



## Request for Qualifications

### Project: Colony Park District Park, District 1

Artwork Budget: \$39,500

Artist Information Meeting: December 6, 2017; 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. (CST)

**Deadline to Apply: 5:00 p.m. (CST), January 4, 2018**

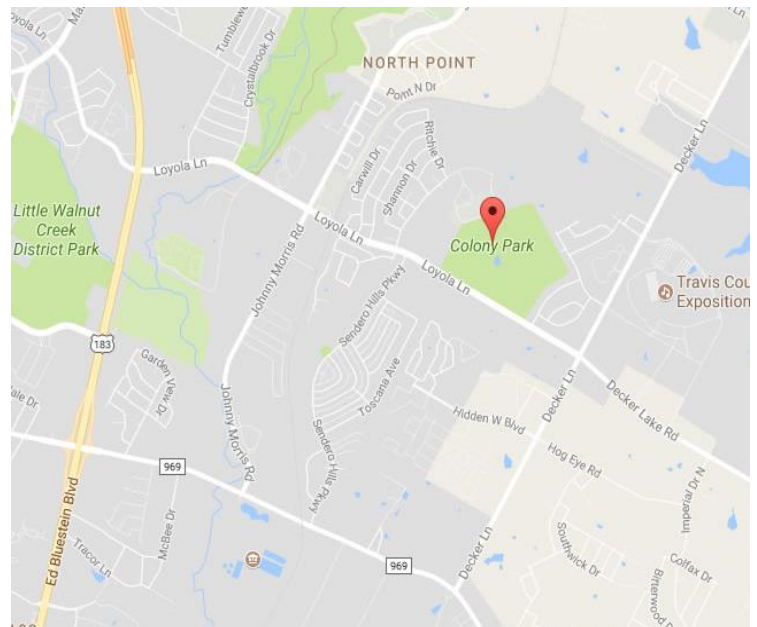
### Project Summary

The City of Austin Art in Public Places (AIPP) program of the Cultural Arts Division, Economic Development Department seeks to commission a permanent exterior public artwork that establishes a visual marker informing viewers of the district's park, reflects the history of Colony Park and is mindful of the community's experiences.

### Project Background

Colony Park and surrounding neighborhoods were annexed in 1972 and built to accommodate families stationed at Bergstrom Air Force Base, 7 miles southeast of downtown. Residents enjoyed a thriving community with sprawling hills and a view of the Capitol. The community hopes to recapture the beautiful landscape and help brainstorm on how to transform the struggling area through the recently (December 2014) adopted Colony Park Sustainable Community Initiative master plan.

With shared responsibility, City departments, non-profit organizations, public school administrators as well as residents and the community of Colony Park have discussed ways to ensure a safe place to age and pass on to the next generation. (Decierdo, M. [2014]. Colony Park: Prudent and Deliberate). The master plan details how the land might be inclusive of neighborhood development, sustainability, diversity of use, housing and affordability.



### Colony Park Improvement Project

As part of the CPSCI, the 2014 master plan of the park was developed using existing Capital Improvement Project funds for a first phase of park improvements. The vision of the CPSCI "seeks to create a healthy, safe and active community where families and neighbors enjoy an ever-improving quality of life supported and sustained through education; cultural enrichment; job growth and business opportunities; shared prosperity; mobility choices; neighborhood amenities and recreation" (CPSCI Community Vision Statement written March 18, 2014). Recreational programming elements include

bird-watching, trail walking as well as higher impact pursuits like soccer, biking and running. The layout of the park responds to the site's varied topography which is flatter in some areas and steeply sloping near the perimeter. Construction for the project will begin in mid-2018.



### Colony Park District Park

Located Northeast of downtown Austin, the 93-acre Colony Park District Park is bordered by Loyola Lane to the south, Decker Lane to the East and Johnny Morris Road to the West. The park is adjacent to Overton Elementary School and the Turner-Roberts Recreation Center which are sited on 50 acres of land owned by the City and leased to AISD. The recreation center is an 18,700 square foot building which makes use of environmentally-friendly building materials and is situated on the site for best use of North/South energy efficient heating and cooling savings. It offers recreational and leisure opportunities to



*Turner Roberts Recreation Center*

residents of the fifteen nearby neighborhoods.

The surrounding area comprises the planned Colony Park District Park, which is being developed in partnership with Austin Parks Foundation and St. David's Foundation. The improvements currently in design include sports fields, additional trails, and a play scape. The project will also include pedestrian lighting within the core activity area, decorative fencing between the parking and play areas and park expansion to accommodate an additional 35 cars.

The specific list of site improvements includes:

- Group picnic pavilion
- Overlook picnic pavilion
- Youth baseball/ softball field
- Multi-purpose field
- 4,000 square foot "nature-based" play area, serving both 2-5 year and 5-12 year age groups
- Three fitness stations with 15 separate events along a ½ mile walking trail
- Six park benches
- A drinking fountain
- Accessible connecting sidewalks/ trails
- Pedestrian bridge to neighborhood

## Budget

The AIPP 2% for this project is generated from pooling the funds from Colony District Park, Givens District Park and Bull Creek Park-General Park Improvements. The total award for an artist contract is **\$39,500**, inclusive of design, fabrication and installation, including engineering and permitting fees, travel and shipping expenses, insurance and other project-related costs.

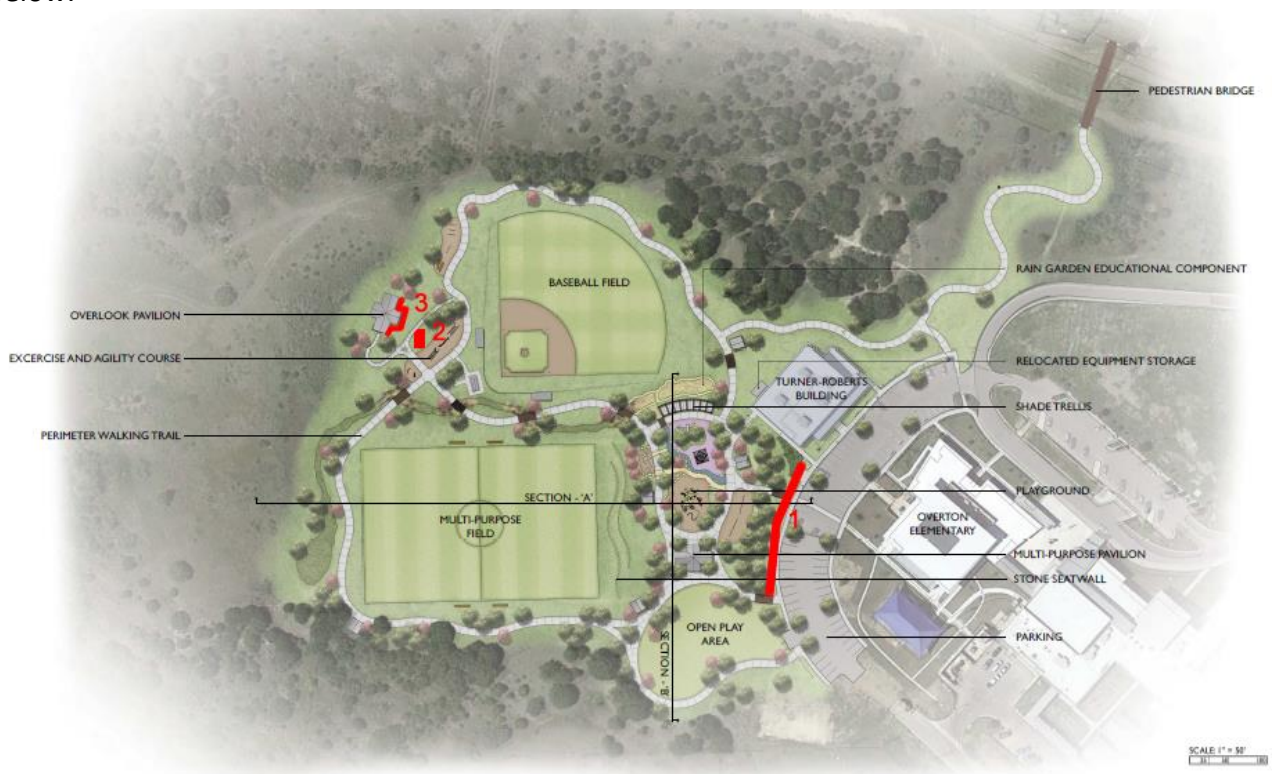
## Public Art Goals & Priorities

The Art in Public Places program seeks to commission works of art of redeeming quality that advance public understanding of visual art and enhance the aesthetic quality of public places through the selection of a qualified artist or artist team who can innovatively and thoughtfully design within the context of this project. To help ensure the engagement of diverse voices, AIPP collaborated with community members to outline aims for the artwork. The goal of the Colony Park District Park AIPP Project is to select an artist/artist team who will design artwork that:

- establishes a simple, visually engaging landmark, potentially through lighting, visible to visitors entering the park;
- reflects the history and current aspirations of the surrounding neighborhoods;
- is physically and conceptually accessible to visitors of all ages;
- is easily maintained and vandal resistant in an exterior environment; and
- contributes to the depth/breadth of the City of Austin's public art collection.

## Artwork Opportunity

The community has stated a strong preference for artwork that incorporates lighting for this commission. Additional materials are acceptable, in consultation with the project stakeholders, as long as the parameters of the project are met. This public art opportunity encourages artists familiar with the Colony Park community and/or who are intimately connected to the history and heritage of the area to apply. Additionally, this public art opportunity should embrace and empower the creativity of the people in the neighborhood. The proposed artwork should be integrated into the available scope of construction, to the greatest extent possible. Available locations are designated on the plan drawing below.



## Artist Information Meeting

To ensure information about the project is available to all interested artists, an artist information meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on December 6, 2017 at the Turner Roberts Recreation Center at 7201 Colony Loop Drive; Austin, TX 78724 during the open application period to further explain the parameters of the project and outline the application procedures. The meeting will include discussion of possible locations and opportunities for artwork. AIPP staff and project representatives will be available to answer questions. The presented materials, along with Q&A, will be posted to City's website after the meeting:

[www.austintexas.gov/department/aipp-opportunities](http://www.austintexas.gov/department/aipp-opportunities).

## Artist Eligibility

Professional visual artists, or artist teams, at least 18 years of age who live in the Williamson, Travis,

Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Burnet and Blanco counties are eligible to apply. A professional visual artist is defined as “A practitioner in the visual arts with an original self-conceptualized body of work, generally recognized by critics and peers as a professional possessing serious intent and ability.”

Full-time, permanent City of Austin employees including employees of the Economic Development Department are ineligible to apply. Employees of the project consultants and sub-consultants are also ineligible to apply.

Artists who are under an active contract with the Art in Public Places program at the time of application or who have three or more permanent works in the AIPP Collection are ineligible to apply.

Applications not meeting all eligibility criteria will be withdrawn from consideration.

## Submission Requirements

**Applications must be received online via [www.PublicArtist.org](http://www.PublicArtist.org) no later than 5:00 pm (CST) on January 4, 2018.** 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).



Applications include: a Letter of Interest stating why you are interested, what makes you a good match for the project; 10 images of completed relevant artwork with the required descriptions; resume; and 3 professional references.

## Selection Criteria

The selection of an artist, or artist team, shall be based on whose qualifications best meet the requirements contained in this Project Outline. In addition to the standard AIPP project selection criteria found on the City of Austin’s Art in Public Places website ([http://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/aipp\\_selection\\_criteria.pdf](http://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/aipp_selection_criteria.pdf)), the Selection Panel will review and consider the following evaluation criteria:

- » artistic merit and technical expertise;
- » demonstrated successful, innovative and effective approach to public art projects of a similar scope;
- » ability to successfully execute a public art project; and
- » expressed interest in creating artwork within this community setting.

## Selection Process

A Request for Qualifications will be distributed and applications must be submitted through [PublicArtist.org](http://PublicArtist.org) by the deadline. The City of Austin Art in Public Places Panel will convene a selection panel to evaluate the submissions. The selection panel and advisors will review

qualifications and select three finalists for interviews *unless there is consensus on the selection of recommending one applicant and one alternate*. The selection panel and advisors will then convene for interviews and select one artist/artist team and one alternate. This recommendation will be presented to the Art in Public Places Panel and Arts Commission for approval. The approved artist(s) will be put under a design + commission contract to coordinate with the City and project team to develop a final design, which is also subject to approval by the AIPP Panel and the Austin Arts Commission prior to fabrication and installation.

## Selection Panel & Project Advisors

A 3-member selection panel shall be selected that includes at least 1 visual artist. Possible selection panel members include:

- » Ender Martos, Visual Artist
- » Christine Esposito, Arts Management Specialist
- » Krystal Lucero, Registered Interior Designer, IIDA, Edwards + Mulhausen Interior Design
- » Raul Baez, Senior Designer, RID, IIDA, lauckgroup
- » Bernadette Phiefer, Independent Arts Professional

Project advisors will be invited to participate in the process to provide assistance and expertise to the selection panel. The project advisors to the panel may include:

- » Fred Fuller – Project Manager, Parks Department, City of Austin
- » Robert Ruffo –Project Manager, RVi Planning + Landscape Architecture
- » Laura Cortez –Principal, Cortez Consulting
- » Ana Castelan – Business Strategy Associate, Cortez Consulting
- » Barbara Scott—Colony Park Neighborhood Association
- » Margarita Decierda—Colony Park Neighborhood Association
- » TBD – AIPP Panel Liaison
- » Alissa McCain—Austin Arts Commission liaison, District 1

The Project Team will be advised by:

- » Sue Lambe, AIPP Program Manager, Cultural Arts Division, Economic Development Department, City of Austin
- » Marjorie Flanagan, AIPP Project Manager, Cultural Arts Division, Economic Development Department, City of Austin

No gallery owner, dealer, or art agent may serve as a juror due to the potential for conflict of interest. No juror may serve more than once in any two-year period in an attempt to bring a diversity of interests to the selection process and to more precisely match the expertise of the jury members to each project.

## Tentative Schedule (Subject to Change)

November 6 & 20, 2017

Approval of Prospectus by AIPP Panel and Austin Arts Commission

November 21, 2017

Request for Qualifications (RFQ) released

December 6, 2017

Artist Information Meeting

January 2018

Selection of Finalists

Interviews and Selection of Artist + Alternate

February 2018

Approval of Artist and Alternate by AIPP Panel and Arts Commission

Artist(s) under contract

May 2018

Mid-Design review

May 2018

CIP Construction begins

July 2018

Final Design review

Fabrication begins

TBD 2019

Artwork installed as required

## Contact/Questions

Marjorie Flanagan, Art in Public Places Project Manager

(512) 974-8706 or [Marjorie.Flanagan@austintexas.gov](mailto:Marjorie.Flanagan@austintexas.gov)