



## Request for Qualifications

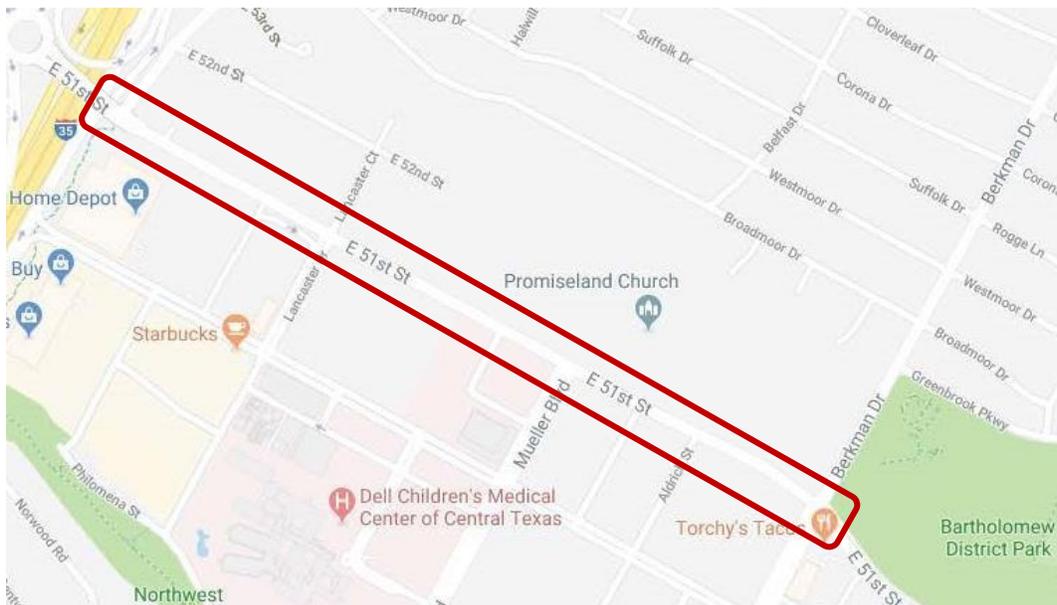
Project: East 51st Streetscape AIPP Project

Artwork Budget: \$48,000

**Deadline to Apply: 5:00 PM (CST), Thursday, March 7, 2019**

### Project Summary

The City of Austin Art in Public Places (AIPP) program of the Cultural Arts Division, Economic Development Department (EDD) seeks to commission professional visual artists, or artist teams, to design and fabricate artwork for the East 51<sup>st</sup> Street Mobility and Transportation 2012 Bond Project. The project scope is from I-35 to Berkman Drive on the north and south sides of 51<sup>st</sup> Street. This project includes District 9 to the south and District 4 to the north of 51<sup>st</sup> Street.



### Project Background

Approved by Austin voters as part of East 51st Street Mobility and Transportation 2012 Bond Project, the East 51<sup>st</sup> Street improvements stem from the East 51<sup>st</sup> Street Vision Plan to create a community vision and promote coordinated redevelopment for both sides of the corridor, with the Windsor Park neighborhood to the north and the Mueller redevelopment underway to the south. The [East 51<sup>st</sup> Street Vision Plan](#) achieved wide consensus and support from area neighborhood groups and was endorsed by the City Council April 26, 2012. The City Council also passed a resolution directing the City Manager to

identify funding sources to implement the plan. The East 51<sup>st</sup> Street Improvements Project was later added to the 2012 Bond, Proposition 12 – Transportation and Mobility, as a community-based project during the bond development process. The project is sponsored by the Austin Transportation Department (ATD) and managed by Public Works (PW), with the Economic Development Department (EDD) serving as the stakeholder department and coordinating the project with the Mueller redevelopment, Catellus (Mueller master developer), and the Council-endorsed East 51<sup>st</sup> Street Vision Plan.

Final design is underway, with construction anticipated to start Spring-Summer 2019 (18-24 Months construction duration). Project features include, but are not limited to: tree-lined sidewalks on the north and south sides; protected bicycle lane on the north and south sides; protected bicycle intersections at Berkman Drive, Mueller Blvd., Lancaster Drive, and Cameron Road; on-street parallel parking; Rain gardens and detention ponds for runoff and water quality enhancements; Controlled pedestrian crossings at intersections to provide safer pedestrian access.

[East 51<sup>st</sup> Street Vision Plan](#) includes:

- 51ST Street is a multi-modal urban street that accommodates safe pedestrian and bicycle movement as well as calm vehicular traffic.
- 51st Street west of Berkman Drive is lined with buildings and developments that promote a safe, interesting and lively pedestrian environment, with strong linkages and an appropriate scale transition to the Windsor Park neighborhood.
- East of Berkman Drive, 51st Street is a narrow parkway with generous landscaping, bike lanes and trails alongside.

More information can be found at [www.AustinTexas.gov/E51stStreet](http://www.AustinTexas.gov/E51stStreet).

## Public Art 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 an artist or artist team who can innovatively and thoughtfully respond to the design within the context of this project.

The goals of each opportunity are to select artists, in collaboration with project stakeholders and City staff, who will design artwork that:

- » Supports calming vehicular traffic and a safe, interesting and lively pedestrian and bicycle environment;
- » Conceptually connects the Windsor Park and Mueller neighborhoods;
- » Integrates seamlessly into the construction of the streetscape or crosswalk;
- » Is made from durable and low maintenance materials; and
- » Enriches or adds to the depth/breadth of the City of Austin's public art collection.

The proposed artworks should be integrated into the available scope of construction, to the greatest extent possible, without impeding operation, safety and access. Artwork should be sited in areas accessible to the public within the public right-of-way. A range of materials and conceptual approaches are welcome, as long as the parameters and goals of the project are met.

## 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. Each opportunity is inclusive of design team collaboration, design, fabrication, and installation of artwork, including shipping expenses, insurance, travel, and other project related costs. **The total artwork budget is \$48,000.**

## Artwork Opportunity

The selected artist will be charged with integrating artwork into the overall design of the streetscape, per the East 51<sup>st</sup> Street Vision Plan. The artwork may consist of multiple parts, extending from I-35 east to Berkman Drive on both the north and south sides of 51<sup>st</sup> Street.

- Multiple sites and options for artwork will be considered – the selected artist will work with the project design team to determine the best placement for the artwork.
- An artwork that focuses on viewers who will experience the artwork at the speed of a pedestrian and/or bicycle is encouraged.

\*See Appendix at end of this document for more specific ideas on the opportunities.

## Artist Information Meeting

An artist information meeting will be held during the open application period to explain the parameters of the project and outline the application procedures. AIPP staff and project representatives will be available to answer questions. The slides will be posted after the meeting.

An artist information meeting and application workshop will be held on **Saturday, January 26, 2018 from 3:00 to 4:30 pm** at the Windsor Park Branch Library at 5833 Westminster Drive, Austin, TX 78723.

## 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." All artists on the 2018-2020 Local Pre-Qualified Artist Pool are eligible to apply.

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

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 a complicated design environment;
- » demonstrated ability to successfully execute a public art project on time and on budget; and
- » expressed interest in creating artwork for East 51<sup>st</sup> Street.

## 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 for the opportunity. 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.

The selection panel recommendations will be presented to the Art in Public Places Panel and Arts Commission for approval. 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.

## Submission Process

**Applications must be received online via [www.PublicArtist.org](http://www.PublicArtist.org) no later than 5:00 pm (CST) on Thursday, March 7, 2019.**

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)

Possible Selection Panelists may include:

- Nelly Fuentes, Landscape Architect, TBG
- Erica Nix, artist/performance artist, Transform LGBTQ-friendly gym owner

- Vy Ngo, Artist
- Jay Columbo, Architect, Michael Shu
- Adreon Henry, TEMPO 2018 artist
- Mary Godigna Collet, Artist
- Adrian Aguilera, Artist
- Martha Gonzales, Artist
- Kelly Porter, Urban Designer, CAMPO

AIPP and AAC Project Advisors may include:

- Lulu Flores, Arts Commissioner, District 9
- Brett Barnes, Arts Commissioner, District 4
- Jacob Villanueva, AIPP Panel member

City of Austin Project Advisors may include:

- Burton Jones, Project Manager, Public Works Department,
- Jill Fagan, Project Manager, Economic Development Department
- Paul Terranova, Project Manager, Austin Transportation Department
- Dipti Borkar-Desai, Engineer, Austin Transportation Department
- Lee Austin, Engineer, Austin Transportation Department
- Christina Willingham, Business Process Consultant Sr, Austin Transportation Department
- Mike Schofield, Engineer, Austin Transportation Department
- Joe Smith, Engineer, Austin Water Department
- Gary Gemar, Atkins Global

Community Advisors may include:

- Patricia Shults, Executive Director, Arts Alliance Austin
- Rick Krivoniak, Robert Mueller Municipal Airport Plan Implementation Advisory Commissioner and Windsor Park resident
- Mueller neighborhood resident – TBD
- Rodney Ahart, Keep Austin Beautiful

## Commitment to Equity

Art in Public Places embraces cultural equity. It is the goal of the program to ensure as many people as possible have meaningful engagements with public art and access to viewing, experiencing, and creating artwork. AIPP actively seeks to provide members of historically underrepresented communities, which can include identities such as Black or African-American, Arab-American, Asian-American, Hispanic or LatinX, Pacific Islander, Indigenous Nations, LGBTQIA, or a person with a disability, with equitable access to public art opportunities. In support of this commitment, the program will make every effort to expand access to the collection and programmatic decision-making. For each project, every effort will be made to comprise project selection panels and finalist pools for AIPP commissions with representatives from a variety of historically underrepresented communities to better reflect the diversity of Austin.

## Schedule (subject to change)

### 2018

December 3 and 10      Prospectus approved by AIPP Panel and Arts Commission

### 2019

January 11              Request for Qualifications released (eight weeks)

January 26              Artist Information Meeting

**March 7**                **Deadline for RFQ submissions**

March 19                Selection panel review of applications

March 29                Artist interviews

April 1 & 15            Approval of artists and alternates by AIPP Panel and Arts Commission

April 16                 Artist enters design contract

April 30                 Project kick-off meeting

May-June                CIP project construction begins

June 3                  Mid-Design to AIPP Panel

September 9 & 19      Final Design Approval to AIPP Panel & Arts Commission

October 1                Artist enters commission contract & artwork fabrication begins

### 2020

Summer                 Artwork installation coordination and installation

### 2021

January                 Anticipated project completion

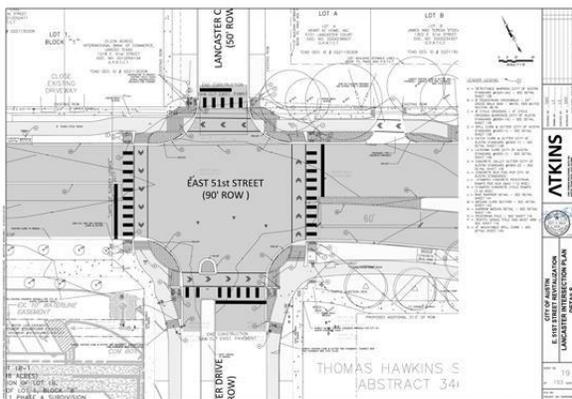
## Contact/Questions

Anna Bradley, Art in Public Places Project Manager, (512) 974-7841 or [anna.bradley@austintexas.gov](mailto:anna.bradley@austintexas.gov)

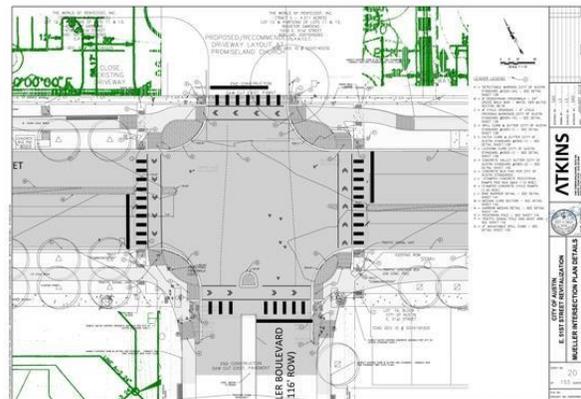
**\*APPENDIX: Opportunities for consideration**

While this is a Request for Qualifications only – applicants are not expected to make a proposal or share an idea of what they would like to do with this project – ideas below have been part of the discussion as AIPP staff worked with the project team and the AIPP Panel in developing this opportunity. The opportunity could be:

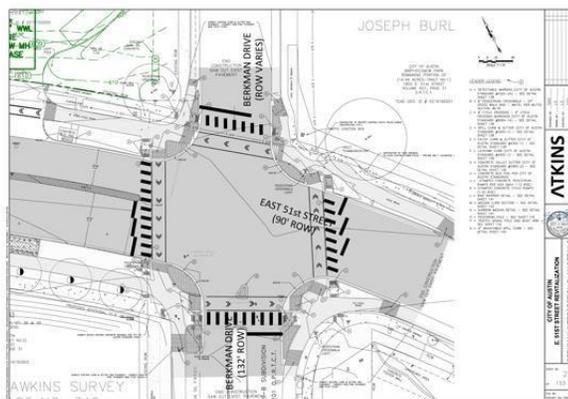
- A sculptural intervention near one of the intersections that people could enjoy or engage as they wait to cross the street.
- Artwork placed in proximity to a Cap Metro stop might have a component that could make waiting for the bus more enjoyable, something to play with, or entertain adults/children.
- An option could be artist-designed creative crosswalks. Three crosswalks shown below are located in the project zone – at Lancaster Drive, Mueller Blvd, and Berkman Dr. One or all of these crosswalks may be engaged.



51<sup>st</sup> Street and Lancaster Dr



51<sup>st</sup> Street and Mueller Blvd



51<sup>st</sup> Street and Berkman Dr

At the Artist Information meeting, AIPP staff will share some examples of installed public art projects to open up the possibilities for this project. The slides will be posted after the meeting.