



CALL TO ARTISTS

AUS – Interior Quiet Space Public Art Opportunity

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

Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (AUS)

Extended Deadline for Submissions – 5:00PM CST: June 27, 2023

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

AUS invites artists and artist-led teams to submit qualifications to be considered for a collaborative design process which could include fabrication and installation of functional and experiential elements for an area created to reduce sensory input sited within the Terminal secure area.

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.

QUIET SPACE PROJECT OVERVIEW

Although the primary function of an airport is to get people to and from their destinations safely and efficiently, a frenzied travel experience can be eased by designing an airport ambiance that imparts welcoming and calming feelings and may also provide intuitive guidance and directions to passenger amenities.

Respite is defined by Oxford languages online dictionary as: *a short period of rest or relief from something difficult or unpleasant*. The **Quiet Space: Respite**, is imagined as a tribute to silence in an otherwise chaotic environment. The space

could offer a moment of reprieve from the harried pace of moving through the airport whether passengers are deplaning or waiting to board a flight.

One or more Austin-based artists will have the opportunity to collaboratively design the contextual setting and thematic environment of a contemplative space located post-security. Sensitive consideration must be given to a ceremonially neutral experience that is welcoming to local, national and international travelers. Art features could be functional while also contributing to the experiential environment of the space. Physical and visual tactile qualities such as: glass walls/door, interior wall cladding, ceiling and acoustic panels, lighting features, floor inlays, customized seating, and soundscapes could create a calming and serene ambience.

ELIGIBILITY – OPEN TO AUSTIN-BASED ARTISTS ONLY

This opportunity is limited to Austin-based artists. No previous experience in public art is necessary. Austin artists and makers skilled in ceramics, glass, carved wood, metal sculpture, jewelry and music composition are encouraged to apply. One or more commissions may be awarded for this opportunity.

APPROXIMATE BUDGET: \$230,000

The total budget allocated for this opportunity is **approximately \$230,000**. This amount is inclusive of all artists' design fees, engineering, permitting, machining and fabrication, transportation, installation, travel, shipping expenses, insurance, and other artwork project-related costs. If multiple artists are chosen, individual budgets shall be determined by specific project scopes defined within the space after artists during the artist selection process.

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 (over the age of 18) who are currently living and working in Austin's seven-county area (Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Hays, Williamson and Travis counties) 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. Artists living outside of the Austin-area as defined above are ineligible for this opportunity.

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 may be invited to interview. The selection panel reserves the right to recommend one or more artists and one or more alternate artists at the time of the initial review. More than one artist may be awarded a commission for this opportunity.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- **Credentials:** CV/Resume (limit 2 pages)
- **Short responses** to the following questions and scenario (100-300 words per question):
 - Describe your artistic practice and why the aesthetics of your work would make you a good candidate for this opportunity.
 - How does input from a client inform your artistic practice and inspiration for creating your work?
 - Describe how you would approach collaboration if awarded this opportunity?
- **Ten images** of previous work (only one image per page). Identify each image with the following information: title, date of completion, location, materials, art budget or provide an annotated image list as a separate document.
- **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
- Dedicated and consistent artistic practice
- Authenticity, creativity and innovation of work as presented
- Communication of ideas and intentions

TIMELINE (subject to change)

Information Meeting	May 13, 2023
Submission deadline (extended)	June 27, 2023
Short-listed artists notified	August 2023
Interviews	October 2023
Selected Artist under contract	January 2024

Submit all information via <https://www.austintexas.gov/aipp>
The deadline to submit qualifications is June 27, 2023, 5:00PM CST.
Submissions received after the deadline will be considered unresponsive and will not be reviewed.

Questions regarding this Call to Artist may be directed to:
Constance Y. White constance.white@austintexas.gov