



## REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

### LaunchPAD Program

Budget: \$15,000

Deadline to Apply: 15<sup>th</sup> of each month, continuous enrollment

#### Program Summary

The City of Austin Art in Public Places (AIPP) program of the Cultural Arts Division, Economic Development Department (EDD) seeks to match local professional visual artists with artists commissioned for projects with budgets over \$200,000 for public art project support responsibilities. The purpose of this program is to provide an opportunity for local artists to gain technical and administrative expertise needed to compete within the field of public art while providing services benefitting a public art project. This program is meant to be a professional development opportunity for local artists interested in a career in public art.

The City of Austin requests qualifications from professional visual artists who live in the Austin metropolitan area.

#### Program Description and Goals

The LaunchPAD Program (PAD = *Public Art Duo*) provides an opportunity for local artists to gain technical and administrative expertise needed to compete within the field of public art while providing services benefitting a public art project. This program is meant to be a professional development opportunity for local artists interested in a career in public art.

Program goals include:

- » Expand ways to attract new and emerging public artists to participate in the City of Austin's public art program;
- » Provide opportunities for local artists to gain more technical and administrative expertise in public art; and
- » Grow the City of Austin public artist talent pool, creating a more solid foundation for Austin public artists as they apply for public art projects locally, nationally and internationally.

It is the intention of the program that AIPP projects with a budget over \$200,000 will include a LaunchPAD Artist, as determined feasible by AIPP staff and the AIPP Panel. When a new artwork opportunity is first considered by the Art in Public Places Panel, AIPP staff will include a LaunchPAD Artist in the prospectus, if it is appropriate to the specific project.

#### *What will a LaunchPAD Artist be asked to do?*

The length of the LaunchPAD Artist contract will mirror the length of the commissioned artist's total project duration. There is no expectation that an artwork will be created by the LaunchPAD Artist through this program. The LaunchPAD Artist will focus on tasks such as:

- » Coordination of, and attendance at, meetings - public, boards and commissions and project-specific meetings;
- » Conducting research + writing memos/reports regarding materials, design issues, permitting and local building codes;
- » Providing assistance, as agreed with the commissioned artist, in the design, fabrication, and installation of artworks;
- » Participation in a minimum of one studio or fabricator visit with the commissioned artist, during design and/or fabrication;
- » Support of the commissioned artist in accessing the Austin artist and artisan community;
- » Other duties as agreed with the commissioned artist that relate to the design, fabrication and installation of the artwork; and
- » Production of a Final Report - the LaunchPAD artist is responsible for reporting out after the project is completed, describing how the process went, documenting work accomplished, describing the key concepts or lessons learned, getting feedback from the commissioned artist on how the process went and what the commissioned artist felt the LaunchPAD artist contributed to the project, and summarizing how this experience may contribute to the next steps in the LaunchPAD artist's public art career.

#### *What will the commissioned artist be asked to do?*

Within the contract for the design and the commission, the commissioned artist will commit to collaborating with the LaunchPAD Artist to support their growth as a public artist by:

- » Maintaining open communication with the LaunchPAD Artist on the project throughout the length of the contract;
- » Engaging the LaunchPAD Artist in work, as defined above, that will provide benefits to the public art project as well as support furthering the LaunchPAD Artist's career in public art;
- » Scheduling and fully participating in a minimum of one studio visit with LaunchPAD Artist, during design and/or fabrication; and
- » Providing feedback for the final report to the LaunchPAD Artist regarding the process and the LaunchPAD Artist's participation in the overall project.

#### Budget

The funding source for each LaunchPAD Artist's contract will come from the 2% percent for art portion of eligible funding from the sponsor project, with the understanding that each permanently commissioned work of public art requires a:

1. design phase with stakeholder interaction, research and a series of milestones, and
2. fabrication/installation phase, with materials/construction/fabrication/installation/maintenance conditions to resolve, including open communication with the sponsor project construction team regarding schedule and milestones.

The LaunchPAD Artist will contract directly with the City for this opportunity. The artist will be paid a fee for the work and will have a limited travel allowance for at least one trip during the design or fabrication phase, as determined in collaboration with City staff and the commissioned artist.

1. The LaunchPAD artist will be paid a flat fee of \$15,000 per project, divided into milestone payments defined in the contract, which is inclusive of all time and project related costs including insurance; coordination, research, project assistance in the design, fabrication, coordination and installation of artworks; creation of final reports; and possible participation in artist talks or exhibition of work at the end of the project.
2. A travel allowance is available to support a studio visit, a trip to the fabricator or other as determined by the scope of the artwork project, in collaboration with the commissioned artist and City staff. Travel expenses must be in accordance with current General Services Office rates for the travel destination.

### Artist Information Meetings

A joint Artist Information Meeting for the LaunchPAD Program and for TEMPO 2017 will be held on **Tuesday, February 7** and on **Tuesday, February 21** at the Cultural Arts Division Offices at 201 E. 2nd Street in Austin starting at 5:30 pm.

**You may also consider coming to AIPP Open Office Hours** to have your questions answered about LaunchPAD or about the AIPP Program. *There will not be a formal information meeting at Open Office Hours.* Open Office Hours takes place on the second Friday of each month from 2 to 4 pm at the Cultural Arts Division Offices at 201 E. 2nd Street in Austin.

Parking validation is available in the Austin Convention Center 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Parking garage, enter on Brazos Street between Cesar Chavez and 2nd Streets. Bring your ticket with you for validation.

### Artist Eligibility

Mid-career and emerging professional visual artists who have resided in the Austin metro area, including Williamson, Travis, Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Burnet and Blanco counties, for a minimum of one (1) year, and who have a strong interest in gaining expertise in the public art process are encouraged to apply. Artist must be at least 18 years old.

- Demonstration of some prior work in the public realm is required.
- Artists working in all media are eligible.
- This opportunity is open only once to any given artist - artists who receive a LaunchPAD Artist contract will be removed from the pool of eligible LaunchPAD Artists.

### Evaluation Criteria

Selection will be made on the merit of the application and the potential for compatible artistic alliance with the commissioned public artist. The selected LaunchPAD Artist will be put under contract with the City of Austin. The selection panel will consider the following evaluation criteria in their review of the applications:

- » artistic merit and expressed interest in pursuing a public art career;

- » expressed interest in working with a commissioned artist;
- » potential to successfully collaborate as a LaunchPAD Artist for a public art project; and
- » demonstrated experience working on at least one public art project, or an art project set in the public realm. An artwork may be considered as a work of public art if it fits one or more of the criteria below.
  - *It evolved through an idea exchange with others.*
  - *It is/was site-specific and/or integrated into a site.*
  - *It is/was focused on social practice in response to current events or cultural stimulus.*
  - *It is/was set in a location that seeks response from viewers who may not have a particular interest in art.*

### Selection Process

Applications will be accepted on a continuous recruitment basis. Artists who meet the eligibility requirements, and successfully submit all the required materials, will be included in a LaunchPAD Artist Pool for consideration for future projects. When a public art project includes a LaunchPAD Artist, a selection panel made up of the

- the commissioned artist;
- a member of the AIPP Panel; and
- the Arts Commission Liaison to the AIPP Panel

The selection panel will review the LaunchPAD applications submitted to date, including letter of interest, images of recent and relevant work, resume(s), and other information submitted by applicants.

They may choose to hold interviews. They will select a LaunchPAD Artist and an alternate for the project.

The selected LaunchPAD artist will be put under contract directly with the City.



**Application Deadline:** continuous recruitment until 12/31/17

Applications should be submitted via [www.PublicArtist.org](http://www.PublicArtist.org) no later than **5:00 pm on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.**

Apply via [PublicArtist.org/austinaipp](http://PublicArtist.org/austinaipp)

For technical assistance with your application, please contact [info@publicartist.org](mailto:info@publicartist.org) or 210-701-0775 (9:00 am – 5:00 pm).

### Contact/Questions

Sue Lambe, Art in Public Places Program Administrator  
(512) 974-7852 or [susan.lambe@austintexas.gov](mailto:susan.lambe@austintexas.gov)