



## Request for Qualifications

Project: Montopolis Parking Lot Expansion Project

Budget: \$42,000

Deadline: Thursday, March 20, 2014, 5:00 pm CST

## 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 the Montopolis Parking Lot Expansion project located at 1416 Montopolis Drive in southeast Austin. The artwork should be interactive and family oriented as it relates to the specific project goals. The City of Austin requests qualifications from professional visual artists who live or work within 150 miles of Austin, Texas. One artist or artist team and one alternate will be recommended for the project.

The total budget available for this project is \$42,000.

The application deadline is Thursday, March 20, 2014, 5:00 pm CST.

## Project Background

Montopolis Neighborhood Center is a center that provides services for low and moderate-income families such as supplemental nutrition and guidance for WIC clients, immunizations, STD & Tuberculosis screenings. The facility is increasing the number of parking spaces at Montopolis Neighborhood Center to include an additional nine parking spaces and resurface the existing lots.

Health and Human Services Department is in need of adequate space for departmental operations as the demand for services increase. A parking lot expansion for the Montopolis Neighborhood Center is needed to increase clients' access to services. Montopolis Neighborhood Center has 13 parking spaces, 8 of which are used by staff. WIC, Women, Infants and Children, Program is the primary program at this site. WIC has about 19,000 participants annually at the Montopolis Neighborhood Center.

Construction is scheduled to begin in October 2014. The anticipated project completion date is January 2015. The building may change from community based services to administrative based services estimated in 2017.

## Montopolis WIC Center

The neighborhood center provides a variety of social services to low and moderate-income families in need. The facility provides food pantry and bread distribution, clothes closet, child safety seats, notary service, employment information and referrals, and information and referrals to community resources and case management. The seasonal program services include Christmas Bureau application, income tax assistance, Coats for Kids vouchers and Thanksgiving baskets.

## Public Art Intent & Goals

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 who can innovatively and thoughtfully design within the context of this project. For the Montopolis Neighborhood Center, the AIPP program seeks to commission a contemporary work of art that is interactive and family oriented.

The goals of this specific public art project are:

- » to develop a family friendly experience intended for an exterior environment that is integrated into the campus;
- » to engage the facility users through an innovative and interactive visual artwork;
- » to consider the diverse community served by the center and the surrounding neighborhood.

## 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 \$42,000, inclusive of design, fabrication and installation, including permitting fees, travel and shipping expenses, insurance and other project related costs.

## Artwork Opportunity

Though the scope of renovations mainly includes the facility parking lot, the potential artwork opportunities could include: the new concrete path to the entrance of the facility, the front lawn area facing Montopolis Drive, the community garden, or other areas of the campus or aspects of the facility, subject to discussion with the project team. There are several highly visible locations within the campus that could provide the selected artist with available space to create artwork that is pedestrian-scale, family-oriented, and interactive or kinetic. The selected artist will work closely with the project team to integrate the artwork into the site and coordinate with the construction schedule, if appropriate.

## Artist Eligibility

Professional visual artists at least 18 years of age who live or work within 150 miles of Austin, Texas are eligible to apply.

Full-time, permanent City of Austin employees including employees of the Health and Human Services Department and the Economic Development Department, and project consultants and their employees and sub-consultants are ineligible to apply.

## Evaluation Criteria

The selection of an artist, or artist team, shall be based on whose qualifications best meet the requirements contained in this Project Outline.

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](http://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; and
- » expressed interest in creating artwork within the community setting.

## Selection Process

A Request for Qualifications will be solicited to professional visual artists who live and work within 150 miles of Austin, Texas. The City of Austin Art in Public Places Panel will convene a selection panel to evaluate the submissions. The selection panel shall review qualifications (images of work, resume, letter of interest, references) and select one artist or artist team and one alternate. This recommendation will be presented to the Art in Public Places Panel and Arts Commission for approval.

## Selection Committee (Selection Panel & Project Advisors)

A 3-member selection panel shall be selected that includes at least 1 visual artist. Possible selection panel members include:

- » Paloma Mayorga - Artist and Assistant Director, Coronado Studio
- » Juliet Whitsitt - Public Programs Manager, The Thinkery
- » Brady Foster - Artist, The Metal Authority

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:

- » David Taylor - Project Manager, Public Works Department, City of Austin
- » Raymundo Minjarez - AIA, Project Manager, Public Works, City of Austin
- » Filip Gecic - Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department, City of Austin
- » Annette Phinney - Montopolis WIC center manager

No gallery owner, dealer, or art agent may serve as a juror due to the potential for conflict of interest. No juror may serve more than once in any two-year period in an attempt to bring a diversity of interests to the selection process and to more precisely match the expertise of the jury members to each project.

## Submission Requirements

Applicants must submit applications through [www.PublicArtist.org](http://www.PublicArtist.org)

## Contact/Questions

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Art in Public Places Coordinator  
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## Schedule

### *January 2014*

*Approval of Artist Selection Process by AIPP Panel and Austin Arts Commission*

### *February 3, 2014*

*Request for Qualifications (RFQ) released*

### *February 19 and 26, 2014*

*Project information meeting*

### *March 20, 2014*

*Deadline for RFQ submission*

### *March 31, 2014*

*Selection Committee review of submissions and selection of finalists for interview  
Finalist interviews*

### *April 7, 2014*

*Approval of Artist and Alternate by AIPP Panel*

### *April 21, 2014*

*Approval of Artist and Alternate by Arts Commission*

### *May 2014*

*Execute Artist's contract*

### *July 7, 2014*

*Mid-Design review*

### *September 8, 2014*

*Final Design review*

### *December 2014*

*Artwork installed*

### *January 2015*

*Anticipated project completion*



Montopolis Neighborhood Center



Northeast view of front lawn area



Northwest view of front lawn area



Montopolis Neighborhood Center proposed site plan