



CALL TO ARTISTS

Public Art Opportunity

City of Austin (Texas): Art in Public Places

Bergstrom Spur Trail Project

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

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 three professional visual artists or artist teams to design and fabricate artwork for the Bergstrom Spur Urban Trail, a 6.5 mile long, multi-modal trail spanning multiple communities and two Council districts in South Austin.

BACKGROUND

The Austin Public Works Urban Trails Program is developing an abandoned rail corridor into an urban trail for people walking and people on bikes. Once complete, the Bergstrom Spur Trail will be approximately 6.5 miles long and connect Vinson Drive in south Austin to East Riverside Drive and US-183 in southeast Austin, along with many other parks, neighborhoods, and destinations.

The Urban Trails Program creates, promotes, and maintains Austin’s urban trails network. The goal is for this network to help people of all ages and abilities travel from one end of the city to another in a safe and healthy way.

Urban trails are:

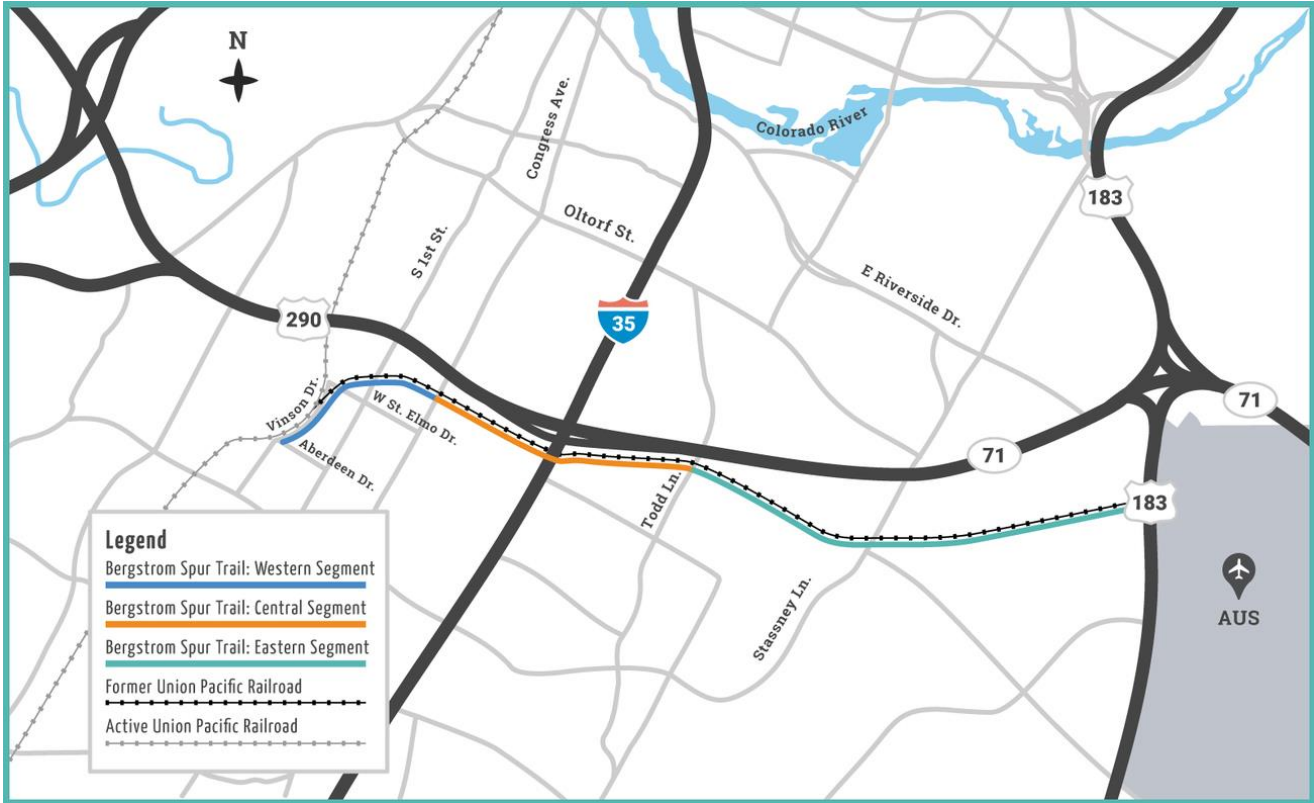
- Wide, paved trails that are typically physically separated from on-street traffic.
- Built to connect with our sidewalk and bicycle networks, linking neighborhoods, community resources, and green spaces across Austin.
- Designed to provide a safe and comfortable way to walk, bike, and more.

Austin currently has approximately 60 miles of urban trails. This Interactive Web Map showcases the planned urban trail network, existing urban trails, and upcoming trail projects: [Urban Trails Interactive Web Map](#)

OVERVIEW OF ARTWORK PROJECT

This project is an opportunity for three individual artists or artist teams to create distinctive artwork interventions within each of the three sections of the trail. Artwork could be sculptural or participatory—inviting trail users to interpret their own experiences through artwork that yields a sense of discovery and offers diverse interpretations.

The selected artists or teams will work collaboratively with the project team and AIPP staff to determine placement and to integrate the artwork into the overall trail project.



BUDGET

The trail has three segments and there will be three separate commissions awarded based on the length of the three trail segments.

- Bergstrom Spur Trail: Eastern Segment AIPP Project Budget: \$204,000
- Bergstrom Spur Trail Central Segment AIPP Project Budget: \$107,000
- Bergstrom Spur Trail Western Segment AIPP Project Budget: \$64,000

Each project budget is inclusive of design, fabrication, installation, engineering, permitting fees, travel, shipping expenses, insurance, and other project-related costs.

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 arts.

This opportunity is limited to Texas-based professional visual artists who are at least 18 years of age. This opportunity is open to artists who create sculptural and three-dimensional artwork or other forms of work suitable for the outdoors.

Applicants not meeting minimum qualifications will be withdrawn from consideration.

INELIGIBILITY

Architects who do not have a consistent visual art practice; 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 last three years 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 three to five-member selection panel comprised of visual arts professionals and community representatives will review all eligible submissions. Up to six artist(s)/artists teams may be invited to create paid proposals and interview *for this opportunity*. Three applicants will be selected to receive commissions.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- **Credentials:** CV/Resume (limit 2 pages)
- **Short responses** to the following questions and scenario (100-300 words per question):
 - o Introduce Yourself: What does the selection panel need to know about you to better understand you and your work as an artist? How long have you been working as artist and in what media? Tell us about your previous training and experience as an artist.
 - o What specifically would make you a good fit for this opportunity? Recognizing that displacement has occurred throughout South Austin, do you have a personal connection to any of the communities in proximity, past or present, to the project?
 - o What experience do you have managing projects or budgets similar in size to this opportunity? If so, please describe.
- **Ten images** of previous work (only one image per page). Either labeled 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

IMAGES OF INCOMPLETE PROJECTS, PRELIMINARY SKETCHES, or PROPOSAL IDEAS FOR THIS PROJECT WILL NOT BE REVIEWED

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

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The panel will evaluate applications based on the following criteria:

- Quality and aesthetics of past work
- Experience with public art projects of a similar size and scope
- Creativity and innovation of work as presented
- Expressed interest in creating artwork for this opportunity

PROJECT SCHEDULE (Subject to Change)

Information Meeting	May 13, 2023
Submission deadline (extended)	June 27, 2023
Semi-Finalists notified	August 2023
Proposals/Interviews	October 2023
Selected Artist(s) under contract	April 2024

Target Installation/Project close-out (Central and Western Sections)	Summer 2027
Target Installation/Project close-out (Bergstrom Eastern Section)	Summer 2018

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

Questions regarding this solicitation must be directed in writing to:
Curt Gettman, Art in Public Places curt.gettman@austintexas.gov
Alex Irrera, Art in Public Places alex.irrera@austintexas.gov