



## CALL TO ARTISTS

AUS - Airport Exterior Gateway Public Art Opportunities

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

Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (AUS)

Deadline for Submissions – 5:00PM CST: June 2023

### REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

AUS invites artists and artist-led teams to submit qualifications to be considered for the design, fabrication and installation of a large-scale exterior sculptural installation with light as a prominent feature.

### BACKGROUND

AUS is owned by the City of Austin and operated by the Department of Aviation. Located on the former Airforce base, Bergstrom field, it is the busiest non-hub airport in state of Texas. On any given day, over 40,000 passengers pass through the airport. The Airport Expansion Development Program (AEDP) intends to add twelve boarding bridges with three new gates, expand food court/retail marketplace, increase security screening areas and improve outbound baggage handling systems, a “Mobility Assistance Zone and Lounge” as well as build significant atrium infill project. Related airside expansion will include improvements to aircraft apron facilities, taxiway areas and remain over-night accommodations.

AUS is designed to make you feel as though you are right in the heart of the region. Located about five miles southeast of downtown, Austin the airport is not just Austin's airport, it is the gateway to the Central Texas Region that provides international air travel access to the Greater Austin Metro (includes five counties with nearly 2.5 million people) as well as to parts of Waco and Houston Texas. AEDP Programmatic documents will continue to change until iterations of design development are complete. The AEDP will provide near-term improvements through a series of design-build construction projects taking place over the next few years on the south side of AUS's airfield. These projects will help the airport meet current and future air service demands by enhancing passenger and aircraft flow, terminal amenities, roadways and airfield improvements.

### GATEWAY PROJECT OVERVIEW

A journey through Austin Bergstrom International Airport (AUS) often begins on the roadways to and from the airport. Located less than eight miles from downtown Austin, Texas, this origination/destination airport offers nonstop service to over 70 destinations in the U.S., Canada, Mexico and Europe. It serves over 40,000 passengers daily and is the largest non-hub airport in Texas. The choreography of vehicular traffic is as busy and nuanced as the adjacent air traffic. For the **Gateway project: Hello/Goodbye**, artists and artist-led teams are invited to submit qualifications to be considered for design, fabrication, and installation of a significant large-scale artwork opportunity. The artwork installation or series of artworks will stand as an aesthetic port of entry to AUS. Whether

arriving or departing, the artwork will offer salutations to all drivers and passengers coming to and from the airport.

The selected artist or artist-led team should find inspiration from siting artwork beneath the natural beauty of Austin's expansive and magnificent skies, while also imagining an elegant lighting experience that is as smart as it is visually stunning. Special regard should be given to the resident fauna: the many species of other flying animals whose habitats are all around us. Ultimately, the artwork should result in a balanced design with the use of lighting and structure that are equally impactful day and night. The selected team will be challenged to create an indelible impression and unforgettable sense of place.

### **ELIGIBILITY – NATIONAL COMPETITION**

Austin-area artists and artist-led teams as well as those working nationally with demonstrated experience creating large-scale work with combined lighting suitable for outdoors are considered eligible for this opportunity. Members of an artist-led team could include (but not limited to) visual artists, sculptors, digital programmers and lighting designers.

### **APPROXIMATE BUDGET: \$3,500,000**

The total artwork project budget is **\$3,500,000** inclusive of artists' design fees, engineering, permitting, machining and fabrication, transportation, installation, travel, shipping expenses, insurance, and other artwork project-related costs. Only one commission will be awarded for this opportunity.

### **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS**

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 by broadly awarding commissions among local, state and national artists. AIPP defines artist as an individual recognized by critics and peers as a professional practitioner of serious intent and substantial ability in the visual, performing, or literary art.

Austin area artists as well as artists working regionally and nationally (over the age of 18) with demonstrated experience creating interactive work are eligible to apply.

Applicants not meeting minimum qualifications will be withdrawn from consideration.

### **INELIGIBILITY**

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

Artists who have more than three permanent artworks represented in the City of Austin's Art in Public Places public art collection; artists who currently are under

contract with the City of Austin for a permanent Art in Public Places project; and artists who have completed an AIPP project within the past year are ineligible to apply.

Additionally, City of Austin full-time employees and architects or other designers currently contracted with AUS are ineligible.

## **SELECTION PROCESS**

A five-member selection panel comprised of visual arts professionals and members of the AUS design team will review all eligible submissions. Up to five artists or artist-led teams may be shortlisted, invited to interview and requested to prepare a conceptual proposal as a part of the interview process for a fee of \$1,500. The selection panel reserves the right to recommend one artist or artist-led team and one alternate at the time of initial review. Only one artist or artist-led team will be awarded this commission.

## **SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

- **Credentials:** CV/Resume (limit 2 pages)
- **Short responses** to the following questions and scenario (100-300 words per question):
  - Describe your previous experience designing and creating multi-media projects as an individual artist or artist-led team that would make you a good candidate for this opportunity.
  - How does site-specificity inform your artistic practice and what inspires how you approach your work?
  - How does your work provoke curiosity and spark wonderment?
- **Ten images** of previous work (only one image per page). Either label each image with the following information: title, date of completion, location, materials, art budget. For team application, please indicate the lead artist for each project; or provide an annotated image list as a separate document.
- **OR**
- **Five Videos** of previous work limit two minutes each. Either label each video with the following information: title, date of completion, location, materials, art budget. For team application, please indicate the lead artist for each project; or provide an annotated image list as a separate document.

IMAGES OF INCOMPLETE PROJECTS, PRELIMINARY SKETCHES, or PROPOSAL IDEAS FOR THIS PROJECT WILL NOT BE REVIEWED and COULD BE SUBJECT TO DISQUALIFICATION.

- **Three Professional references:** (names, phone numbers and email addresses)
- **Demographic survey**

## **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

The panel will evaluate applications based on the following criteria:

- Technical quality and aesthetic appeal of past work
- Relevant and applicable experience
- Authenticity, creativity and innovation of work as presented
- Communication of ideas and intentions

## **TIMELINE (subject to change)**

Information Meeting	May 13, 2023
Submission deadline	June 2023
Short-listed artists notified	August 2023
Interviews	October 2023
Selected Artist under contract	December 2023

Submit all information via [publicartist.org](http://publicartist.org).

**Questions** regarding this Call to Artist may be directed to:  
Constance Y. White [constance.white@austintexas.gov](mailto:constance.white@austintexas.gov)