



## REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

### Austin Fire Department / Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services (AFD/EMS) Station #47 Onion Creek

Artwork Budget: \$90,000

Second Artist Information Meeting: 6:30 – 7:30 pm, Tuesday, January 17, 2017

EXTENDED DEADLINE TO APPLY: 5:00 pm (CST), Thursday, February 16, 2017

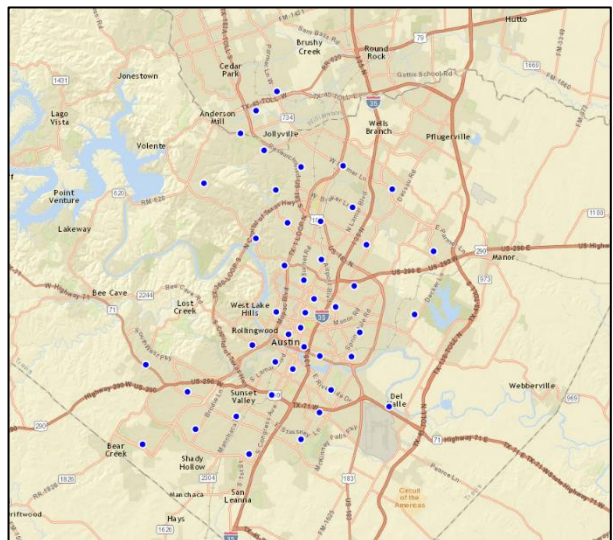
### Project Summary

The City of Austin Art in Public Places (AIPP) program of the Cultural Arts Division, Economic Development Department, seeks to commission a permanent public exterior artwork for a new combined fire and EMS station that will serve the Onion Creek area. This commission will reflect the Austin Fire Department and Austin-Travis County Emergency Services mission to create safer communities through prevention, preparedness and effective emergency response.

The City of Austin requests 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. Artists who currently have 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. The total budget available for this project is \$90,000. Submission deadline is 5:00 pm (CST) on **Thursday, February 16, 2017**.

### Department Background

The **Austin Fire Department (AFD)** serves a population of more than 840,000 within a 308 square mile area. The Department has 1,129 authorized sworn firefighter positions and 94 civilian staff members. Like most fire departments, AFD 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. AFD firefighters respond from 46 fire stations to more



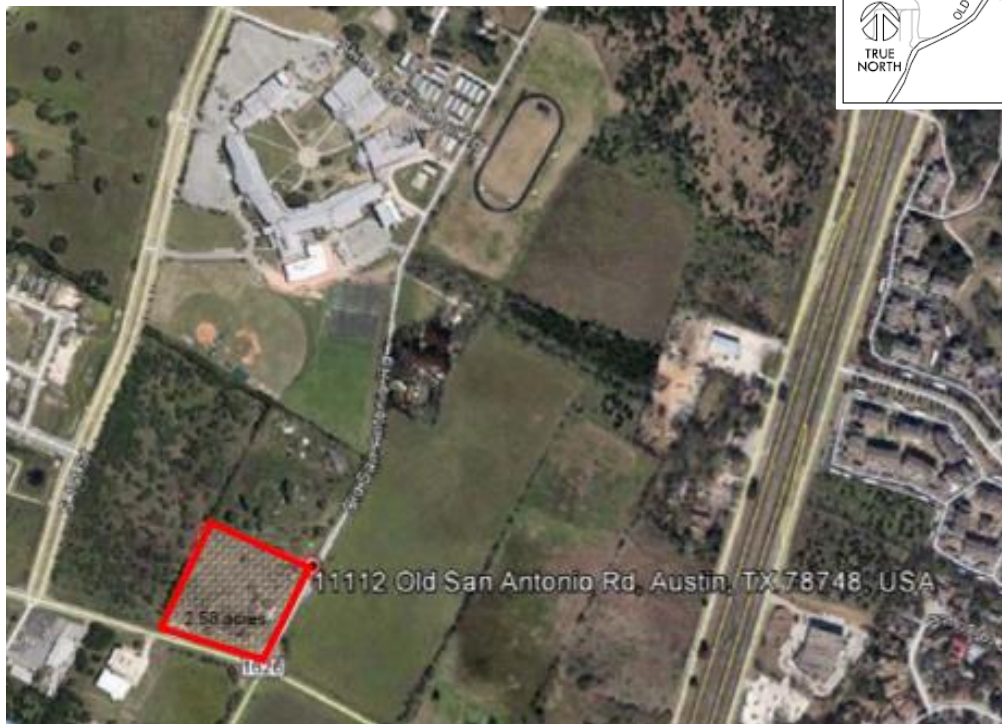
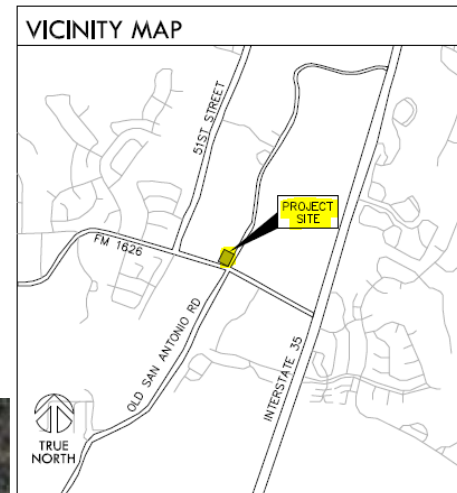
than 85,000 calls a year; approximately 80 percent of those are medical in nature. Known as a leader in fire service, AFD is on the cutting edge of technology and training.

**Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services (EMS)** serves over 1,100 square miles, including all of Travis County and parts of Williamson and Hays Counties. Eighteen cities are included in this service area, including the City of Austin. In 2015, EMS responded to over 120,000 calls from 37 stations within this service area. As with AFD, EMS is responsible for providing a multitude of services including operations and support services, cadet training academy, emergency management preparedness for man-made and natural disasters, professional standards, special event services, emergency communications, community outreach and educational services. Through these services, Austin-Travis County EMS has the opportunity to save the lives of some, and change the lives of many.



## Site/Facility Background

To meet the needs of Austin's rapidly growing population, the City of Austin will open AFD/EMS Station #47 in Onion Creek at 11112 Old San Antonio Road, Austin, Texas. This District 5 facility is sited at the busy intersection with FM 1626, 10 miles south of downtown Austin, and is surrounded on two sides by a multi-family development and is near Akins High School, one of Austin's newest high schools. This station will have the ability to house up approximately eight firefighters and two medics, along with their emergency vehicles and equipment.



The approximately 3.2 square mile site of the new AFD/EMS station is outlined in red. Residential communities border the station; seen to the north of the station is the sprawling Akins High School campus.



AFD/EMS Station #47 is will be a 9,626 square foot, thirty one foot tall, one story, three bay station that will have the ability to sleep 16 personnel to serve the rapidly growing Onion Creek community. The station has a goal of meeting a minimum rating of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver, incorporating features such as at least 20% regionally sourced building materials, rain water collection system and 100% green power. It is expected to accommodate public meetings and school tours.

## Public Art Intent & Goals

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 the AFD/EMS Station #47 Onion Creek AIPP project is to select an artist, or artist team, who will design artwork that:

- » reflects the dignity and importance of the work of Austin Fire Department and Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services;
- » addresses the City's first responders' commitment to the community;
- » is physically and conceptually accessible to first responders, passers-by and station visitors—especially children;
- » is easily maintained and vandal resistant in an exterior environment; and
- » contributes to the depth and breadth of the City of Austin's public art collection.



## Budget

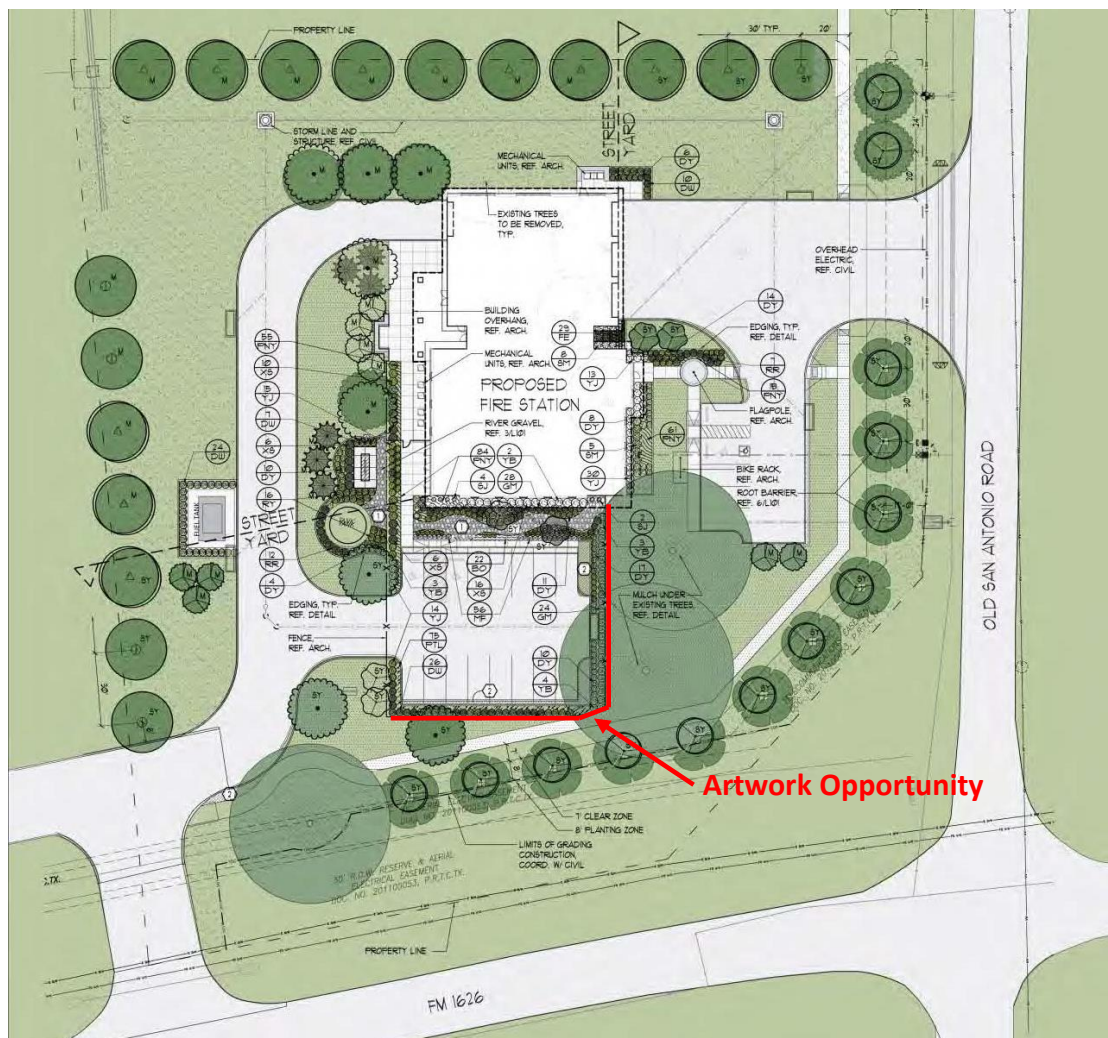
The AIPP funding for this project is generated from 2% of the sponsor project budget, funded through Proposition 16 of the 2012 Bond Program for Public Safety Facility Improvements. The total award for an artist contract is **\$90,000** inclusive of design, fabrication and installation, including engineering and permitting fees, travel and shipping expenses, insurance and other project-related costs.

## Artwork Opportunity

This public art opportunity is to create an artwork that addresses the parking lot enclosure (as shown below). This portion of the enclosure is most visible to both vehicular and pedestrian traffic, facing Old San Antonio Road and FM 1626.

The selected artist, or artist team, will work with City staff, the project design team and project stakeholders to develop the artwork.

Possible opportunities to address the parking lot enclosure will be discussed in more detail during the Artist Information Meeting.



## Artist Information Meeting

A second Artist Information Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 17 from 6:30 to 7:30 pm at Austin Public Library's University Hills Branch, located at 4721 Loyola Lane, Austin TX 78723** to explain the parameters of the project and outline the application procedures.

AIPP staff and project representatives from Public Works, Austin Fire Department and Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services will be available to answer questions. The presented materials, along with Q&A, will be posted to City's website for repeat viewing:

[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 Austin metropolitan area, which includes Travis, Williamson, 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, Austin Fire Department and Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services, are ineligible to apply. Employees of project consultants and sub-consultants are also ineligible to apply.

*Artists who currently have 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.*

## Submission Requirements

The application includes:

- » letter of interest—briefly describe your specific interest in the AFD/EMS Station #47 Onion Creek Art in Public Places Project and explain why your qualifications are a good fit for this project; you may include a short description of how you might approach the project, although this is not required
- » 10 images of completed relevant artwork with the required descriptions; artist teams must have each team member's work represented in the 10 images submitted for review
- » resume (maximum three pages/600 words)
- » contact information for three professional references

## Evaluation Criteria

The selection of an artist, or artist team, will be based on whose qualifications best meet the requirements contained in this Request for Qualifications. In addition to the standard AIPP project selection criteria found on the City of Austin's Art in Public Places website under Guidelines & Policies, [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 project’s site and context.

## Selection Process

Applications must be received online via [www.PublicArtist.org](http://www.PublicArtist.org) **no later than 5:00 pm (CST) on Thursday, February 16, 2017**. 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).



The City of Austin Art in Public Places will convene a Selection Panel to evaluate the submissions. The Selection Panel and Project Advisors will work together to review applications, interview up to three finalists and recommend the artist to be commissioned, and an alternate. This recommendation will be presented to the Art in Public Places Panel and Arts Commission for approval. City Council must authorize negotiation of the contract. The approved artist(s) will enter into separate design and commission contracts to coordinate with the City and project team to develop a final design, which is subject to approval by the AIPP Panel and the Austin Arts Commission prior to fabrication and installation.

## Selection Committee (Selection Panel and 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.

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.

## Project Schedule (subject to change)

November 29, 2016	Request for Qualifications (RFQ) released
January 17, 2017	Second Artist Information Meeting
February 16, 2017	Extended Deadline for RFQ submission
February 18 – March 24, 2017	Selection Panel meetings and finalist interviews
April - May 2017	Approval of Selection Process Recommendation by AIPP Panel and Austin Arts Commission; City Council approval of artist contract
June 2017	Design Contract execution
July 2017	Project Kick-off Meeting

July/August 2017	Community engagement
July/August/September 2017	Conceptual design development
October 2017	Mid-Design review by AIPP Panel
December 2017	Final Design review by AIPP Panel and Austin Arts Commission
January 2018	Commission Contract execution
February/March 2018	Production/Fabrication
March 2018	<i>CIP construction complete (estimated)</i>
TBD	Artwork installation

## Resources

The Austin Art in Public Places Resource Guide is available online at:  
[www.austincreates.com](http://www.austincreates.com)

## Contact/Questions

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