



REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Project: Austin Fire Department Artist-in-Residence

Budget: \$36,000

Artist Information Meeting: 6:30 – 7:30 pm, February 4, 2016

DEADLINE TO APPLY: 5:00 pm, March 3, 2016

Project Summary

The City of Austin Art in Public Places (AIPP) program of the Cultural Arts Division, Economic Development Department, seeks to commission an **artist-in-residence** to create permanent artwork for six fire stations. The artwork will reflect the Austin Fire Department's mission to create safer communities through prevention, preparedness, and effective emergency response.

AIPP seeks qualifications from professional visual artists, or artist teams, who live in the Austin metropolitan area. This includes Travis, Williamson, Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Burnet, and Blanco counties. The total budget available for this project is \$36,000.

Artwork Opportunity

In an effort to create a work of art that reflects the Austin Fire Department's culture and commitment to community, the artist-in-residence will document the people and operations of six fire stations. The artist-in-residence will spend approximately 10-15 hours per week observing/documenting the activities of the fire stations over a 2-3 month period. At the end of the residency period, the artist will create a proposal for creating a series of 2-dimensional works to be sited on the interior or exterior walls of the fire stations and a separate production contract will be negotiated for fabrication and installation of the proposal. The work will be permanent with an expected life-span of up to 20 years.

Project Budget and Scope of Work

The funding for this project is generated from 2% of the estimated construction budget for the addition of six women's locker rooms at six fire stations. The total award for an artist contract is \$36,000 inclusive of design, fabrication and installation, including engineering and permitting fees, travel and shipping expenses, insurance and other project-related costs.

Approximate budget breakdown:

Residency Period: \$12,000

Fabrication and Installation Period: \$24,000

Total: \$36,000

The \$12,000 residency budget includes all expenses related to the residency period. During this time, the artist will observe and document the work of the City of Austin firefighters. The artist will be expected to seek input from formal or informal focus groups or interviews of staff, create opportunities for design reviews or feedback-gathering from stakeholders, and formulate a proposal for integrating works of art within the available and appropriate facility space.

The proposal must include a summary of residency work/findings, narrative description, images of the proposed artwork in situ, scope of work for the installation of the artwork, budget, schedule, and care/maintenance instructions.

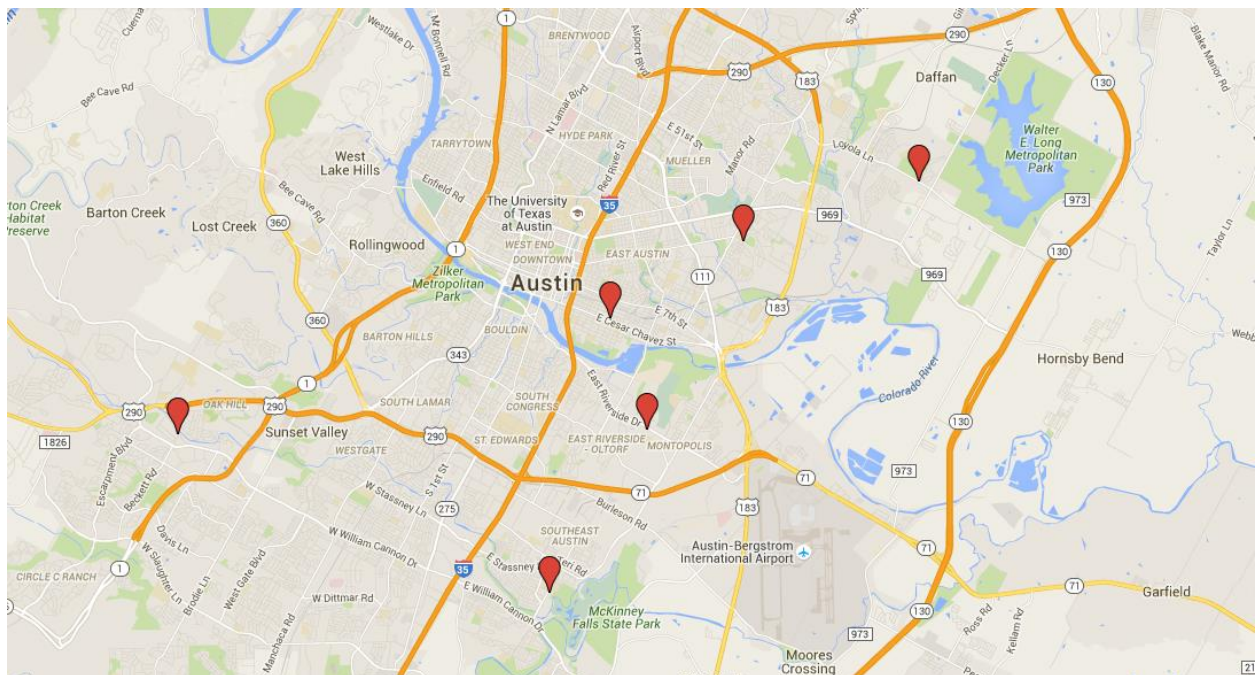
The artwork must not impede the fire stations' operations, or pose safety risk or harm, and must be approved by the Austin Fire Department and possibly other stakeholder groups before proceeding with the fabrication and installation. At the conclusion of the residency period and upon approval of the proposal, a separate contract will be negotiated with the artist in an amount up to \$24,000 to create and install the artwork.

Austin Fire Department

The Austin Fire Department serves a population of more than 840,000 within a 308 square mile area, in Austin, TX. 994 Austin Fire Department firefighters respond from 45 fire stations to more than 85,000 calls a year—approximately 70% of those calls are medical in nature. Like most fire departments, the Austin Fire Department is responsible for providing a multitude of services. This includes operations, support services, aircraft firefighting and rescue, communications, maintenance shops, medical operations, emergency prevention, arson investigations, professional standards, community outreach, safety, special operations, and educational services. Known as a leader in the fire service, the Austin Fire Department is on the cutting-edge of technology and training.

Locker Room Renovations

As with other City Departments, the Austin Fire Department values diversity in its workforce. There are currently 66 women firefighters. While many of the original fire stations were not equipped with facilities for women, the Austin Fire Department is retro-fitting fire stations to accommodate all firefighters. Within the scope of this construction project, the Austin Fire Department will add women's locker and restroom facilities to fire stations 5, 7, 22, 24, 26 and 27. The artwork developed through this residency is to be located at these stations.



The locations of the stations are as follows:

- Station 5: 1201 Webberville Road, Austin TX, 78721. Council District 1
- Station 7: 201 Chicon Street, Austin TX, 78702. Council District 3
- Station 22: 5309 E. Riverside Drive, Austin, TX, 78741. Council District 3
- Station 24: 5811 Nuckles Crossing Road, Austin, TX, 78744. Council District 2
- Station 26: 6702 Wentworth Drive, Austin, TX, 78724. Council District 1
- Station 27: 5401 McCarty Ln, Austin, TX, 78749. Council District 8



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. The goal of this residency is to select an artist who will design artwork that:

- represents a diverse perspective through culture, race or identity;
- integrates with the building's architecture and improves aesthetic surroundings;
- is conceptually accessible to firefighters and station visitors;
- is sensitive to how the community uses the station;
- is made of durable, low maintenance materials, and;
- contributes to the depth/breadth of the City of Austin's public art collection.

This public art opportunity is open to a wide range of ideas to be proposed by the selected artist, in consultation with the City staff and project stakeholders. The proposed artwork should be integrated into the available scope of construction, to the greatest extent possible, without impeding operation, safety and access. Artwork that meets these criteria should be sited in areas accessible to the public within the building envelope. A range of materials and conceptual approaches are welcome for this commission as long as the parameters and goals of the project are met. Possible opportunities will be discussed in more detail during the Artist Information Meeting.

Artist Information Meeting

An Artist Information Meeting will be held at the Cultural Arts Division on Thursday, February 4, 2016 from 6:30 – 7:30 pm. AIPP and Fire Department staff will be presenting information about the project and artwork opportunity. AIPP staff will also review the application procedures. The presented materials, along with Q&A, will be posted to City's website after the meeting:

www.austintexas.gov/departments/aipp-opportunities.

Artist Eligibility

Professional visual artists, or artist teams, at least 18 years of age **who live in the Austin metropolitan area** are eligible to apply. This includes Travis, Williamson, Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Burnet, and Blanco counties. Full-time, permanent City of Austin employees and project consultants and their employees

and sub-consultants are ineligible to apply. The selected artist may be subject to a background check prior to contract execution.

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.”

Artists who currently have one active contract with the Art in Public Places program or who have more than two commissioned permanent works in the AIPP Collection are ineligible to apply. Artist teams are considered as separate entities; their projects do not count as projects by the individual artists.

Evaluation Criteria

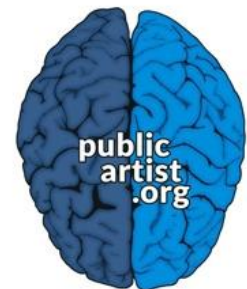
The selection of an artist, or artist team, shall be based on whose qualifications best meet the requirements contained in this Prospectus. In addition to the standard project selection criteria found on the City of Austin’s Art in Public Places website (http://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/aipp_selection_criteria.pdf),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

- » artistic merit and technical expertise;
- » demonstrated ability to successfully execute public art projects, of a similar scope, on time and on budget;
- » expressed interest in creating artwork within this project’s site and context;
- » experience working collaboratively within a community context or in a residency setting.

Selection Process

Applications must be received online via www.PublicArtist.org no later than 5:00 pm on March 3, 2016. For technical assistance with your application, please contact info@publicartist.org or 210-701-0775 (9:00 am – 5:00 pm).

AIPP staff will convene a Selection Panel to evaluate the submissions. **Up to three finalists will be selected for interviews.** The Selection Panel will review qualifications (images of work, resume, letter of interest, references), interview finalists, and select one artist and one alternate. This recommendation will be presented to the Art in Public Places Panel and Arts Commission for approval.



Selection Committee (Selection Panel + Project Advisors)

A three member Selection Panel will be assembled that includes at least one visual artist. Project Advisors will be invited to participate in the process to provide assistance and expertise to the selection panel. The Project Advisors to the Selection Panel will include:

- » Andre Jordan, Austin Fire Department Division Chief, City of Austin
- » Alejandro Wolniewitz, Austin Fire Department Facilities Planning Manager, City of Austin
- » Craig Russell, Public Works Project Manager, City of Austin

» Jade Walker, Art in Public Places Panel liaison

Schedule (subject to change)

January 12, 2016

Release RFQ

February 4, 2016

Artist Information meeting

March 3, 2016 at 5:00 pm

RFQ Deadline

Mid-March 2016

Application review and selection of Artist and Alternate

April 2016

Approval of Artist and Alternate by AIPP Panel and Arts Commission

May 2016

Project Kick-off Meeting with AIPP staff and Project Advisors

Summer 2016

Artist residency: artist conducts site visits

CIP Construction Begins

Fall 2016

Mid Design review

Winter 2016

Final Design review

TBD 2017

Artwork installed as required

Contact/Questions

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