

Art in Public Places Program  
City of Austin Cultural Arts Division  
201 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Austin, Texas 78701  
512.974.9310 / [www.austincreates.com](http://www.austincreates.com)



## Request for Qualifications (Design Team Artist)

**Project:** CONRAC at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport

**Design Team Artist Fee:** \$140,000

**Artwork Fabrication/Installation Budget:** \$1,260,000

**Artist Information Meeting (interactive webcast):**

Thursday, May 3, 2012 (11 am, CST)

**Deadline to Apply: Monday, May 21, 2012 (5 pm, CST)**

### 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 an experienced public artist to participate as part of the design team for the Consolidated Rental Car Facility (CONRAC) Art in Public Places project at the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport. The selected artist will collaborate with the design team to create integrated artwork for the new facility and add an artistic perspective to the overall design.

The City of Austin requests qualifications from experienced public artists who live and work in the United States. Up to four finalists will be selected and interviewed. From the group of finalists, one artist or artist team and one alternate will be recommended for the project.

Involving an artist on the design team for the CONRAC facility is a unique opportunity to contribute an integrated artwork approach to the building aesthetic and create a signature work of art for the Airport. Because of its prominent location, integration of public art as a design element of the new facility is a priority. To capitalize on this opportunity, funding has been identified for an artist to collaborate with the design team, contributing to the shared vocabulary and materials of the base project to artistically enhance the building.

### Project Background

The City of Austin Aviation Department and a consortium of rental car companies plan to build a new, 1,450,000 sq.ft. parking garage and CONRAC facility on surface parking Lot A, located immediately behind the existing parking garage (See Figure 1.) In 2010, the City Council authorized CONRAC developers to begin a construction design and pricing plan phase. This aggressive phase includes schematic design, construction document development, scheduling, initial permitting and operational strategies for the long term.

The need for a CONRAC is based on the current situation at ABIA wherein the airport's rental car staging and return space have been located on the third level of the airport terminal parking garage. Rental cars are separated from the rental car counters and offices inside the terminal on the bag claim level. In addition, each rental car company operates a remote service center located approximately one mile northwest of the terminal from which it fuels, washes and cleans vehicles before each rental. As passenger traffic increased over the years, it became apparent that there was a need for additional rental car staging, ready return space and additional covered public parking; all within walking distance to the terminal building.

**The new CONRAC is expected to:**

- Provide more operating space for the rental car companies;
- Provide the airport with more public parking;
- Provide a number of quick turnaround areas (QTA) with close-in rental car vehicle fueling, cleaning and storage facilities adjacent to the new facility;
- Reduce the need to ferry vehicles back and forth between the terminal and the remote service centers thereby lessening traffic on Presidential Blvd.; and
- Diminish motor vehicle exhaust and air pollution by eliminating maintenance and ferry trips to remote service locations.

**Projected Project Schedule**

CONRAC will use a public-private partnership business model allowing the rental car companies to take the lead on the design, construction and financing of this project and thus expedite project delivery. The design developer will provide cost estimates during the design phase and provide a stipulated sum price based on design documents by November 2012. After the final cost presentations are made to the City and the rental car company representatives, construction bonds are expected to be marketed in December 2012 with possible site mobilization and construction start up as early as March 2013.

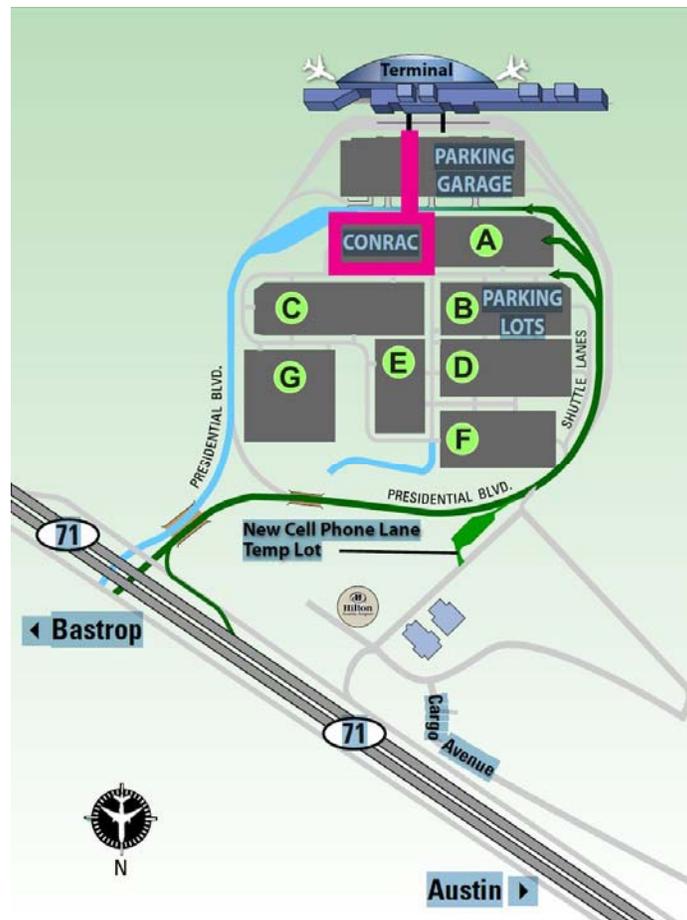


Figure 1: Site map of the new CONRAC at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport located in the eastern half of Lot A

**Austin-Bergstrom International Airport**

Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (ABIA) has served the Austin air traveler since 1999 and now serves over nine million air travelers annually. ABIA is committed to providing a sustainable air transportation portal that provides a friendly, green, Austin-style environment that reflects the nature and character of the City.

## 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 for this project will be located in a publicly accessible location and integrated with the architectural design and programmatic use of the facility. The goal of this specific public art project is to select an artist who will, in collaboration with the project's design team, design artwork that:

- » Is dynamic and visually engaging;
- » Strengthens the identity of the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport through innovative design elements;
- » Enlivens the facility users' experience;
- » Contributes to a local, regional and national contemporary art dialogue;
- » Complements the context of the Airport's architecture and operations;
- » 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 a portion of the City of Austin's contribution to the estimated construction budget. A maximum amount of \$140,000 shall be budgeted and available for all design fees associated with the selected artist's design team participation. The selected artist(s) will be responsible for development of a design and design documents to be integrated into the final construction documents. The corresponding fabrication and installation budget of \$1,260,000 shall include all necessary construction aspects of the design, including materials, labor, permitting fees, travel expenses, insurance, and other associated costs. The selected artist(s) may or may not be selected to fabricate and install the artwork.

## Artwork Opportunity

This public art opportunity is open to a wide range of ideas to be proposed by the artist(s) after selection. The artwork is to be located at an interior or exterior location on the site, in consultation with the design team (See Figure 2.) Possible locations and opportunities will be discussed in more detail during the Artist Information Meeting and finalist visit/interviews. A variety of media will be considered.

Artists may consider the entire interior or exterior of CONRAC as an artwork opportunity but are requested to place as a high priority in their design concept the pedestrian connection between the airport and the CONRAC facility (over 400 linear feet) and the open plaza area and lobby zone in the front of the building (see Figure 3). This new facility will not use fuel-consuming shuttle buses. Therefore, users will walk to and from the terminal through the pedestrian connection. Integrated artwork that promotes a dynamic pedestrian experience will be encouraged. The exterior surface treatment of the facility is also a possible option for artistic intervention.



Figure 2: Mock-up aerial view of CONRAC facility as shown in Lot A



Figure 3: CONRAC plan showing the pedestrian connection and common areas

The artist scope of work for this project will generally include, but not be limited to, the following:

- » Work collaboratively with the design team in the conceptual, schematic and design development phases of the project, and provide proposals for integrating artistic elements into the facility based on established project goals;
- » Provide initial cost estimates for the artwork fabrication and installation, and provide additional relevant input to the project team, in order to determine feasibility of constructing the artwork elements of the project within the available budget of \$1,260,000;
- » Participate in value engineering efforts required during the course of the design process to bring the project within budget;
- » Prepare, as necessary, conceptual, schematic and design development presentations for all relevant reviewing bodies and, if applicable, for release to the press and public;
- » Present, as necessary, conceptual, schematic and design development of artwork elements to all relevant reviewing bodies or stakeholder groups;
- » Provide design drawings depicting unique detailing and including all necessary specifications as required for the design team to develop and submit the final construction documents;
- » Review final construction drawings and specifications and give input as necessary;
- » Provide construction oversight, if fabrication and installation are to be handled by others.

## Artist Information Meeting

An artist information meeting will be held at City Hall (301 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street; Austin, TX 78701) in the Boards and Commissions Room, on May 3, 2012 at 11 am (CST). AIPP staff, project architect, project manager, and other members of the design team will be presenting information on the project and answering questions from interested artists. It will be in an interactive webcast format to encourage broad and remote participation, and recorded for viewing via the AIPP webpage. The interactive webinar portal will be accessible at: [www.austintexas.gov/department/aipp-opportunities](http://www.austintexas.gov/department/aipp-opportunities).

## Artist Eligibility

Professional visual artists at least 18 years of age permanently residing and legally qualified to work in the United States are eligible to apply. Full-time, permanent City of Austin employees, all employees of the Economic Growth & Redevelopment Services Office and the sponsor department (Aviation Department), including their project consultants, and sub-consultants are ineligible to apply. **Further, no artist under contract with the City of Austin Art in Public Places Program at the time of application deadline is eligible.**

## 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/sites/default/files/files/aipp\\_selection\\_criteria.pdf](http://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/aipp_selection_criteria.pdf)), the Selection Panel will consider the following qualification evaluation criteria:

- » Successful design of projects of a comparable scope and budget; and
- » Demonstrated ability to effectively engage with other design professionals, community stakeholders and user groups.

## Selection Process

Applications must be received online via the *ASAPP!* system no later than 5 pm (CST) on May 21, 2012. The City of Austin Art in Public Places Panel will convene a selection panel to evaluate artist qualifications.

Selection Panel (TBA)

Advisors include:

Janice White, CONRAC Project Manager, City of Austin Aviation Dept.  
Matt Coldwell, Exhibit Coordinator, City of Austin Aviation Dept.  
Wesley Wong, Jr., Architect, Demattei Wong Architecture (project architect)  
Rose Marie Klee, Austin Airport Advisory Panelist  
D' Ann Johnson, Austin Airport Advisory Panelist  
Murray Legge, AIA, Art in Public Places Panel Member

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

The selection panel will recommend up to four finalists to interview. Those artists will be invited to Austin for a two-day visit to meet the design team, receive an orientation on the project, tour the site, and the following day, interview with the selection panel. From those interviewed finalists, one artist/artist team and an alternate will be recommended to the Art in Public Places Panel and 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 contract to coordinate with the City and design team to develop an integrated artwork design for the project. 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.

## Submission Requirements

Applicants must submit all materials through the *ASAPP!* online application system, at [www.austintexas.gov/aipp/apply/default.cfm](http://www.austintexas.gov/aipp/apply/default.cfm)

### 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 20) demonstrating your past work. Installation or 3-dimensional work may be illustrated by multiple images. Formatting requirements:

- » Images must be uploaded in .jpg format

- » 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
- » Images must be named according to the following format example: lastname\_firstname\_01.jpg

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

## NEXT: Apply for Call to Artists

### **Digital images (10 - 20 images)**

Select a minimum of 10 images (maximum of 20) from your registry profile to apply for the call. Artist teams must have each team member's work represented in the 10 - 20 images selected for review.

### **Letter of Interest (2000-character limit)**

Briefly describe your specific interest in the CONRAC Art in Public Places Project and explain why your qualifications are well-suited for this project. Note that specific proposals are not requested and will not be reviewed at this time. The letter of interest should address the questions below:

- » What interests you about this project?
- » What themes/concepts might you explore through this project?
- » What perspective and/or experience do you bring to the project that is unique to you?
- » What is your experience collaborating with architects and other design professionals?
- » What is your experience working with large-scale construction?

## Important Instructions

- » All artists must submit via the *ASAPP!* online application system. Email, hard copies or CDs WILL NOT be accepted.
- » Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.
- » If your work is best represented by other media types (video or audio), please contact the AIPP staff for further instructions.

## Tentative Schedule

Week of Monday, April 23, 2012

RFQ released

May 3, 2012, 11 am (CST)

Artist information meeting (streaming and interactive via web)

Monday, May 21, 2012, 5 pm (CST)

Deadline for submission of qualifications

Week of June 4, 2012

Selection panel convenes to review applications and recommends up to four finalists

Week of June 25, 2012

Finalists visit Austin to view site, meet with design team, and interview with the selection panel

July 2 and 16, 2012

Approval of selected artist and alternate by Art in Public Places Panel and Austin Arts Commission

August 2, 2012

Authorization of artist contract by Austin City Council

October 2012

Preliminary design (artwork) submitted

December 2012

Mid-design (artwork) submitted

February 2013

Final design (artwork) submitted

March 2013

Construction documents complete and CONRAC construction site mobilization begins

Spring 2015

Installation complete

## Contact/Questions

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