



The City of Austin Art in Public Places program is seeking artists to apply for four Fire/EMS Station public art opportunities!

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

PROJECT: Austin Fire Department/Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services (AFD/EMS) Art in Public Places Projects – 4 Stations

SUMMARY

Artwork Budget: 4 artists or artist teams will be selected, budgets from \$42,000 - \$135,000, inclusive of ALL project-related costs

Deadline to Apply: Thursday, April 8, 2021; 5:00 p.m. CST

Artist Information Meeting to be held via Zoom

Date/Time: Thursday, February 25, 2021; 6:00 p.m. CST

Sign-up to attend the meeting will be posted here: <https://www.austintexas.gov/department/aipp-opportunities>

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



New Del Valle/Moore's Crossing AFD/EMS Station

Artwork Opportunities: The City of Austin Art in Public Places (AIPP) program of the Cultural Arts Division, Economic Development Department seeks to commission four (4) local artists or artist teams to create permanent public artwork for stations related to fire and emergency medical services.

AIPP is seeking artists to create artwork that will reflect the mission of the Austin Fire Department and Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services “to create safer communities through prevention, preparedness, and effective emergency response.” The commissioned artworks should be integrated into the spaces of the stations. A range of materials and conceptual approaches are welcome. **SEE PUBLIC ART GOALS BELOW!**

One artist/artist team will be commissioned for each AFD/EMS station listed below (total of 4 artists/artist teams).

1. Del Valle / Moore's Crossing: Elroy and Ross Rd, Austin, TX 78617, Council District: 2, Artist Budget: \$135,000
2. Travis Country: 5410 HWY 290 W, Austin, TX 78749, Council District: 8, Artist Budget: \$118,000
3. AFD Station 1 / EMS Station 6: 401 E 5th St, Austin, TX 78701, Council District: 9, Artist Budget: \$42,000
4. AFD Station 22 / EMS Station 12: 5309 E Riverside Dr, Austin, TX 78741, Council District: 3, Artist Budget: \$70,000

PLEASE VISIT THE FOLLOWING LINK TO READ THE APPLICATION AND APPLY!

PublicArtist.org/AustinAIPP

Questions?

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PROJECT DETAILS

Project Summary

The City of Austin Art in Public Places (AIPP) program of the Cultural Arts Division, Economic Development Department seeks to commission multiple artists or artist teams to create permanent public artwork for services stations related to fire and emergency medical services.

AIPP is seeking artists to create artwork that will reflect the mission of the Austin Fire Department and Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services “to create safer communities through prevention, preparedness, and effective emergency response.” The artists selected for these commissions will be able to spend time observing and researching the work of Austin’s first responders and will reflect their time with the people of the AFD/EMS in their final artwork.

AIPP seeks qualifications for practicing visual artists or artist teams who live and work in the Austin metropolitan area, defined as Travis, Williamson, Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Burnet, and Blanco counties. Four artists or artist teams will be selected to create artwork at four project locations—working with the AFD and EMS departments and engaging the surrounding community for inspiration. The artist budget for each of the four commissions ranges between \$42,000 and \$135,000.



Background

The **Austin Fire Department** serves a population of more than 840,000 within a 308 square mile area in Austin, TX. 1,100 AFD employees respond from 45 fire stations and 7 other works sites to more than 85,000 calls a year. Like most fire departments, AFD is responsible for providing a multitude of services. This includes operations and support services, aircraft firefighting and rescue, maintenance shops, medical operations, emergency prevention,

arson investigations, professional standards, community outreach, safety, special operations, and educational services. Known as a leader in the fire service, AFD is on the cutting-edge of technology and training.

See AFD website for more information: <https://www.austintexas.gov/department/fire>



Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services serves over 1,300 square miles, including all of Travis County and parts of Williamson and Hays Counties. Eighteen cities are included in this service area, including the City of Austin. In 2015, EMS responded to over 120,000 calls from 37 stations in the service area. As with AFD, EMS is responsible for providing a multitude

of services including operations and support services, cadet training academy, emergency management preparedness for man-made and natural disasters, professional standards, special event services, emergency communications, community outreach, and educational services. EMS innovations are world recognized and play a key role in earning a nationally recognized accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services.

See EMS website for more information: <https://www.austintexas.gov/content/ems-austin-travis-county>

Project Budgets

The funding for these Art in Public Places projects is generated by pooling 2% of the estimate construction budgets for the construction of and/or renovations to the AFD/EMS stations. The AFD/EMS station projects derive funding from certificates of obligation.

The awards for the artist opportunities are inclusive of the artist's time, design, fabrication, and installation, include engineering and permitting fees, oversight time, travel and shipping expenses, insurances and all other project-related costs.

One artist will be commissioned for each AFD/EMS station listed below (total of 4 artists). To meet the needs of Austin's rapidly growing population, the City of Austin will be building new AFD/EMS stations in several locations across the city, including the Del Valle/Moore's Crossing and Travis Country communities:

1. Del Valle/Moore's Crossing: Elroy and Ross Rd, Austin, TX 78617, Council District: 2
Artist Budget: \$135,000

2. Travis Country: 5410 HWY 290 W, Austin, TX 78749, Council District: 8
Artist Budget: \$118,000

In addition, AFD and EMS are committed to maintaining safe and equitable facilities for fire and paramedic staff. Bringing two existing AFD/EMS stations up to a more useable and safer standard will allow personnel to better perform their duties of serving the City of Austin community:

3. AFD Station 1 / EMS Station 6: 401 E 5th St, Austin, TX 78701, Council District: 9
Station Renovations include extensive building system, code, and accessibility upgrades
Artist Budget: \$42,000

4. AFD Station 22 / EMS Station 12: 5309 E Riverside Dr, Austin, TX 78741, Council District: 3
Station Renovations includes rebuild of the station
Artist Budget: \$70,000

For more information about each station, visit:

<https://data.austintexas.gov/stories/s/Austin-Fire-Department-Fire-Stations/rseh-55mp/>

Stations are listed by Council District.

Artwork Opportunities

These public art opportunities are open to a wide range of ideas to be proposed by the selected artists, in consultation with the City staff and project stakeholders. Proposed artwork should be integrated into the available scope of construction, to the greatest extent possible. Artwork should be sited in areas accessible to the public. A range of materials and conceptual approaches are welcome for this commission as long as the parameters and goals of the project are met (see **Public Art Intent & Goals below**).

The selected artists will collaborate with City staff, project stakeholders, and the community to determine the exact location for their artwork. As the stations are highly specialized in order to deliver services to the public, there are limited locations where an artwork may be sited throughout the facilities.

Artists can expect to be selected for any of the stations.

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 qualified artists or artist teams who can innovatively and thoughtfully design within the context of this project. The goal of these AFD/EMS projects is to select artists or artist teams who will design artwork that:

- integrates with the site; or the interior or exterior architecture of the station;
- reflects the mission “to create safer communities through prevention, preparedness, and effective emergency response;”
- is relevant to AFD/EMS's role in how the station serves the community;
- is physically and conceptually accessible to nearby residents, visitors, and station staff;
- is easily maintained and vandal resistant; and
- contributes to the depth/breadth of the City of Austin's public art collection.

Scope of Work

Research. Interviews with AFD/EMS staff (either in person or via online resources) will be part of the artists' work in order to best understand the work of these first responders and to seek inspiration for the artwork design. In addition, each selected artist will be expected to seek inspiration from conversations with formal and informal stakeholder groups. The community engagement at each individual project location will include feedback on how the artist is responding to the artwork goals. The stakeholder feedback will inspire the artist's artwork design and be reflected in the final outcome of the artist commission.

Design Phase. The artist will work with the Project Team of each station to determine siting for the artwork and create a site-specific design for artwork. The design process will include formal Mid-Design and Final Design presentations to the AIPP Panel. After Mid-Design revisions have been incorporated into the work, the design must be reviewed by a Registered Accessibility Specialist for ADA compliance; and reviewed by an art conservator for long-term viability of the artwork, defined for permanent artwork as lasting 20 years.

Each artist's Final Design submittal must include a narrative description of the work, in context images of the proposed artwork, scope of work for the installation of the artwork, budget, schedule, and care/maintenance instructions. The Final Design must be approved by the AFD and EMS departments, as well as the AIPP Panel and Arts Commission, before notice to proceed with fabrication is given.

Fabrication/Installation. Each artist is responsible for fabrication and installation of their artwork. The proposed artwork must not impede the stations' operations, or pose safety risk or harm. The Final Design must be approved by the AFD and EMS departments, as well as the AIPP Panel and Arts Commission, before notice to proceed with fabrication is given.

Artist Information Meeting

A virtual 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 presented materials, along with a recording of the meeting, will be posted to the City's website for repeat viewing: www.austintexas.gov/department/aipp-opportunities.

Artist Eligibility

This AIPP project opportunity is reserved for those meeting the following eligibility:

- Practicing visual artists or artist teams
- At least 18 years of age
- Live and work in the Austin metropolitan area, which includes Travis, Williamson, Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Burnet and Blanco counties

Artists who have lived experience with the work of the Austin Fire Department and/or the work of the Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services are encouraged to apply. Artists who have lived experience with the community surrounding a station location are encouraged to apply.

The artist may not be a full-time employee of the City of Austin, Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services, or a member of the Project Consultant's firm or employed thereby.

AIPP defines a practicing visual artist as a practitioner in the visual and interdisciplinary arts at any stage in their career whose work is recognized to demonstrate serious intent and ability; and who has made art creation a focus of their practice.

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

The City of Austin Art in Public Places Panel will convene one jury to evaluate the submissions for selection for all four projects. The jury and advisors shall review applications and select up to twelve finalists (three per opportunity) for interviews, *unless interviews are not needed as there is consensus on recommendation of one applicant and one alternate per commission*. The jury and advisors shall convene as needed for interviews with the finalists and select one artist/artist team and one alternate per opportunity. The jury's selection process recommendation will include the assigned AFD/EMS station for each selected artist and alternate.

This recommendation will be presented to the City of Austin's Art in Public Places Panel and Arts Commission for approval. Three of the four artist contracts will need Council approval for authority to negotiate, prior to contract negotiations. The approved artists will be put under contract to coordinate with the City and project team to develop a final design, which is subject to approval by the AIPP Panel and Arts Commission prior to fabrication and installation, which may be contracted separately.

Jurors & Project Advisors

The jury and project advisors will work together to review the applications submitted by each artist. A 5-member jury comprised of visual arts professionals. Possible jurors include:

1. Kipp Kobayashi – Artist and AFTA Public Art Network Council Vice Chair (Los Angeles, CA)
2. Oscar Alvarado – Artist, Public Art Commission with Fort Worth Fire Department (San Antonio, TX)
3. Jimmy Castillo – Artist and Houston Arts Alliance Director of Civic Art + Design (Houston, TX)
4. Suzy González – Artist, Curator, Zinester, Educator, and Community Organizer (San Antonio, TX)
5. Samara Barks – Artist and Illustrator (Austin, TX)

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:

- Davis Haden – Logistics Division Chief, Austin Fire Department, City of Austin
- Wesley Hopkins – Division Chief, Emergency Medical Services, City of Austin

- Alejandro Wolniewitz – Facilities Planning Manager, Austin Fire Department, City of Austin
- Gadiel Arellano – Project Coordinator, Emergency Medical Services, City of Austin
- Michelle Noriega – Project Manager, Public Works Department, City of Austin
- Stephanie Lemmo – AIPP Panel Liaison
- Joel Nolan – AIPP Panel Liaison
- TBD – 2 AIPP Arts Commission Liaisons (Districts 2, 3, 8, and/or 9)

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 members to each project.

Submission Requirements

Applications must be received online via www.PublicArtist.org no later than Thursday, April 8, 2021, 5:00 p.m. CST.

For technical assistance with your application, please contact info@publicartist.org or 210-701-0775 (9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.).

Applications include:

- Short answers to the following questions (100-300 words per question):
 - Why are you interested in creating artwork for an AFD/EMS station?
 - Do you have a personal connection with any of the project sites?
 - Do you have previous experience creating public art or engaging with communities? Describe any previous experience that would make you a good fit for this opportunity.
- 10 images of recently completed relevant artwork with the required descriptions;
- Resume;
- 3 professional references; and
- Demographic survey

Selection Criteria

The selection of an artist, or artist team, shall be based on whose qualifications best meet the requirements contained in this project outline. In addition to the standard AIPP 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), the jury and advisors 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
- expressed interest in creating artwork within this community setting.

Tentative Schedule

2020

October

Prospectus approved by AIPP Panel and Arts Commission

2021

February

Request for Qualifications opens
Artist information meeting

April

Request for Qualifications close

May

Selection Meeting #1 (Select finalists)

June

Selection Meeting #2 (Interview finalists and recommend 4 artists for commission and alternates)

July

Approval of artists and alternates by AIPP Panel and Arts Commission

August

Request for City Council contract approvals

September

Artists contract execution and kick-off meeting

October-November

Artist engagement with AFD/EMS and the community

December

Mid-Design review by AIPP Panel

2022

February

Final Design review by conservator
Final Design approval by AFD/EMS departments

March

Final Design approval by AIPP Panel and Austin Arts Commission

April

Commission contract and Notice to Proceed with Fabrication

Artwork installation as required

Tentative AFD/EMS Station Construction Completion Dates:

New Stations:

Del Valle/Moore's Crossing: Complete

Travis Country: July 2021

Station Renovations:

AFD22/EMS12: June 2022

AFD1/EMS6: July 2022

Questions?

Contact Curt.Gettman@austintexas.gov (512)974-9310 or Alex.Irrera@austintexas.gov (512)974-7860