



The City of Austin Art in Public Places program is seeking artists to apply for the 2021-2023 Pre-Qualified Artist Pool!

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS OPEN CALL: **2021-2023 Pre-Qualified Artist Pool**

SUMMARY

Artwork Budget Range: \$30,000 - \$500,000+, inclusive of ALL project-related costs

Release Date: October 31, 2020

EXTENDED Deadline to Apply: Sunday, March 7, 2021, 5 PM CST

Artist Information Meetings to be held via Zoom

>> **Wednesday, November 18, 6-7 PM CST**

>> **Thursday, December 10, 6-7 PM CST**

Sign-up for the meetings will be listed here: <https://www.austintexas.gov/department/aipp-opportunities>

See recorded presentation after the meeting dates here: <https://www.austintexas.gov/department/aipp-opportunities>

Artwork Opportunity: The City of Austin Art in Public Places (AIPP) program of the Cultural Arts Division, Economic Development Department (EDD) seeks artists and artist teams in all stages of their careers who desire to create public art and are working in a variety of visual media and artistic approaches for its 2021-2023 Pre-Qualified Artist Pool. Selected artists and artist teams from the Pool may be contracted to design and fabricate artwork for eligible Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects of various scopes, timelines, and budgets throughout the City of Austin. **SEE PUBLIC ART GOALS BELOW!**

Artist Eligibility: Practicing visual artists, artist teams, and visual arts professionals at least 18 years of age who live in the United States and territories (Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and American Samoa) are eligible to apply. Artists living in the 7-county Austin metropolitan area are encouraged to apply. All artists and artist teams who were accepted into AIPP's 2018-2020 Local and National Pre-Qualified Artist Pools and Corridor Construction Program Artist Pool will be invited to be automatically included in the 2021-2023 Pre-Qualified Artist Pool. **SEE ARTIST ELIGIBILITY BELOW!**

PLEASE VISIT THE FOLLOWING LINK TO APPLY!

PublicArtist.org/AustinAIPP

Questions?

Alex Irrera, Art in Public Places Project & Collection Manager, (512) 974-7860 or alex.irrera@austintexas.gov

Maria Teresa Bonet, Art in Public Places Project Manager, (512) 974-7949 or maria-teresa.bonet@austintexas.gov

POOL DETAILS

Public Art Goals

The Art in Public Places program seeks artists or artist teams whose work advances public understanding of visual art and enhances the aesthetic quality of public places through innovative and thoughtful design. An artist or artist team is encouraged to design artwork that:

- **Supports the artwork goals set for the respective Capital Improvement Program project for which the artist or artist team is chosen;**
- **Identifies and considers opportunities for innovation or enhanced civic engagement;**
- **Transforms a space or the user experience in a way that is widely accessible for in-person and/or virtual viewers;**
- **Reflects the diversity of Austin and sparks a conversation within the community;**
- **Considers a contemporary art dialogue and contributes to the depth and breadth of the City of Austin’s public art collection; and**
- **Is safe, easily maintained, and vandal-resistant.**

Submission Process

Applications must be received online via www.PublicArtist.org/AustinAIPP by the deadline. For technical assistance with your application, please contact info@publicartist.org or 210-701-0775 (9:00 AM – 5:00 PM).

Applications include: a series of short answers; 10 images of completed relevant artwork with the required descriptions; resume; 3 professional references; and a demographic survey.

The short answers will be response to the following prompts on the application. The following are questions were formulated to help applicants put their best foot forward in introducing themselves and their practice to the jury. Applicants are asked to respond to each question below in **100 – 300 words per question**.

- 1. Introduce Yourself:** What does the jury need to know about you to better understand you and your work as an artist? How long have you been working as artist and in what media? Tell us about your previous training and experience as an artist.
- 2. Public Art Interest and Experience:** What is your public art experience? What motivates you to work as a public artist? How has your practice changed or grown due to your interest or work in public art?
- 3. Artist Statement:** What questions, themes, or areas of interest guide your artistic practice? What concepts are you exploring through your practice? How do your interests affect your choice of scale, media, and materials?
- 4. Working with Community:** As an artist, what role has community engagement or social practice played in your work? How have these experiences affected your perspective as an artist and informed future projects? If you haven’t worked with community, are you interested in doing so and why?
- 5. Artist Teams (for teams only):** If you are applying as a team, please name each team member. Explain your roles, how long you’ve been collaborating, and how each team member contributes to the team’s artistic vision.

Artist Eligibility

Applicants should meet the following requirements:

- Practicing visual artist or artist team;
- At least 18 years of age; and
- Live in the United States and/or territories (Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and American Samoa).

Full-time, permanent City of Austin employees and project consultants and their employees are ineligible to apply. Artists and artist teams under current City of Austin AIPP contract are eligible to apply. Artists and artist teams from the 7-county Austin metropolitan area (Williamson, Travis, Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Burnet, and Blanco counties) are encouraged to apply.

All artists and artist teams who were accepted into AIPP's 2018-2020 Local and National Pre-Qualified Artist Pools and Corridor Construction Program Artist Pool will be invited to be automatically included in the 2021-2023 Pre-Qualified Artist Pool. Artists and artist teams from the aforementioned pools who choose to participate in the 2021-2023 Pre-Qualified Artist Pool will be asked to update their previous application information. This application update is requested in order to create uniformity across the information provided by each 2021-2023 Pre-Qualified Pool member.

Applications not meeting all eligibility criteria will be withdrawn from consideration.

Qualifications

City of Austin is seeking practicing artists, artist teams, and visual arts professionals who have made art creation a focus of their practice and who have demonstrated experience working with: arts budgets of \$5,000 or more; materials suitable for indoor and/or outdoor public settings. Practice with site-specific design and/or collaborations with other artists, design professionals, or community members are desired but not necessary. Certain projects may also offer opportunities for an artist to work as part of a larger design team for a Capital Improvement Program project.

Purpose

The purpose of the Pre-Qualified Artist Pool is to provide a streamlined application and selection process for artists and artist teams interested in being commissioned for public art projects through the City of Austin Art in Public Places Program. Program staff and the Art in Public Places Panel will utilize the Pre-Qualified Pool, in whole or in part, for commission opportunities based on project timeline, scope, previously identified project outcomes, and/or a highly specialized field of opportunity. The list of artists and artist teams in the Pool will also be made available to private developers and other public art commissioning entities for their use. All artists and artist teams in the Pool remain eligible for contract opportunities for a minimum of a two-year period.

Program Background

The Austin Art in Public Places program manages a diverse range of public art projects within the City of Austin. Since AIPP's inception in 1985, over 325 public artworks have been created in City sites and facilities, including but not limited to libraries, streetscapes, public safety facilities, parklands, pools, recreation centers, trails and bikeways, Austin-Bergstrom International Airport, and Austin Convention Center. For additional information about the Austin Art in Public Places program, please visit www.austincreates.com.

Budget

By ordinance, the funds for public art are derived from 2% of the City of Austin's estimated construction budget for each Capital Improvement Program project. The total award for an artist contract must include design, fabrication and installation, and will include engineering fees, travel and shipping expenses, insurance, and all other project-related costs. The range of artwork budgets anticipated through the City of Austin's current and upcoming Capital Improvement Program Plan (the 2016 Mobility Bond Program, the 2018 Bond Program, and possible future bond programs) for the Pre-Qualified Artist Pool is projected to be \$30,000 - \$500,000 or more.

AIPP Alignment with City of Austin Vision

As it approaches its 200th anniversary, Austin is a beacon of sustainability, social equity and economic opportunity; where diversity and creativity are celebrated; where community needs and values are recognized; where leadership comes from its citizens and where the necessities of life are affordable and accessible to all.

<http://www.austintexas.gov/page/imagine-austin-vision>

City of Austin's Strategic Direction 2023 (SD23)

The Austin City Council adopted a strategic direction guiding the City for the next three to five years. SD23 outlines a shared vision and six outcomes of which two directly guide Art in Public Places: Economic Opportunity & Affordability and Culture and Lifelong learning.

- As part of the SD23 process Art in Public Places and the Economic Development Department will quantify a number of key performance measures including, participants who are satisfied with City-offered culture and lifelong learning events, activities, and resources, and number of jobs supported. The Department will use that data to better align decision making and budget allocations.
- Because artists are small businesses, Art in Public Places may ask commissioned artists to outline how many jobs were supported based on their current City of Austin contract as well as whether the contract strengthened their overall business operations.

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 with equitable access to public art opportunities.

These communities may 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.

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 juries and finalist pools for AIPP commissions with representatives from a variety of historically underrepresented communities to better reflect the diversity of Austin.

Selection Process

A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) will be distributed and applications must be submitted through PublicArtist.org by the deadline. The City of Austin Art in Public Places Panel will convene a jury to evaluate the applications. The jury and advisors will review artists and artist teams' qualifications including a series of short answers, images of recent and relevant work, resume(s), and professional references and recommend a list of artists and artist teams for the Pool to be approved by the Art in Public Places Panel and Austin Arts Commission.

For each individual AIPP artwork opportunity, staff works with the Art in Public Places Panel and Arts Commission to identify the best process for artist selection. The Panel and Commission may recommend an artist or artist team directly from the Pool, recommend a short-list of artists and teams for interviews or paid proposals, or recommend releasing an invitational Call to Artists to the Pool or an Open Call to Artists to the general public.

The selected artist(s) or artist team(s) for each project will be put under contract and coordinate with City staff and project design team to develop a comprehensive final design, which is also subject to approval by the AIPP Panel and the Austin Arts Commission prior to fabrication and installation.

The final design may be subject to review by other relevant City Boards and Commissions and stakeholder groups as well.

The Austin City Council must approve authorize negotiation of any contract over the established administrative authority.

Jury & Project Advisors

One 5-member jury will be chosen to include at least 2 visual artists and at least 2 local jurors (per the ordinance) to select the Pool.

Jurors:

- Regina Agu, Artist and Writer (Chicago, Illinois)
- Nicole Awai, Artist and Assistant Professor at The University of Texas at Austin (Austin, Texas)
- Jaime Beaman, Founder and Principal, CasaBella Architects (Austin, Texas)
- Evan Garza, Co-curator and Creative Director, 2021 Texas Biennial, Former Director of Rice Public Art (Washington, D.C.)
- Cievel Xicohtencatl, Artist and Community Engagement Coordinator for The Laundromat Project (New York & Mexico)

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.

Possible Project Advisors:

Project advisors will be invited to participate in the process to provide assistance and expertise to the jury. The project advisors to the jury may include:

- Marina Islas, Latinx Community Archivist, Austin History Center (Austin, Texas)
- Pamela Benson Owens, Interim Executive Director, Six Square (Austin, Texas)
- Katie Robillard, PLA, Park Design Director, Austin Parks Foundation (Austin, Texas)

- Jacob Villanueva, AIPP Panel Member (Austin, Texas)
- kYmberly Keeton, Austin Arts Commissioner and Austin History Center African-American Archivist & Librarian (Austin, Texas)
- Celina Zisman, Austin Arts Commissioner (Austin, Texas)
- City of Austin Equity Office Representative (Austin, Texas)
- City of Austin Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Quality of Life Advisory Commission Representative (Austin, Texas)

The Jury will be supported by:

- Sue Lambe, AIPP Program Manager, Cultural Arts Division, Economic Development Department, City of Austin
- Maria Teresa Bonet, AIPP Project Manager, Cultural Arts Division, Economic Development Department, City of Austin
- Alex Irrera, AIPP Project & Collections Manager, Cultural Arts Division, Economic Development Department, City of Austin

Additional Policies

- The Austin Art in Public Places program reserves the right to decline all submissions, cancel or extend any qualified list at any time, or commission an artist or artist team through another process.
- Inclusion in a Pre-Qualified Artist Pool does not guarantee a commission.
- Additional eligibility criteria may be set for commission selections. Artists will not be eligible for more than one active AIPP project at any given time.
- Each Pre-Qualified Pool may be shared with community members, developers, or entities desiring to commission an artist or artist team for a project, and limited information on artists and artist teams in the Pool may be promoted on the City of Austin website.
- The Austin Art in Public Places program may open the Pool for new applicants as needed.

Selection Criteria

In addition to the standard project selection criteria found on the Art in Public Places website (www.austintexas.gov/department/aipp-policies), the selection panel will consider the following evaluation criteria:

- Artistic merit and technical ability;
- Demonstrated ability to successfully execute innovative art projects in a complex design environment;
- Demonstrated ability to successfully execute an art project on time and within budget; and
- Expressed interest in creating public artwork.

Tentative Schedule (Subject to Change)

October 2020

Open Call for the Pre-Qualified Artist Pool released

November – December 2020

Virtual Artist Information Meetings

March 2021

Deadline for applications

Selection jury and advisors review of qualifications and recommendation of Pool

April 2021

Approval of Pool by AIPP Panel and Austin Artist Commission

Pre-Qualified Artist Pool announced

Contact/Questions

Alex Irrera, Art in Public Places Project & Collection Manager, (512) 974-7860 or alex.irrera@austintexas.gov

Maria Teresa Bonet, Art in Public Places Project Manager, (512) 974-7949 or maria-teresa.bonet@austintexas.gov