

## REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Project: University Hills Branch Library

Budget: \$55,000

Artist Information Meeting: 7:00 – 8:00 pm, September 16, 2015

**DEADLINE TO APPLY: 5:00 pm, October 15, 2015**

### Project Summary

The City of Austin Art in Public Places (AIPP) program of the Cultural Arts Division, Economic Development Department, seeks to commission a professional visual artist, or artist team, to design, fabricate, and install artwork for the University Hills Branch Library located at 4721 Loyola Ln in Austin.

AIPP requests qualifications from professional visual artists, or artist teams, who live in the Austin metropolitan area. This includes Travis, Williamson, Bastrop, Caldwell, and Hays counties. The total budget available for this project is \$55,000.



### Project Background and Branch Statistics

Renovations at University Hills Branch Library include expanding the parking lot to accommodate 25 additional parking spaces, sidewalk improvements and landscape enhancements. The building has not been renovated since its completion in 1987.

In 2014, the University Hills Branch was visited over 100,000 times, had over 91,000 materials checked out, and public internet stations were used over 30,000 times. The branch also offered 2746 youth,

teen, and adult programs the same year. This busy branch serves one of Austin's most diverse neighborhoods and is currently the eastern-most branch of the Austin Public Library system.

## Branch History

In 1983, local developer Walter Carrington donated a piece of land to the City at the intersection of Loyola Lane and Springdale Avenue, land that could be used as a site for a new library in University Hills. The Austin City Council voted unanimously to accept the land donation and a formal dedication ceremony was held for the branch on March 7, 1987.

In 1988, *Color At Play* by Mary Visser (right) was donated to the library by Walter and Raye Carrington in memory of Cathy Carrington and Adriana Visser. In 1990 it received a Design Excellence Award from the Austin Design Commission. It was for years located at the entrance to the library, but was deaccessioned in 2009 when the interior framework was found to be damaged beyond repair.



## Public Art Intent & Goals

Art in Public Places 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. The goal of the University Hills Branch Library Project is to select an artist who will, in collaboration with the project's design team, design artwork that:

- » strengthens the identity of the library by providing a visually engaging landmark visible to motorists and pedestrians;
- » reflects the character of the surrounding neighbourhoods and the diverse population served by the library;
- » is accessible physically and conceptually by all ages of library patrons and neighborhood residents;
- » is made of durable, low maintenance materials suitable for exterior applications; and
- » enriches the depth and breadth of the City's public art collection.

## 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 \$55,000, inclusive of design team collaboration, design, fabrication, and installation of artwork (including shipping expenses and insurance), travel, 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, in consultation with the City staff and project stakeholders. **The artwork must be located**

near the entrance to the library (exterior), as shown below, and may include alterations to the existing landscape that enhance the siting of the artwork. Possible opportunities will be discussed in more detail during the Artist Information Meeting. A variety of media suitable for exterior applications will be considered. It is expected that the selected artist(s) will engage with the local community to develop the design of the artwork. The design of the artwork must address the goals stated above.



## Artist Information Meeting

An Artist Information Meeting will be held at the University Hills Branch Library on Wednesday, September 16, 2015 from 7:00 – 8:00 pm. AIPP and Library staff will be presenting information about the project and artwork opportunity. AIPP staff will also review the application procedures. The presented materials, along with Q&A, will be posted to City's website after the meeting:

[www.austintexas.gov/departments/aipp-opportunities](http://www.austintexas.gov/departments/aipp-opportunities).

## Artist Eligibility

A Request for Qualifications will be solicited from professional visual artists, or artist teams, **who live in the Austin metropolitan area**. 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.

*Artists who currently have one active contract with the Art in Public Places program or who have more than two commissioned permanent projects in the AIPP Collection 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 Request for Qualifications.

In addition to the standard 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](http://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/aipp_selection_criteria.pdf)), the Selection

Panel will review and consider the following evaluation criteria:

- » technical expertise;
- » demonstrated ability to successfully execute public art projects, of a similar scope, on time and on budget;
- » expressed interest in creating artwork in a library setting.

## Selection Process

**Applications must be received online via [www.PublicArtist.org](http://www.PublicArtist.org)** no later than 5:00 pm on October 15, 2015. For technical assistance with your application, please contact [info@publicartist.org](mailto:info@publicartist.org) or 210-701-0775 (9:00 am – 5:00 pm).

AIPP staff will convene a three member Selection Panel to evaluate the submissions. **Up to three finalists will be selected for interviews.** The Selection Panel will review qualifications (images of work, resume, letter of interest, references), interview finalists, and select one artist and one alternate. This recommendation will be presented to the Art in Public Places Panel and Arts Commission for approval.



The Project Advisors to the Selection Panel will include:

- » Crystal Pirone, Library Department, City of Austin
- » John Gillum, Library Department, City of Austin
- » Heidi Tse, Library Department, City of Austin
- » Chris McCray, Art in Public Places Panel

## Schedule (subject to change)

### **2015**

September 16	Artist Information Meeting at University Hills Branch Library
October 15	RFQ Deadline
Week of October 26	Selection Panel reviews applications and selects finalists
Week of November 16	Finalist interviews
December 7	Selection Process Recommendation presented to AIPP Panel
December 14	Selection Process Recommendation presented to AIPP Panel

### **2016**

January TBD	Project Kick-Off meeting
March 7	Mid-Design presentation to AIPP Panel (for discussion)

February TBD	Site construction begins
May 2	Final Design presentation to AIPP Panel (for approval)
May 16	Final Design presentation to Arts Commission (for approval)
October	Construction complete (tentative)
TBD	Artwork installation

### Contact/Questions

Carrie Brown, Art in Public Places project manager  
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