

Request for Qualifications

Project: Ricky Guerrero Pocket Park General Improvements Project

Artwork Budget: \$31,000

**ARTIST INFORMATION MEETING: South Austin Recreation Center,
May 18th 11-12:30 pm**

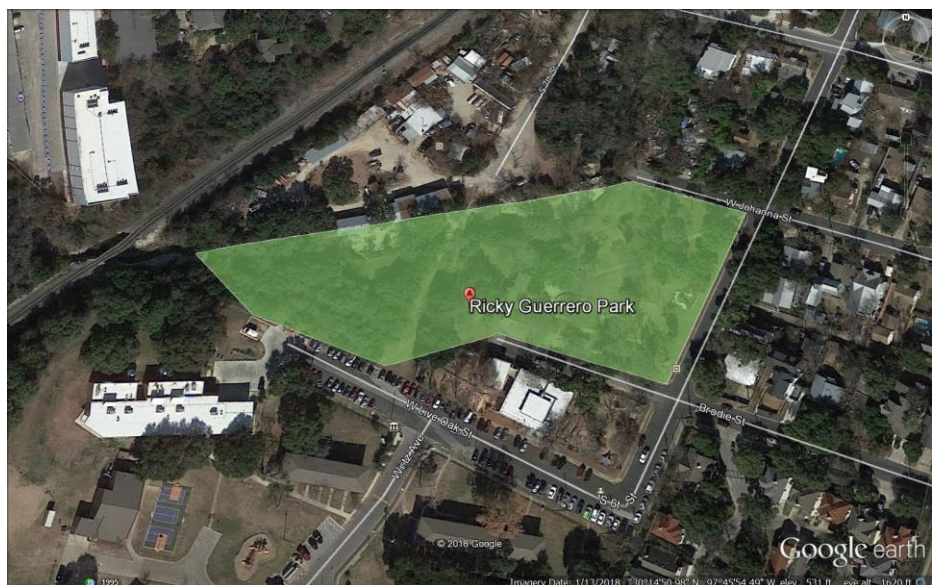
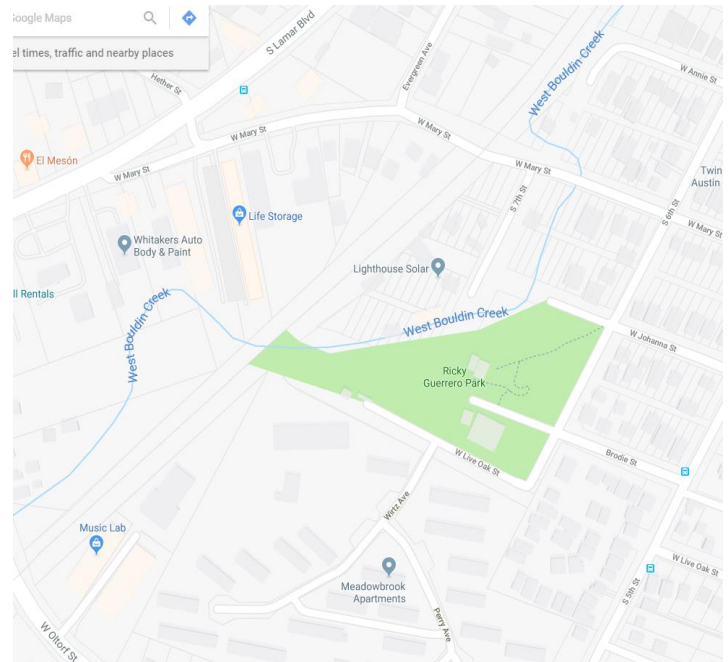
Project Summary

The City of Austin Art in Public Places (AIPP) program of the Cultural Arts Division, Economic Development Department seeks to commission a durable, permanent exterior public artwork that creates a sense of identity and a sense of positivity through color, imagery and engagement with the nearby communities.

Project Background

Located in District 9, Ricky Guerrero Park is bordered by W. Live Oak St, W. Johanna St, S. 6th St. and West Bouldin Creek. The park is a small neighborhood park with a playground, picnic tables, a restroom area and a shaded splash pad. The splash pad is open during the City of Austin swim season. Being nestled along the banks of West Bouldin Creek, there are enjoyable views of the limestone creek bed which, depending on rainfall totals, is mostly dry.

In July of 1972 Ricky Guerrero Park was dedicated. Ricky Guerrero attended Austin High School and was lauded as an outstanding student and leader. He died in 1970 after a football injury. He was the son of Raul Guerrero, the superintendent of recreation for Austin.



Ricky Guerrero Pocket Park General Improvements Project

The mid-sized shaded splash pad is the most popular feature of the Ricky Guerrero Pocket Park. Renovations to the area include new drainage and ADA accessibility, new retaining walls and concrete sidewalks, picnic areas and trash receptacles, a larger playscape area, new trees and vegetation are planned as well as a rain garden.



Budget

The AIPP 2% funding for this project comes from the 2012 Bond. The total award for an artist contract is **\$31,000**, inclusive of design, fabrication and installation, including engineering and permitting fees, travel and shipping expenses, insurance and other project-related costs.

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 the Ricky Guerrero Pocket Park AIPP Project is to select an artist/artist team who will design artwork that:

- cultivates an uplifting perspective through color, imagery or design;
- strengthens the identity of the park and enlightens the viewer about Ricky Guerrero and/or the neighborhood;
- demonstrates engagement between the artist and the nearby community; and
- is easily maintained and vandal resistant in an exterior environment.

Artwork Opportunity

This public art opportunity is open to a range of ideas proposed by the selected artist, or artist team, in consultation with the project’s design team. The medium and location of the artwork will be determined through discussions between the artist, community stakeholders, the design team and the AIPP Panel. The artist(s) is/are expected to gather community input in the development of their design. Potential locations for artwork include, but are not limited to, incorporating artwork into the vast planned sidewalks, incorporating artwork into the existing landscape box area, incorporating artwork into the existing seat walls near the splashpad or utilizing the covered space near the existing restrooms. Due to the challenges for maintenance of the artwork, only artwork of substantial durability and low maintenance needs will be considered. The total artwork budget for this project is \$31,000.

PAR | Ricky Guerrero Pocket Park



Potential Artwork Opportunities

Budget: \$31,000

Incorporate artwork into existing landscape box area

Incorporate artwork into existing gathering space

Incorporate artwork into existing seat wall near splash pad

Artist Scope of Work

Community Engagement Phase

Once selected, the artist will engage with the neighborhood community and the design team and consider their response in preparing the final design. The artist will work with AIPP staff in planning and executing community engagement, meeting(s), outreach and community participation.

Design Phase

After the artist has engaged the community, they will submit the following material for the final design proposal:

- **Written Narrative** describing the proposed artwork, including relationship of the artwork to the location, compatibility with the community/neighbors in proximity to the site, and installation plan. The narrative should describe how the artist engaged with the community. The selected artist or artist team will define the process of installation, including if he or she intends to contract a third-party for, or engage the community for assistance with, installation.
- **In-Context Images** of proposed artwork, such as sketches or renderings showing what the artwork will look like in place at the proposed site. The artist will determine the artistic expression, scope, design, color, size, material and texture of the artwork in conversation with the community surrounding the project location, subject to approval by the City.
- **Preliminary Itemized Budget** including a materials list which conveys the installation method to be used. The artists will be responsible for development of a final budget to include all costs to create the mural including but not limited to installation, de-installation, site restoration, permitting, and insurance. A sample budget sheet can be found online at: <http://austintexas.gov/departments/aipp-resources>. Tools or equipment for fabrication or installation are considered capital assets and are not eligible expenses. Rental of tools or equipment are acceptable expenses. No fund matching or crowd sourcing may be applied.

Installation Phase

In addition, the selected artist or team will provide the following services:

- **Site Preparation.** The artist is responsible for preparing the site to receive art. This includes cleaning the surface of the wall and removing loose debris and, in the instance of a painted mural, priming the mural area in advance of painting.
- **Safety.** The artist is responsible for working safely within the public space, redirecting any pedestrian traffic so that there is no conflict with artist work space.
- **Installation.** The artist is responsible for fabricating and installing the artwork or overseeing its fabrication and installation.

Artist Information Meeting

An **ARTIST INFORMATION MEETING** will be held at South Austin Recreation Center, May 18th 11-12:30 pm to explain the parameters of the project and outline the application procedures. AIPP staff and project representatives will be available to answer questions. Artists may also attend **AIPP Open Office Hours** to ask questions.

Artist Eligibility

Visual artists at least 18 years of age living and working in Williamson, Travis, Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Burnett, and Blanco counties are eligible to apply. Only one application per artist or artist team will be accepted (an artist may not apply as an individual and as a team member separately). Incomplete or late applications will be disqualified.

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

Artists that have active contracts for permanent artwork are not eligible for this call. Applications not meeting all eligibility criteria will be withdrawn from consideration.

Selection Process

A Request for Qualifications will be distributed to professional visual artists who live and work in Williamson, Travis, Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Burnet and Blanco counties. Applications must be submitted through PublicArtist.org by the deadline. The City of Austin Art in Public Places Panel will convene a selection panel to evaluate the submissions. The selection panel and advisors shall review qualifications and select three finalists for interviews *unless there is consensus on the selection of recommending one applicant and one alternate*. The selection panel and advisors shall convene for interviews and select one artist/artist team and one alternate. This recommendation will be presented to the Art in Public Places Panel and Arts Commission for approval. The approved artist(s) will be put under a design + commission contract 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.

Submission Requirements

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

Evaluation Criteria

The selection of an artist, or artist team, shall be based on whose qualifications best meet the requirements contained in the Request for Qualifications. In addition to the standard AIPP project selection criteria found on the City of Austin's Art in Public Places website (www.austintexas.gov/aipp/selectioncriteria.htm), 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
- » ability to successfully engage the Rosewood neighbourhood community
- » Stakeholder and User Department approval.

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:

- » Jose Perez, Landscape Architect, Coleman & Associates
- » Dave McClinton, Artist
- » Peter Ortiz, Artist
- » Dawn Okoro, Artist
- » Christine Esposito, Arts Management Specialist

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:

- » Jimmy Cone, PARD South District, Operation and Maintenance
- » Charles Vaclavik, Division Manager, Parks and Recreation Department, Operation and Maintenance
- » George Maldonado, Project Manager, Parks and Recreation Department, Park Development
- » Jodi Jay, Division Manager, Aquatics Division, Parks and Recreation Department
- » David Cazares, Sr. Project Manager, MWM DesignGroup
- » Christina Bies, Project Coordinator, Parks and Recreation Department, Park Development
- » Jan Adler & Thom Yorke, Community Liaisons
- » Sarah Carr, AIPP Panel Liaison
- » Lulu Flores, Liaison Austin Arts Commission, District 9

No gallery owner, dealer, or art agent may serve as a juror due to the potential for conflict of interest.

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.

Tentative Schedule (Subject to Change)

March 2019

Approval of Prospectus by AIPP Panel and Austin Arts Commission

May 2019

Request for Qualifications (RFQ) released

Project Information Meeting

June 2019

Completion of park improvements

July 2019

Selection of Finalists

Interviews and Selection of Artist + Alternate

August 2019

Approval of Artist and Alternate by AIPP Panel and Arts Commission

Artist(s) under contract

September 2019

Artist Meet with Design Team

Community Engagement

December 2019

Mid-Design review

March 2020

Final Design review

April 2020

Fabrication/Ordering of materials

August 2020 (pending fabrication timeline)

Installation of Artwork