



## Request for Qualifications

### Dove Springs Recreation Center

Budget: \$44,000

**Deadline: Thursday, September 14, 2017, 5:00 pm**

### Project Summary

The City of Austin Art in Public Places (AIPP) program of the Cultural Arts Division, Economic Development Department (EDD) seeks to commission a professional visual artist, or artist team, to design and fabricate artwork for the Dove Springs Recreation Center at 5801 Ainez Drive Austin, TX 78744.

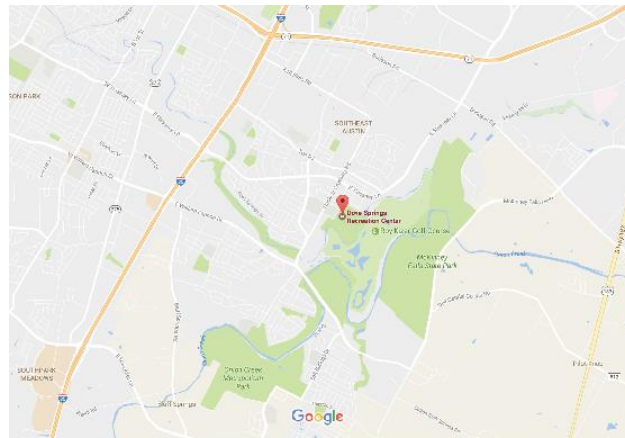
The City of Austin requests qualifications from professional visual artists, or artist teams, who live and work in Williamson, Travis, Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Burnet and Blanco counties. **No artist currently under contract with the City of Austin Art in Public Places Program at the time of application deadline is eligible to apply.**

The total budget available for this project is \$44,000.

Submission deadline is 5:00 pm on Thursday, September 14, 2017.

### Project Background

Located in District 2 in south east Austin, Dove Springs Recreation Center offers Youth, Adult and Senior Programs as well as Sports Leagues and Special Events. The 18,000 square foot center contains: a gymnasium, weight room, arts and crafts room/computer lab, class room, dance studio, conference room, lobby and television room. On the property are: 3 baseball fields, 3 soccer fields, 1 swimming pool, 2 outdoor tennis courts, 1 outdoor basketball court, 1 pavilion, 1 playscape, 1 sand volleyball pit, and a nature walking trail.





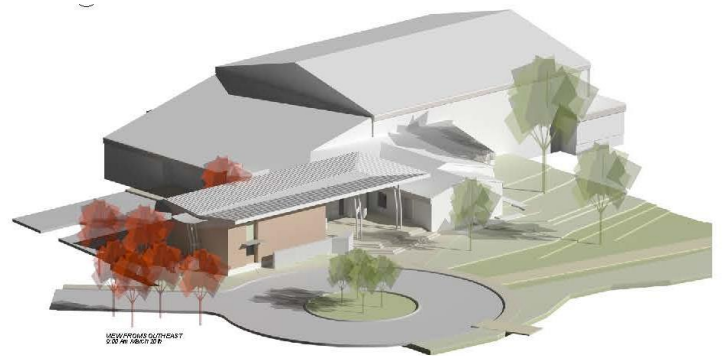
In 2013, the Parks and Recreation Department (PARD), in collaboration with the Austin Parks Foundation (APF), formed a pilot partnership to actively lead the design and installation of an innovative playscape and nature pathway for Dove Springs District Park. The innovative design centers around a custom “treehouse” playscape that encourages active play, exploration and reconnecting children and families to the natural environment. <http://www.austintexas.gov/DoveSprings>

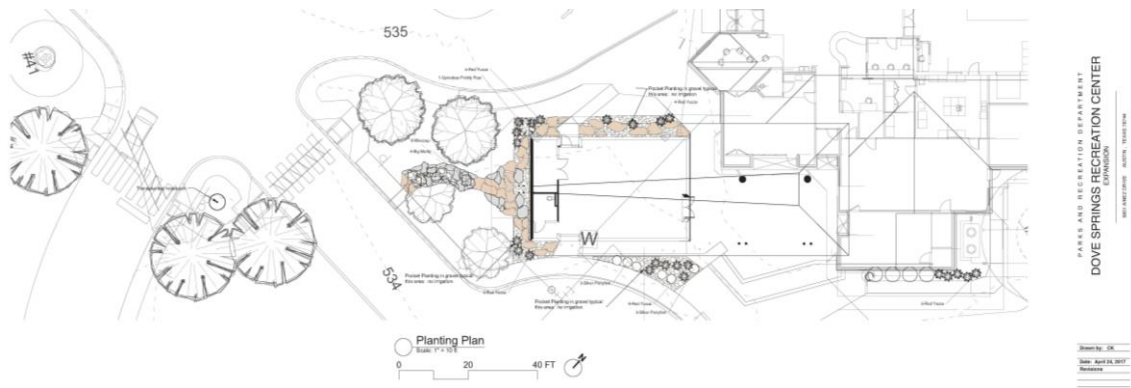
The Dove Springs nature-based children’s play project originated as a necessary replacement of an existing set of children’s play equipment that had outlived its useful service life. As an alternative to replacing obsolete play equipment with traditional, off-the-shelf equipment, the Parks and Recreation Department worked with TBG Landscape Architects and custom playscape manufacturer GameTime to conceive of an interconnected natural play area that addresses the concepts of habitat and discovery. Features of the play area include a constructed dry-creek that bisects the play site with fallen log crossings and climbing boulders, a custom-fabricated tree-form play structure, an

interactive bird’s nest feature atop a viewing hill, a mulch discovery trail with natural play stations, conventional play equipment pockets and lawns for gathering, equipped with picnic tables and grills. This area opened to the public in the spring of 2015.

The Dove Springs area has been identified as a high priority area for several reasons: high obesity rate in children and adults and the presence of a food desert due to the lack of grocery stores in the area. An intensive collaborative effort has formed to improve local community health through a number of community initiatives. The Dove Springs District Park is located in the heart of the local neighborhood and is surrounded by many opportunities for an improved civic experience within this parkland setting.

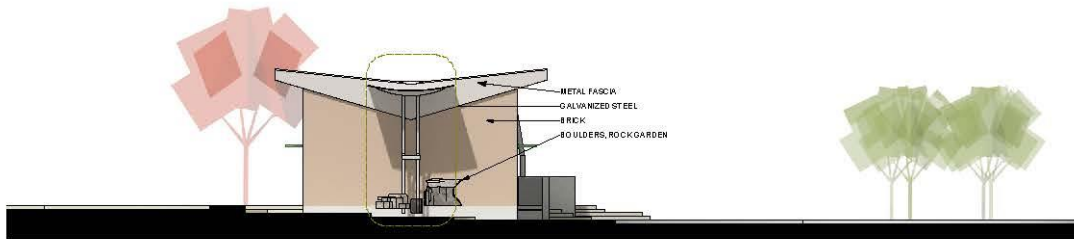
The Parks and Recreation Department is expanding the existing building to provide a commercial grade kitchen and add flexible spaces to meet the desires for new and expanded programming from the \$1.75M in funding allocated in the 2012 GO Bond for a renovation and expansion of the Recreation Center. The building expansion will be integrated with improvements to the park and playscape, which opened in spring 2015. Construction on the expansion is scheduled to begin in October 2017 and continue through October 2018. The facility will be closed to the public during construction.



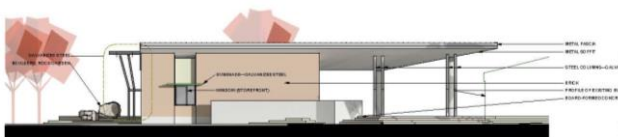


PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
DOVE SPRINGS RECREATION CENTER  
EXPANSION

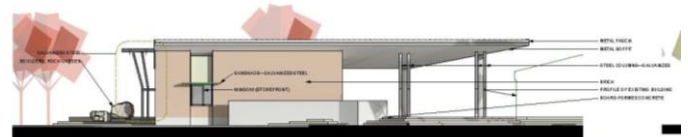
Sheet No. 02  
Date: 04/14/2017  
Revised:



2 SOUTH ELEVATION  
1/8" = 1'-0"



1 EAST ELEVATION  
1/8" = 1'-0"



3 EAST ELEVATION  
1/8" = 1'-0"

3

## 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 who can innovatively and thoughtfully design within the context of this project. For the Dove Springs Recreation Center, the AIPP program seeks to a commission a contemporary work of art that is interactive and family oriented.

The goals of this specific public art project are to:

- » Create an iconic artwork that heightens awareness of the facility;
- » Demonstrate an interest in sustainable materials and builds upon the vision of the on-site wildlife habitat;
- » Integrate educational elements that promote an investigation of the natural environment (educational elements could be physically or visually interactive);
- » Consider the diverse community served by the center and the surrounding neighborhood;
- » Enriches or adds to the depth/breadth of the City of Austin's public art collection

## Budget

The funds for this project are derived from the 2% for public art portion of the City of Austin's contribution to the estimated construction budget. The total award for an artist contract is **\$44,000**, inclusive of design, fabrication and installation, including permitting fees, travel and shipping expenses, insurance and other project related costs.

## Artwork Opportunity

This public art opportunity is open to a wide range of ideas to be proposed by the selected artist, or artist team, in consultation with the project's design team. The selected artist or artist team will coordinate with City staff and stakeholders to develop an artwork to be integrated into the construction of the new building addition.

The selected artist, or artist team, will work closely with the project's design team to develop a comprehensive design for artwork. The project's fast track schedule will require the selected artist, or artist team, to begin work immediately and complete installation by September 2018.

## Artist Information Meeting

**An Artist Information Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 8, 2017 at 5:30 pm (CST) at Cultural Arts Division Offices at 201 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street; Austin, TX 78701.** AIPP staff and Parks and Recreation staff will present information on the project and answering questions from interested artists. 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/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 and work in 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." Applications not meeting all eligibility criteria will be withdrawn from consideration.*

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

Artists who currently have one active contract for a permanent artwork with the Art in Public Places program or who have more than three 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. Applications not meeting all eligibility criteria will be withdrawn from consideration.

## 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](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 innovative public art projects in an outdoor environment;
- » Demonstrated ability to successfully execute a public art project on time and on budget; and
- » Expressed interest in creating artwork for the community.

## Selection Process

A Request for Qualifications will be solicited to professional visual artists who live and work in Williamson, Travis, Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Burnet and Blanco counties. The City of Austin Art in Public Places Panel will convene a selection panel to evaluate the submissions. The selection panel shall review qualifications (portfolio, resume, letter of interest, references) and select one artist or artist team and one alternate. Up to three finalists may be selected for interviews. This recommendation will be presented to the Art in Public Places Panel and Arts Commission for approval.

## Submission Requirements

**Applications must be received online via [www.PublicArtist.org](http://www.PublicArtist.org) no later than 5:00 pm (CST) on Thursday, September 14, 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). Art in Public Places will convene a selection panel to evaluate artist qualifications.

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



## Selection Committee (Selection Panel & Project Advisors)

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

- » Jack White, visual artist
- » Stephanie Kingpetcharat - Manager of Special Projects, The Contemporary Austin
- » Bernadette Phifer, Museum Curator, Carver Cultural Center
- » Lidia Perez, Founder La Pene Gallery
- » Rebecca Gomez - Curator of Exhibitions and Programs at Mexic-Arte Museum

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:

City of Austin Advisors may include:

- » Kevin Johnson – Project Manager, Parks and Recreation Department
- » David Smythe-Macaulay – Project Manager, Public Works
- » DWayne Anderson – Dove Springs Recreation Center Program Supervisor, Parks and Recreation Department
- » Gina Saenz - Recreation Programs Manager, Parks and Recreation Department
- » Lucas Massie – Acting Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation Department
- » Al Godfrey – Architect, Limbacher and Godfrey Architects

AIPP and AAC Project Advisors may include:

- » TBD – Liaison Art in Public Places Panel
- » Jamie Castillo – Liaison Austin Arts Commission, District 2

Community advisors may include:

- » George Morales – Chair, Dove Springs Recreation Advisory Board
- » Ricardo Zavala – President, Dove Springs Proud
- » Ana Aguirre – Southeast Combined Neighborhood Plan Contact Team (SCNPCT)

The selection panel and project advisors will work together to review the applications, including letter of interest, images of recent and relevant work, resume(s), and other information submitted by applicants.

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.

The selected artist(s) will be put under a design contract to coordinate with the City and the project's design team to develop a comprehensive design for artwork. The final design is subject to approval by the Art in Public Places Panel and the Austin Arts Commission and may be subject to review by other relevant City Boards and Commissions and stakeholder groups.

## Schedule (subject to change)

Tuesday, July 18, 2017

Request for Qualifications (RFQ) released

Tuesday August 8, 2017

Artist Information Meeting

Thursday, September 14, 2017

Deadline for RFQ submission

Tuesday, September 26, 2017

Selection panel review of applications

Tuesday, October 10, 2017

Artist Interviews

November 2017

Approval of artist and alternate by AIPP Panel and Arts Commission

November 2017

Artist contract begins and Facility construction begins

January 8, 2018

Mid-Design review by AIPP Panel

April 2, 2018

Final Design review by AIPP Panel and Austin Arts Commission

August/September 2018

Artwork installation

October 2018

Anticipated project completion

### **Contact/Questions**

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(512) 974-7841 or [anna.bradley@austintexas.gov](mailto:anna.bradley@austintexas.gov)