



REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Art in Public Places Project: Gustavo "Gus" L. Garcia Recreation Center, Phase III

Artist Budget: \$23,000, inclusive of ALL project-related costs

Deadline to Submit Request for Qualification: Tuesday, March 30, 2021; 5:00 PM (CST)

Artist Information Meeting, to be held via Zoom

Date: Thursday, February 18, 2021

Time: 6:00 PM (CST)

Link to Join: <https://bit.ly/3cBJaVk>

See recorded presentation here, after meeting date: austintexas.gov/department/aipp-opportunities



Artwork Opportunity | The City of Austin Art in Public Places (AIPP) program seeks to commission a visual artist, or artist team, to design and install a permanent exterior mural for the Gus Garcia Recreation Center. The community has stated a strong preference for a mural that will serve as a recognizable visual landmark for the Center. They have also communicated an interest in a mural that reflects the Center's and the surrounding communities' rich diversity, highlighting its welcoming spirit.

Artists familiar with the Heritage Hills or Windsor Hills community and the Gus Garcia Recreation Center are highly encouraged to apply. Multilingual artists and artists able to interact with the community in languages other than English are also encouraged to apply.

Location | Located at 1201 E. Rundberg Lane, Austin, Texas 78753, the Gus Garcia Recreation Center is a hub of the Heritage Hills neighborhood. It lies within the northeastern portion area of Austin's urban core.

Questions?

Maria Teresa Bonet

AIPP Project Manager

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City of Austin Art in Public Places Program

Cultural Arts Division

5202 E. Ben White, Suite 400, Austin, TX 78702



Public Art Goals

The AIPP 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. This can be accomplished through the selection of a qualified artist or artist team who can innovatively and thoughtfully design within the context of this project.

To help ensure the engagement of diverse, local voices, AIPP collaborated with Heritage Hills community members and Gus Garcia Recreation Center stakeholders to outline aims for the artwork. AIPP seeks an artist or artist team to create a mural that will:

- » **Serve as a recognizable, visual landmark for the Gustavo "Gus" L. Garcia Recreation Center;**
- » **Reflect the rich diversity of the Center and the surrounding community, highlighting its welcoming spirit;**
- » **Integrate into the natural environment of the park and recreation center, drawing visitors to the site;**
- » **Inspire curiosity and imagination in a visually appealing way;**
- » **Respect the life and legacy of Gustavo "Gus" L. Garcia and family;**
- » **Be safe, easily maintained, and vandal-resistant in an exterior environment; and**
- » **Contribute to the depth and breadth of the City of Austin's public art collection.**

Possible Artwork Locations



The Gus Garcia Recreation Center has shared a strong preference for the artwork to be located on the Center's northeast side. However, once the selected artist is on board, the artwork's final location will be a point of collaboration between the artist, staff, and users of the Recreation Center.

Submission Process

Applications must be received online via www.PublicArtist.org no later than 5:00 PM (CST) on March 30, 2021.

For technical assistance with your application, please contact info@publicartist.org or 210.701.0775 (9:00 AM – 5:00 PM). For general questions about the application, please contact AIPP project manager Maria Teresa Bonet (512.974.7949).

Applications include a series of short answer questions listed below, 5-10 images of completed relevant artwork with descriptions, and a resume.

The short answers will be in response to the following prompts on the application. We have formulated some questions to help you put your best foot forward in introducing yourself and your practice to the Jury. Applicants are asked to respond to each question below in 100 – 300 words per question.

- » Why are you interested in the Gustavo "Gus" L. Garcia Recreation Center AIPP project?
- » Do you have a connection to this area or its community?
- » **The selected artist will be collaborating with a community advisory group on this project.** As an artist, what role has community engagement played in your work? If you haven't worked with communities, are you interested in doing so and why?
- » If applying as a team, please name each team member. Explain your roles, how long you have been collaborating, and how each team member contributes to the team's artistic work.

Artist Eligibility

This call is open to all artists who are over 18 years of age and live in the 7-county Austin metropolitan area (Williamson, Travis, Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Burnet, and Blanco counties).

Mural artists are especially invited to apply. The community advisory group has expressed interest in commissioning a 2D work. Artists who have applied to a past AIPP TEMPO 2D project are also invited to apply.

Exceptions include:

- Artists who are currently under contract with AIPP for a permanent commission are **ineligible** to apply.
- Employees of the City of Austin or project sub-contractors are **ineligible** to apply.

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

Background

Historically, the Heritage Hills and Windsor Hills neighborhoods were the territories of the Tonkawa and Nēmənən̄ (Comanche). The area's primary natural feature—Little Walnut Creek and its tributaries—was the site of clashes between indigenous peoples and early European immigrants. Farmers and ranchers later used the creek bed for its water and fertile soil. In response to threatening erosion, parts of the creek's banks were stabilized in 1995. Today, the creek is located less than a mile south of the Gus Garcia Recreation Center.

Until the last decade or so, the area surrounding what is now the Recreation Center was largely unplanned. In 2008, Austin City Council acted to begin the planning process for Heritage Hills and Windsor Hills neighborhoods. Together, these two areas constituted the Heritage Hills/Windsor Hills Combined Neighborhood Planning Area (HHWHCNP) under the City's design. This process shortly proceeded the construction of the Gus Garcia Recreation Center RC, which culminated in March in 2008. The Center was named in honor of Gustavo "Gus" L. Garcia, who dedicated more than three decades of his life to public service. Garcia served as President of the Board of the Austin Independent School District, as a member of the Austin City Council, as Mayor Pro Tem and in 2001, was elected as Austin's first Hispanic Mayor. Gus Garcia Recreation Center offers various youth, teen, adult, and senior programs, including sports leagues, summer camps, and afterschool care.

Budget

The Art in Public Places percent-for-art funding of 2% for this project is generated from 2018 Bond, Proposition C, City of Austin Parkland Acquisition. The total award for the artist contract is \$23,000, inclusive of design, fabrication, and installation, including engineering and permitting fees, travel and shipping expenses, insurance, and all other project-related costs.

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.

- Art in Public Places 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 Art in Public Places 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 submissions. The Jury and advisors will review qualifications and select three to five finalists for interviews unless there is consensus on the selection of recommending one applicant and one alternate. The Jury and advisors will then 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 Austin 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 also subject to approval by the AIPP Panel and the Austin Arts Commission prior to fabrication and installation.

A 3-member Jury shall be chosen to include at least one visual artist. Possible jury members may include:

- » Ryan Runcie, Visual Artist
- » Ernesto Hernandez, Visual Artist
- » Damon Moseley, Visual Artist
- » Natalia Rochefuerte, Visual Artist + Community Member

Project advisors will be invited to participate in the process to provide assistance and expertise to the selection panel. Project advisors may include:

- » David Ray, Gus Garcia Recreation Center Advisory Board President
- » Martha Langford, Gus Garcia Recreation Center Community Garden Representative
- » Ellie Demuth, Dobie Middle School Art Teacher + Visual Artist
- » Sarah McKenna, Meals on Wheels
- » Stephen Kreger, President of Windsor Hills Neighborhood Association
- » Delano Brown, Gus Garcia Recreation Center Site Supervisor
- » J Muzacz, AIPP Panel Liaison
- » Brett Barnes, Arts Commissioner District 4
- » Asian American Resource Center Representative, TBD

The Project Team will be advised 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

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.

Selection Criteria

The selection of an artist or artist team shall be based on artist qualifications that best meet the requirements contained in this Request for Qualifications.

The Jury will review and consider the following evaluation criteria:

- Artistic merit and technical knowledge;
- Ability to engage the community in which the artwork is being proposed; and
- Demonstrated success completing works of art.

For more information on AIPP project selection criteria, see:

http://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/aipp_selection_criteria.pdf

Tentative Schedule | Subject to Change

2020

September Prospectus to AIPP Panel for review

November Prospectus to AIPP Panel for approval
Prospectus to Austin Arts Commission for approval

2021

February Request for Qualifications Opens

	Artist information meeting
March	Request for Qualifications Closes
April	Jury review of applications (Meeting #1) Artist interviews with Jury (Meeting #2)
May	Approval of artist and alternate by AIPP Panel and Austin Arts Commission Artist design + Commission contract executed
June	Artist Pre-Contract meeting AIPP kick-off meeting
July - September	Artist community engagement
November	Mid-Design review by AIPP Panel
December	Final Design review by AIPP Panel and Austin Arts Commission
<u>2022</u>	
January	Installation
February	Installation
March	Dedication

Contact/Questions

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