

Austin Art in Public Places
4 Fire/Emergency Medical Services Station Opportunities
Artist Information Meeting, Thursday, February 25, 2021
Question & Answer Summary

Project

Could any of these projects be murals?

With ample grounds surrounding many of these stations, these sites are well suited for external 3D work. However, Austin Art in Public Places (AIPP) has not predetermined the artwork sites. Whether the final artwork is 2D or 3D, its site will need to be publicly accessible. Note: Please do not submit a proposal as part of your application.

What type of projects are not allowed for this call? Are you open to use of technology/video?

The specific sites of the artworks are not yet determined and we are not ruling out any type of work or media. Regarding technology: One of the most important things to remember about public artwork is that it should be low or no maintenance. The more that could go wrong with a piece, the smaller chance it has of having a long lifespan. AIPP artworks should be designed to last 20+ years. That said, AIPP does have works in the collection that feature technology, lighting, etc. Those works require a rigorous design review process in order to make sure that they will be durable and low maintenance.

Which stations offer space for indoor artwork?

Austin Fire Department (AFD) Station 1 / Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Station 6 has an interior space (visible from the exterior) that could host an indoor artwork. However, AFD Station 1 / EMS Station 6 could also host an exterior work. Exterior works are often more accessible because you don't have to enter into a building or facility to view them. AIPP strives to make the public artwork commissioned by the City as publicly accessible as possible.

If you are new to public art and larger scale projects, should you still apply?

Yes, absolutely. Artists who are new to public art are eligible for consideration. This call has 4 projects at different budget levels. If you are new to public art, you might be a better match for a lower budget.

Application

How recent does the work listed on your application need to be?

That's flexible. If you have work that you did a long time ago but that you feel is relevant to this call, you can certainly use it. Nothing is too old for inclusion and all the work doesn't need to be incredibly recent. AIPP defines "permanent" art as lasting at least 20 years, so showing older work can be relevant. Sometimes jurors like to see that there haven't been any gaps in your work—but not always.

For the professional references on the application, would you prefer that we list other prominent artists or people who have contracted us in the past?

You can list anyone as a reference. The intent of AIPP contacting references is to better understand your ability to carry out and complete a public art project. Your references should be able to attest to your level of responsibility and your willingness to dig into a project and complete work. Listing people who

you have worked with or been contracted or commissioned by is helpful. If you are a student, you may also like to list faculty you have worked with or studied under.

I applied to an AIPP open call for AFD/EMS stations last year. Would it make sense for me to use the same application for this call? Is there a way to get feedback to improve my application for this time around?

If possible, we would recommend answering the short answer questions for this call in a site-specific way, including mentioning any specific connections that you might have to the stations that are listed on the current call. Note that the artists for this call are being selected by a different jury.

Do artists in any of AIPP's Pre-Qualified Artist Pools have an upper hand when applying to AIPP's open calls?

No. While all artists are welcome to list inclusion in any artist pool on their resume or CV, applications from AIPP's past or current pool artists are not weighted differently than other applications.

Community

Can you please elaborate on how an artist might effectively “reflect the mission of the Austin Fire Department and Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services (AFD/EMS) ‘to create safer communities through prevention, preparedness, and effective emergency response,’” as described in the project goals?

It's important that the selected artists (once hired) do research about the work of the Austin Fire Department and Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services first responders. The artists will spend time learning about the work AFD and EMS staff do to serve the community. The artists will then be able to meditate on their experience and better reflect the mission of AFD and EMS in their designs. Again, this part of the process comes after the artists are hired.

Please give examples of how to connect with the community near the stations.

AIPP views community engagement as an early step in a selected artist's design process. Every community is different, just as every artist is different. Some of the most successful community engagement methods we've seen are artist-facilitated workshops that are open to the community. Many communities also have public meetings and sometimes it's useful for an artist to attend and listen in about the community's hopes or concerns.

Once an artist is selected and on contract with AIPP, staff can help guide you with community-specific engagement ideas and help you with the engagement process. For example, for the Onion Creek Fire Station AIPP project, the artist team was connected with a local high school art teacher by City staff, which led to great community engagement with the teacher's students. The City staff managing the associated Capital Improvement construction projects also carry out their own community engagement process and can assist by sharing their community contacts with AIPP. It's best to have continuity between the construction team's and AIPP's community engagement processes.

Are the districts considered the “community” for each station or can a station's community extend outside of its district? Is there a list of what areas the stations service?

Emergency services don't necessarily stay within the boundaries of a council district when responding to calls, but they do have response zones. Stations typically respond within a 10-mile radius. There are different ways of defining community for an AIPP project. In a residential area, community could mean a

neighborhood group. In a less residential area, such as downtown, community will be different. Once an artist is on contract, AIPP can help you define what the community for your project location is and/or who the most important parties are for you to engage.

Other

Will a recording of this meeting be publicly available?

Yes, a recording of the meeting will be posted here: <https://www.austintexas.gov/department/aipp-opportunities>. AIPP staff will also email out a link to the recording to everyone who signed up for the meeting on EventBrite once the recording is posted.

For additional questions, please contact:

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