selection Process

A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) will be solicited from professional visual artists living within 35 miles of Austin, TX. The City of Austin AIPP Panel will convene a separate Selection Panel to evaluate the submissions. Artist(s) may be selected directly from the submitted applications or through an interview process. The Selection Panel shall review artist qualifications (images of work, resume, letter of interest, references) and select one artist and one alternate for the project. This recommendation will be presented to the AIPP Panel and the Austin Arts Commission for approval.

Selection Panel

The three-member Selection Panel will include at least one visual artist. Selection Panelists include:

Ed Sapir - founder/owner of Util
Ann Armstrong - artist
Lana Denkeler - coordinator at Sustainable Sites Initiative

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

Rey Hernandez, PARD, Park Planning, Design and Construction
Robert Egan, Public Works, Project Manager
Susan Janek, Watershed Protection and Development Review
Marc Coudert, Office of Sustainability, Environmental Program Coordinator
Justin Lindabury, TBG Partners, Inc.

Submission Requirements

Applicants must submit applications through www.PublicArtist.org

Contact/Questions

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Schedule

April 15, 2013

Request for Qualifications (RFQ) released

May 30, 2013

Artist information meeting

June 27, 2013

Deadline for RFQ submission

July 16, 2013

Selection Panelist review of submissions and selection of finalist and alternate

August 5, 2013

Approval of artist and alternate by AIPP Panel

August 19, 2013

Approval of artist and alternate by Arts Commission

September 2013

Artist under contract

November 2013

Mid-Design review

January 2014

Final-Design review

Spring 2014

Artwork installation



Town Lake Park - Auditorium Shores / Butler Park

Trailhead Schematic

March 12, 2012