



## CALL TO ARTISTS

### Public Art Opportunity

#### Armadillo Water Tank Mural, District 5

City of Austin (Texas): Art in Public Places (AIPP)

Call open – 10:00 a.m. CST, Tuesday, September 24, 2024

Deadline for Submissions – 7:00 p.m. CST, October 22, 2024

Submit all information via <https://www.publicartist.org/austinaipp>

### Request for Qualifications

The City of Austin Art in Public Places program (AIPP) of the Cultural Arts Division, Economic Development Department (EDD) seeks to commission one professional visual artist or artist-led team to design, fabricate and install exterior mural art at a minimum of 1,000 sq ft and a maximum of 15,000 sq ft on Armadillo Water Tank at 910 Armadillo Road, Austin, TX 78745.

### Public Artwork Goals

- A work of art of redeeming quality that advances public understanding of visual art and enhances the aesthetic quality of public places in relation to Armadillo Park and its community
- Conceptualizes a strong overall artwork design approach for all ages that integrates with the site and reflects the corresponding feelings around the surrounding natural environment
- Celebrates the historical fabric of South Austin, including the legacy of the Armadillo World Headquarters and the vibrant spirit of music, art, and creativity that defined the area and helped shape Austin's cultural identity
- Is permanent with an expected life span of at least 20 years
- Is easily maintained and vandal resistant in an exterior environment

### Project Background

The City of Austin purchased the parkland that is now Armadillo Park in 1986 and through the support and advocacy of the surrounding neighborhood and community, the park was completed in 2014. Armadillo Park provides a natural outlet for recreation and community building. Near the park is a storage tank owned by Austin Water, the City's water and wastewater utility, that is no longer in service and provides an opportunity to display public art that reflects Austin's identity and the history and importance of the Armadillo neighborhood. In 2023, Austin City Council passed Resolution No. 20230816-015 directing Austin Water to explore the feasibility of placing a mural on the Armadillo Park water storage tank. Austin Water has evaluated its water storage tank and agrees that it provides an opportunity to display public art for the community and its customers.



### Artwork Budget: \$133,000



A single commission of \$133,000 will be awarded to create one mural on Armadillo Water Tank. The total award is paid over the course of the commission with milestones at community engagement, design, fabrication, installation, and closing. AIPP recommends that selected artists or artist-led teams budget 20% for their artist design fee, 10% for contingency, and budget the remainder for all other project expenses including but not limited to: insurance, promotion, community engagement, design, all engineering, fabrication, materials,

subcontractors, travel, transportation, shipping, permits and installation.

### Eligibility

The City of Austin AIPP program strives to commission a broad range of artworks which contribute to the current dialogue in the field of visual art. AIPP defines artist as an individual recognized by critics and peers as a professional practitioner of serious intent and substantial ability.

- Experience creating 2-dimensional permanent artwork in materials suitable for exterior environments
- Austin-based visual artists who reside in the seven counties bounding the Austin metro area (Travis, Hays, Williamson, Bastrop, Caldwell, Burnet, and Blanco counties)
- at least 18 years of age

### Ineligibility

Design professionals, including architects, who do not have a consistent visual art practice are ineligible to apply as team leads, but may be a part of an artist-led team.

Artists who have more than three permanent artworks represented in the AIPP public art collection; artists who currently are under an active contract for a permanent AIPP project; and artists who have completed an AIPP project within the past year are ineligible to apply.



City of Austin full-time employees, or contractors hired by the sponsor project, are ineligible.

### Submission Requirements

1. Credentials: CV/Resume (limit 3 pages)
2. Short responses to the following questions (100-300 words per question):
  - a. Describe your artistic practice and how you are a good candidate for this particular opportunity.
  - b. As an artist approaching public art, how do you design works that respond to a particular site?
  - c. How do you collaborate or engage with community in your art practice? Please give an example of a successful public artwork with elements informed by community feedback.
  - d. Do you have a personal connection to the community or nearby communities? If so, please describe.
3. Ten images of previous work (only one image per page).
  - a. Label each image with title, date of completion, location, materials, art budget.
  - b. For team applications, please indicate the lead artist for each project; or provide an annotated image list.
  - c. IMAGES OF INCOMPLETE PROJECTS OR PROPOSAL IDEAS WILL NOT BE REVIEWED
4. Three Professional references: (names, phone numbers and email addresses)
5. Demographic Survey

### Selection Criteria

- Technical quality and aesthetic appeal of past work
- Dedicated and consistent artistic practice
- Authenticity, creativity, and innovation of work as presented
- Communication of ideas and intentions
- Ability and enthusiasm to engage the community in which the artwork will be installed
- Experience with public art projects of a relatively similar size and scope

### Selection Process

A three to five-member selection panel comprised of visual arts professionals and community representatives will review all eligible submissions. Three to five artist(s)/artists teams will be invited to interview *unless there is consensus to recommend one applicant and one alternate for each opportunity*. One applicant will be selected to receive a commission.

### Project Schedule (Subject to Change)

Submission deadline	October 22, 2024
Target Installation/Project close-out	Summer 2026

### Artist Information Meeting



AIPP staff will present information on the project and answer questions from interested artists. 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: <https://www.austintexas.gov/aipp>.

**In-Person Opportunities:**

Thursday, September 19 – 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Panel Discussion with Q&A

Canopy Projects

916 Springdale Rd, Austin TX 78702

Sunday, September 22 – 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Austin Museum Day table setup

Elisabet Ney Museum

304 E 44th St, Austin TX 78751

Thursday, October 3 – 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Artist Info Session - Spanish led with English support

Robert Turner Recreation Center

7201 Colony Loop Dr, Austin TX 78724

Saturday, October 12 – 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Community Art Bash table setup

Elisabet Ney Museum

304 E 44th St, Austin TX 78751

Monday, October 14 – 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Artist Info Session - Spanish led with English support

Del Valle High School 9th Grade Center Cafe

5201 Ross Road, Del Valle TX 78617

**Virtual Opportunities:**

Tuesday, September 24 – 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Virtual Office Hours - <https://bit.ly/EDDopenoffice>

Sunday, September 29 – 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Virtual Artist Info Session - Spanish support

[Register](#)

Tuesday, October 8 – 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Virtual Office Hours - <https://bit.ly/EDDopenoffice>



Tuesday, October 22 – 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
Virtual Office Hours - <https://bit.ly/EDDopenoffice>

*Can't make it to one of our information sessions? Check out our pre-recorded [Info Session at Art In Public Places Austin YouTube](#).*

**Questions** regarding this solicitation must be directed in writing to:  
Art in Public Places Coordinator – Bryana Iglesias, [bryana.iglesias@austintexas.gov](mailto:bryana.iglesias@austintexas.gov)