



REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

**FOR A PRE-QUALIFIED LIST OF ARTISTS
FOR THE SAN PEDRO CREEK CULTURE PARK**

DEADLINE TO APPLY: 5:00 PM, JUNE 30, 2017

CONTACTS:

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INTRODUCTION AND CALL SUMMARY

Thank you for your interest in the San Pedro Creek Culture Park! I am thrilled to be a part of this transformative project in downtown San Antonio, Texas and honored to champion the inclusion of artists in all aspects of the design.

As you may know, the design of the San Pedro Creek Culture Park (Park) will radically change the current experience of the creek. In addition to providing enhanced flood control and revitalizing the natural habitat, the Park will also reconnect the community to the water through the creation of a world class linear park that reflects the unique culture of Bexar County. To that end, the San Antonio River Authority (SARA), working collaboratively with Bexar County and the City of San Antonio, seeks exceptional emerging and established public artists working in a variety of media and artistic approaches for its Pre-Qualified List of Artists (List).

The purpose of the List is to provide an application and selection process for artists interested in being commissioned for public art projects at the Park. **Artists will be commissioned for temporary, permanent, and performance-based artwork while the Park is under construction, in newly opened sections of the Park, and to participate in planning future phases of the Park.** The first section of the Park will open on May 5, 2018 as part of the City of San Antonio's Tricentennial celebrations.

The process to develop the Pre-Qualified List of Artists will be implemented with the goal of engaging a diversity of artists. The List will be refreshed periodically to give ample opportunity for participation as the project progresses. All professional artists, regardless of residence, are eligible to apply.

If you have general questions about the San Pedro Creek Public Art Program, please contact me at 210-302-3218 or cbrown@sara-tx.org.

If you have questions about this Request for Qualifications please contact Deborah Korinchock, Support Services Director for the San Antonio River Authority at 210-302-3224 or dkorinchock@sara-tx.org.

See you at the creek!

Sincerely,

Carrie Brown
Public Art Curator
San Antonio River Authority

SAN PEDRO CREEK HISTORY

The legacy of San Pedro Creek can be overshadowed by the San Antonio River and its world renowned Paseo del Rio, but the creek played a primary and vital role in the history of Bexar County and San Antonio. As the cultures of the community evolved, languages, values, and religions were interwoven over hundreds of years, and are still evident today. San Pedro Creek touched lives in numerous ways. Revered as a life source (for drinking, abundant flora and fauna, and irrigation), the spring-fed creek provided direction for settlement. The creek eventually ceased to bring lives together and resulted in segregation, emerging as a dividing line between Anglo and Hispanic populations. Returning its healing spirit and embracing its ability to unite the community is part of the creek's legacy.

Modest San Pedro Creek is now a functional, but unsightly, creek that runs through the historic Westside of downtown San Antonio. The San Pedro Creek Culture Park and all commissioned artwork will reflect on its rich history, reconstitute its life-giving qualities, and create a sense of place.

Additional information on the history of the creek, a historical narrative and mythic narrative are available on the San Pedro Creek Improvements Project website:

- Historic narrative- <http://spcproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Historic-Book-of-the-Creek-FINAL-12-30-2015.pdf>
- Mythic narrative- <http://spcproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/San-Pedro-Creek-Mythic-Narrative-Script.pdf>

ARTWORK GOALS

The San Antonio River Authority (SARA) seeks Professional Artists whose work advances the public's understanding of contemporary art and enhances the aesthetic quality and user experience of San Pedro Creek. The artwork should:

- Be compelling and aesthetically excellent;
- Support the San Pedro Creek Culture Park's mission and goals;
- Celebrate San Pedro Creek's layered history by telling its story with an authentic voice;
- Engage the community in innovative ways; and
- Endure the climate of this area, the flooding nature of the creek, and a variety of linear park public uses.

ELIGIBILITY

The Pre-Qualified List of Artists is open to all Professional Artists, age 18 and over, regardless of residence, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, military status, sexual orientation, marital status, or physical or mental disability. Professional Artist teams are eligible to apply, including teams of artists from multiple disciplines. Teams must include at least one visual artist or new media artist.

A Professional Artist is defined as "a practitioner in the arts with an original, self-conceptualized body of work, generally recognized by critics and peers as a professional possessing serious intent and ability." Ideal candidates will have demonstrated experience working with budgets, materials suitable for public

indoor or outdoor settings, site-specific design, and collaboration with other artists, design professionals, or community members.

ARTWORK LOCATIONS

Several public art opportunities and project types have been identified through the San Pedro Creek Public Art Assessment and Strategy and the San Pedro Creek Interpretive Plan. Those opportunities include, but are not limited to:

1. Large-scale murals at multiple locations (permanent or temporary);
2. Light or sound based artwork at various locations;
3. Integrated or functional artwork on bridges and pathways;
4. Large and small-scale sculpture (permanent or temporary) in landscape areas;
5. Building facades adjacent to the creek;
6. Interactive or performance-based artwork in various locations, including the amphitheater;
7. Digital projections at bridge underpasses; and
8. Serving on a design team for future phases of the project.

As the design develops, additional artwork opportunities will be identified and the Pre-Qualified List of Artists may be updated. Selected Professional Artists will be expected to review concepts with SARA, Bexar County, City of San Antonio and the project design team, as necessary, to ensure that the artwork is appropriate for the space.

BUDGET

The range of artwork budgets anticipated through construction of the San Pedro Creek Culture Park varies significantly with some projects estimated to be \$10,000 and others as high as \$1,000,000. Budgets must include all design fees; research and travel; models and renderings; fabrication, transportation, installation of artwork; site restoration, if necessary; insurance required by SARA and permitting; public programming and project documentation; and other project-related costs.

SELECTION PROCESS

The process to develop the List will be implemented with the goal of engaging a diversity of artists. The List will be refreshed periodically to give ample opportunity for participation as the project progresses.

SARA will convene a selection panel made up of art and design professionals to evaluate artist qualifications. The selection panel will review the applications received, including letters of interest, images of past work, and resumes, and recommend artists to be included in the List.

From the List, SARA will initiate artist selection processes for specific artwork opportunities. A separate selection panel may be established for each opportunity. Artists will be selected in one of the following ways:

1. Direct Selection – an artist who is uniquely qualified is awarded a commission
2. Invitational – a small group of artists is invited to interview or develop a proposal
3. Call to Artists – an RFQ is released to the Pre-Qualified List of Artists

The selected artist for each artwork opportunity will be put under a contract to coordinate with SARA and the project design team to develop a comprehensive design for artwork.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The Selection Committee will consider the following evaluation criteria:

- 1) Artistic merit and technical expertise (40%);
- 2) Demonstrated sensitivity, creativity and engagement with diverse communities (20%);
- 3) Expressed interest in the way that San Pedro Creek influenced the development and culture of San Antonio (20%); and
- 4) Demonstrated ability to successfully execute innovative projects in complex design environments (20%).

TIMELINE (dates may be adjusted at any time)

May 17, 2017	Request for Qualifications issued
June 7, 2017 5:30 p.m.	Artist Information Meeting – 100 E. Guenther St. San Antonio, TX
June 16, 2017 5:00 p.m.	Deadline for submission of questions
June 30, 2017	Request for Qualifications deadline
Early July 2017	Selection Committee review of applications and recommendation of List
Late July	List is posted to project website and ready for use
May 5, 2018	Grand Opening of San Pedro Creek Culture Park (Phase 1)

HOW TO APPLY

Artists interested in being considered should submit the following materials no later than 5:00 pm Central Time on June 30, 2017, through PublicArtist.org, an online application system. The application can be accessed by visiting: www.sara-tx.org under “Contracting Opportunities” or www.PublicArtist.org. The following application materials will be requested using the online application system:

- 1) **Letter of interest.** The letter should be no more than one page in length and should explain the artist’s interest in creating artwork for the San Pedro Creek Culture Park.
- 2) **Resume.** Indicate your commissions, exhibitions, awards, publications and education. If submitting as a team, a current resume should be submitted for each team member.
- 3) **10 samples of the artist’s work** with annotated image description including title, date, size, medium, location, and if a commissioned project, the commission budget.

- 4) **References.** A list of at least three professional references that have a thorough knowledge of your work and working methods. The list must include at least one client who commissioned the artist for an artwork installation. The list must include complete addresses and telephone numbers.

There is no application fee to use the PublicArtist.org online application system. Visit www.sara-tx.org or <http://spcproject.org> to access the application and sign up for a PublicArtist.org account. Applicants can receive support by contacting PublicArtist.org at info@publicartist.org or 210-701-0775 (9:00 am – 5:00 pm Central Time). Applications mailed or delivered to SARA will be considered ineligible and will not be accepted.

ARTIST INFORMATION MEETING

An Artist Information Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 7, 2017 from 5:30 – 6:30 pm at the San Antonio River Authority main office located at 100 E. Guenther Street, San Antonio, TX 78204. At this meeting, SARA staff will provide an overview of the San Pedro Creek Improvements Project, review the public art opportunities identified, and demonstrate how to apply using PublicArtist.org. Participants are invited to ask questions regarding the Request for Qualifications. All questions and responses will be made available through www.sara-tx.org under Contracting Opportunities and at <http://spcproject.org> located under the “Arts and Culture” tab. The meeting will be recorded and available online after the meeting at www.sara-tx.org.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding this request for qualifications, please contact Deborah Korinchock, Support Services Director, SARA, (210) 302-3224 or dkorinchock@sara-tx.org.

ADDITIONAL POLICES

- 1) SARA has the discretion to disqualify artists whose applications are late or incomplete, and whose applications do not comply with all stated requirements.
- 2) SARA reserves the right to terminate this RFQ, and reissue a subsequent solicitation, and/or remedy technical errors in the RFQ process.
- 3) SARA reserves the right to cancel any List at any time or commission an artist through another process.
- 4) Inclusion in the Pre-Qualified List of Artists does not guarantee a commission.
- 5) Additional eligibility criteria may be set for individual project selections. Artists will not be eligible for more than one project at a time.
- 6) SARA may open the List for new applicants every year, or as needed.
- 7) Although the Pre-Qualified List of Artists will be the primary source for selecting artists for the San Pedro Creek Culture Park, SARA may issue a separate Call to Artists for specific opportunities.

AMENDMENTS TO RFQ

Should an amendment to this RFQ become necessary, it will be posted along with all answers to questions received about this RFQ at www.sara-tx.org under “Contracting Opportunities” and at <http://spcproject.org> located under the “Arts and Culture” tab. It is the sole responsibility of any artist interested in submitting qualifications to check this website for amendments. If the artist does not have access to the internet, they must contact Deborah Korinchock to inquire.

RESTRICTIONS ON COMMUNICATION

Once the RFQ has been released, artists are prohibited from communicating with SARA elected officials and staff, Bexar County elected officials and staff and members of the project design team regarding the RFQ, with the following exceptions:

- 1) Questions concerning substantive RFQ issues shall be directed, electronically only, to Deborah Korinchock, Support Services Director for the San Antonio River Authority at dkorinchock@sara-tx.org. Verbal questions and explanations are not permitted other than for general non-substantive issues or as may be described by this section and during interviews, if any. No inquiries or questions will be answered if received after 5:00 p.m. Central Time on June 16, 2017, to allow ample time for distribution of answers and/or amendments to this RFQ. Artists wishing to receive copies of the questions and their responses must notify Deborah Korinchock in writing prior to the date and time the questions are due.
- 2) Discussion during the Artist Information Meeting.
- 3) Currently contracted artists may communicate with SARA staff in order to continue working on active matters, but such communication shall not include discussions regarding this RFQ.
- 4) SARA reserves the right to contact any artist for clarification after responses are opened and/or to further negotiate with any artist if such is deemed desirable.

SAN PEDRO CREEK IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND

Bexar County and SARA, in coordination with the City of San Antonio, are transforming San Pedro Creek as a cultural park to reflect its place in our cultural history, improve its function in flood control, revitalize natural habitat and water quality, and catalyze economic development. The cultural park will begin at the flood control tunnel inlet near Fox Tech High School and wind through the western side of downtown to the creek's confluence with the Alazan and Apache Creeks. This historic and once flourishing creek flows behind the Christopher Columbus Italian Society Hall, past the Alameda Theater, Spanish Governor's Palace, City of San Antonio and Bexar County Offices, past urban residential housing, and an emerging arts district. It then meanders south of downtown through primarily residential neighborhoods before flowing into the San Antonio River. The project includes 4 miles of trails and 11 acres of landscaped area and removes 30 acres and 38 adjacent structures from the 100-year flood plain. The San Pedro Creek Improvements Project is divided into four construction phases. Phase 1 begins at the tunnel inlet near the Christopher Columbus Italian Society and Fox Tech High School and ends at Cesar E. Chavez Boulevard. Phase 1 will be completed by May 2018 in celebration of the 300th anniversary of the City of San Antonio.

San Pedro Creek Improvements Project Limits:



Project Design Team:

HDR Engineering – Prime Consultant
Muñoz & Company – Lead Architect of Record
Pape Dawson Engineering – Lead Civil Design Engineer
San Antonio River Authority – Project Manager

San Pedro Creek Culture Park Pre-Qualified List of Artists
DEADLINE: 5:00 pm (Central Time), June 30, 2017

Sundt/Davila – Construction Manager

PROJECT MISSION:

- To create a world class linear park that represents the cultural identity of our community and inspires the people of Bexar County.

PROJECT GOALS:

- Provide enhanced flood control
- Maximize economic benefits of the project
- Create a world class experience for residents and visitors
- Elevate and educate our community profile in sustainability
- Engage our community in grassroots design effort
- Reflect the unique culture of Bexar County
- Improve water quality and aquatic health

PROJECT PRINCIPLES:

- Establish an intimate scale relationship between people and the creek, and provide for the simultaneous movement of water and people that is safe and pleasurable.
- Restore, repurpose, and reuse the existing channel infrastructure, respecting its historical context and being good stewards of the funds provided for restoration.
- Recreate an aquatic habitat to nourish life and incorporate nature into our urban environment. Provide places that support diverse activities, offer pockets of surprise and connect with intersecting streets, paths, and transportation routes.
- Celebrate San Pedro Creek's layered history by telling its story with an authentic voice.

For more information on the San Pedro Creek Improvements Project, visit spcproject.org.

WEBSITES WITH ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- San Pedro Creek Improvements Project: <http://spcproject.org>
- San Pedro Creek Public Art Assessment & Strategy: http://spcproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/sanantonio-public-art-plan_final_reduced.pdf
- San Pedro Creek Interpretive Plan: <http://spcproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/the-cultural-walls-booklet-20170207.pdf>
- San Antonio 300: www.celebrate2018.com
- Bexar County: www.bexar.org
- San Antonio River Authority: www.sara-tx.org
- City of San Antonio: www.sanantonio.gov