



Request for Qualifications

Project: *2nd Street Bridge and Roadway Extension
(Shoal Creek to West Avenue)*
Budget: \$166,000
Deadline: February 13, 2012 at 5 p.m.

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 artist or artist team to create a **work of exterior art that is engaging for families and children** for the 2nd Street Bridge and Roadway Extension (Shoal Creek to West Avenue) Art in Public Places project.

The City of Austin requests qualifications from professional visual artists who live and work in the state of Texas. One artist/artist team and one alternate will be recommended for the project, which may involve interviewing finalists. The selected artist or artist team will be awarded a design and commission contract after approval by City Council.

The budget for design, fabrication and installation of the artwork is \$166,000.

Submission deadline is 5 PM, Monday, February 13, 2012.

Project Background

The City of Austin is constructing a new road and bridge in the Seaholm District, specifically a new portion of 2nd Street, which will extend from the east side of Shoal Creek to proposed West Avenue (at the decommissioned Seaholm Power Plant). Construction will include approximately 550 linear feet of new road and sidewalks, including an approximately 250' bridge over Shoal Creek.

The project will follow *woonerf* (or festival streets) design concept so that the area between the New Central Library and the Seaholm Substation Wall Art In Public Places project is experienced as a plaza, with pedestrians and vehicles kept separated by bollards lining the street.

The funding for this project comes from proceeds from the sale of the Thomas C. Green Water Treatment Plant and the Austin Energy Control Center.

A key adjacent project, the New Central Library, will provide a high tech, cultural and information center for the area, offering engaging programs and services for all ages. It will be a state-of-the-art library that inspires discovery and major downtown destination. Other amenities will include a bike porch, reading porches, a café, retail outlet of Recycle Read bookstore, and opportunities to take classes and engage with the community.



Site Location for the 2nd Street Bridge and Roadway Extension (Shoal Creek to West Avenue) AIPP Project.

The Seaholm District as a whole will be a focal area in west downtown Austin which will attract residents, visitors, library customers, bicyclists and pedestrians, families and children, shoppers, diners, and those seeking entertainment and culture.

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. The artwork is intended to serve as a lively and engaging piece for the community of Austin. The goal of this specific public art project is to select an artist who will create a work that will:

- » be a unique work of contemporary art for the public;
- » be dynamic and engaging for children and families;
- » function well within the context of the site and its surrounding land uses;
- » create artwork that is easily maintained and safe.

Budget

A maximum amount of \$166,000 is available for the public art project. The selected artist(s) will be responsible for all aspects of design, fabrication and construction including design and fees, travel expenses, insurance, and installation costs.

Artwork Opportunity

This artwork opportunity is open to a wide range of ideas to be proposed by the selected artist. The completed artwork should engage children and families in a form of sensory interaction with the work (potentially through sound, touch or light).

The artwork is to be located at an exterior location, in an area bordered by the New Central

Library to the west, 2nd Street and the new bridge to the north, Shoal Creek to the east and Cesar Chavez to the south. The artwork cannot be placed within the floodplain.



The exact scope and location of the artwork will be based upon the artist's vision and discussions between the artist and the design team. Due to the challenges for maintenance of the artwork, only artwork of substantial durability and low maintenance needs will be considered.

Artist Eligibility

Professional visual artists at least 18 years of age residing in Texas are eligible to apply.

Full-time, permanent City of Austin employees, all employees of the Economic Growth & Redevelopment Services Office and the sponsor department (Public Works), including their employees, project consultants, and sub-consultants are ineligible to apply.

Evaluation Criteria

The selection of an artist or artist team shall be based on whose qualifications best meets the requirements contained in this Request for Qualifications.

In addition to the standard AIPP project selection criteria found on the City of Austin's Art in Public Places website (<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/aipp/selectioncriteria.htm>), the Selection Panel will consider the following qualification evaluation criteria:

- ⇒ ability to effectively engage with design professionals, community stakeholders and user groups;
- ⇒ demonstrated successful, innovative and effective approach to public art projects of a similar scale or scope;
- ⇒ artistic merit and technical expertise;
- ⇒ ability to successfully execute a public art project;

Selection Process

The City of Austin Art in Public Places Panel will convene a selection panel to evaluate the submissions. Artists may be selected directly from the initial submitted applications or through an interview process. The selection panel shall review qualifications (images of work, resume, letter of interest, references) by artists to select one artist and one alternate for the project. This recommendation will be presented to the Art in Public Places Panel and Arts Commission for approval.

Submission Requirements

Applicants must submit the following materials through the *ASAPP!* online application system. The system may be accessed by visiting <http://www.austintexas.gov/aipp/opportunities.htm>

FIRST: Register with *ASAPP!*

Please be prepared to submit the following:

Professional resume - (artist registry step 1 of 3)

Please outline your experience as a visual artist/design professional. If applying as a team, please enter information as a team and include resumes for each team member in the *ASAPP!* registry system.

Three references - (artist registry step 2 of 3)

Please include the names and contact information for 3 individuals with whom you have worked, collaborated or who have commissioned your work in the past. Actual letters of reference are not required and will not be accepted.

Digital images - (artist registry step 3 of 3)

Upload a minimum of 10 images (maximum of 40) demonstrating your past work. Installation or 3-dimensional work may be illustrated by multiple images. **Formatting requirements:**

- Images must be uploaded in .jpg format.
- Images must be uploaded as RGB color, rather than CMYK or anything else.
- Image size must not exceed 800 pixels wide x 600 pixels high, and 72 dpi. *Note: dimensions are not interchangeable, images cannot be 800(h).*
- File size cannot exceed 400KB.

Note: AIPP is not responsible for distortion/alteration of images as they appear on monitors or projected.

NEXT: Apply for Call to Artists

Please be prepared to submit:

Digital images - (10 - 15 images)

Select a minimum of 10 images (maximum of 15) from your registry profile to apply for the call. Artist teams must have each team member's work represented in the 10 - 15 images selected for review.

Letter of Interest (2000 character limit)

Briefly describe your specific interest in the 2nd Street Bridge and Roadway Extension (Shoal Creek to West Avenue) Art in Public Places Project and explain why your qualifications are a good fit for this project.

Artist Information Meeting

AIPP Staff will be providing a meeting to present information on the project and answer questions from interested artists. It is scheduled for **January 18, 2012 from noon – 1 pm in the Boards and Commissions Room at City Hall, 301 2nd Street , Austin, TX 78701.**

We plan to post the meeting as a webinar afterward, via this link:

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/aipp/opportunities.htm>

Important Instructions

- o All artists/design professionals must submit via the *ASAPP!* online application system. Hardcopies, emails submittals and/or CDs WILL NOT be accepted.
- o Applications received after 5 pm on February 13, 2012 will not be considered.
- o If your work is best represented by other media types (video or audio), please call Susan Lambe, AIPP project coordinator, for instructions. 512.974.7852.
- o E-mail is the fastest way to get the latest project opportunities and information from AIPP! Sign up for our e-mail newsletter through our website, at www.cityofaustin.org/aipp

Tentative Schedule *(subject to change)*

December 22, 2012	RFQ released
January 18, 2012	Artist Information Meeting
February 13, 2012	Deadline for submission of Qualifications
February 24, 2012	Selection Panel convenes.
March 2012	Approval of Selected Artist and Alternate
April 2012	City Council authorizes contract negotiation
June 2012	Mid-Design review
September 2012	Final Design review
Estimated August 2013	Construction on Bridge and Roadway Extension begins
Estimated Fall 2015	Artwork installation
Estimated December 2015	Project opening and dedication.

Contact/Questions

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