



# Art in Public Places Request for Qualifications

## Longhorn Dam Bridge Project

**Budget: \$190,000**

**Deadline: August 4, 2020 5:00pm cst**

**Artist Information Meeting: Wednesday, June 15, 2022 12:00 cst**

### Project Summary

The City of Austin Art in Public Places (AIPP) program of the Cultural Arts Division, Economic Development Department (EDD) seeks to commission a visual artist, or artist team, to design and fabricate an artwork for the new Longhorn Dam Wishbone Bridge AIPP project located on the new wishbone-shaped pedestrian and bicycle bridge over Lady Bird Lake near the Longhorn Dam on Pleasant Valley Road.

Artists living and working in the State of Texas area are eligible to apply. Artists are invited to submit a *Request for Qualifications* and respond to questions determined by the project team, specific to the Longhorn Dam Wishbone Bridge AIPP project.

**Project budget: \$190,000**

### Project Background

In 2018, the City of Austin [Public Works Department](#) in partnership with [Austin Transportation Department](#) (ATD) began work on a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) to evaluate the possibility of [a new pedestrian and bicycle bridge over Lady Bird Lake](#), as well as a review of possible interim improvements to the existing bridge.

Funding for interim improvements was made available from the [2016 Mobility Bond](#). Funding to fully design and construct a new bridge was recently approved by voters as part of the [2020 Bond](#).

In summer 2019, Austin Transportation and Public Works Department shared five bridge alternatives that were developed from community input received in late 2018. A project survey was available from June 10 through July 10 to collect community feedback on the different alternatives, including a no build option, as well as the proposed interim improvements.

Of the five bridge alternatives and the no build option, Alternative B (Wishbone shaped bridge that connects to the shore at three points) received the most overall support, with 742 responses selecting this alternative as their top choice and 1,419 responses indicating they were “very comfortable” or “somewhat comfortable” with Alternative B.



[Austin Public Works](#), [Austin Transportation](#), and [Austin Parks and Recreation](#) are partnering to design and construct a new wishbone-shaped pedestrian and bicycle bridge over Lady Bird Lake near the Longhorn Dam. Austin Public Works' [Urban Trails Program](#) is managing this project through all phases of design, construction, and inspection.

The project's Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) also established a set of [Guiding Principles of Bridge Design](#). This design framework is guiding decision-making throughout the design phase.

The project's Guiding Principles include:

- **Safety & Accessibility:** Design the bridge and its connecting trails to the highest standards of safety and accessibility.
- **Convenient Connections:** Provide a bridge alignment and connections that create direct and convenient travel paths for both commuters and recreational trail users.
- **Environment & Landscape:** Design the bridge to complement and enhance the environment, park, river and the natural landscape.
- **Friendly & Engaging Deck Space:** Design the bridge deck, furnishings, and connecting trails and spaces to create a high-quality user experience.
- **Cost-Effective Structure:** Design the bridge structure to be as cost-efficient as possible, prioritizing the user experience at the deck level.

The project team has taken the concept for this new bridge from the PER and refined the design based on community input and City staff feedback and is at 30% Design.



Note: the illustrated renderings below are conceptual and subject to change.



### Bridge and Plaza Area

- **Paving patterns** on the bridge surface to separate areas where people can stop and gather from a path for people traveling across the bridge
- **LED pole-mounted lighting** to provide energy-efficient, low-maintenance, night sky and wildlife-friendly lighting for comfortable 24-hour use of the bridge
- **Steel trellis structure** to guide the growth of vines to create a natural shade cover in the plaza area
- **Planters** at the foot of steel trellis structure to support vine growth
- **Shade sails** atop the steel trellis structure to provide shade for bridge users until vines are mature
- **Wood benches** to provide seating at plaza overlooks
- **Galvanized steel handrails** along the entire bridge
- **Trash and recycling receptacles** on each bridge leg to prevent litter and pollution



### Pleasant Valley Underpass

- New, larger underpass constructed of **concrete arches**
- **16-foot concrete trail** within the underpass to connect the Butler Hike and Bike Trail, Country Club Creek Trail, and Roy G. Guerrero Colorado River Metropolitan Park
- Two **7-foot drainage swales composed of mortared rock** bordering the concrete trail to collect stormwater
- **Ground-mounted lighting** to illuminate the underpass for safety





#### Canterbury Street Parkland

- **Preservation of the Roy Montelongo Scenic Overlook**, gazebo, and water fountain
- **New trailhead/warm-up area** with granite paving, fitness equipment, bike racks, benches, and a water fountain
- **New ADA-accessible picnic area** with granite paving, three tables, and trash and recycling receptacles
- **New concrete trail connection** from the bridge landing to existing sidewalks on Canterbury Street and shared use paths on South Pleasant Valley Road
- **Landscaping improvements**, including planting new trees, native grasses, and wildflowers
- **On-street parking**, including a **van-accessible ADA parking space**, along south edge of Canterbury Street
- **Galvanized steel handrails** along parkland between the bridge landing and South Pleasant Valley Road for safety

### 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 a qualified artist who can innovatively and thoughtfully design within the context of this project. For the Longhorn Dam Wishbone Bridge.

The goals of this specific public art project are to:

- » Creates an iconic artwork that identifies the Longhorn Dam area;
- » Reflects the natural elements of the environment and history of the surrounding community;
- » Visually or physically integrates wayfinding elements that help inform and direct pedestrian traffic;
- » Enriches or adds to the depth/breadth of the City of Austin's public art collection.

## 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.

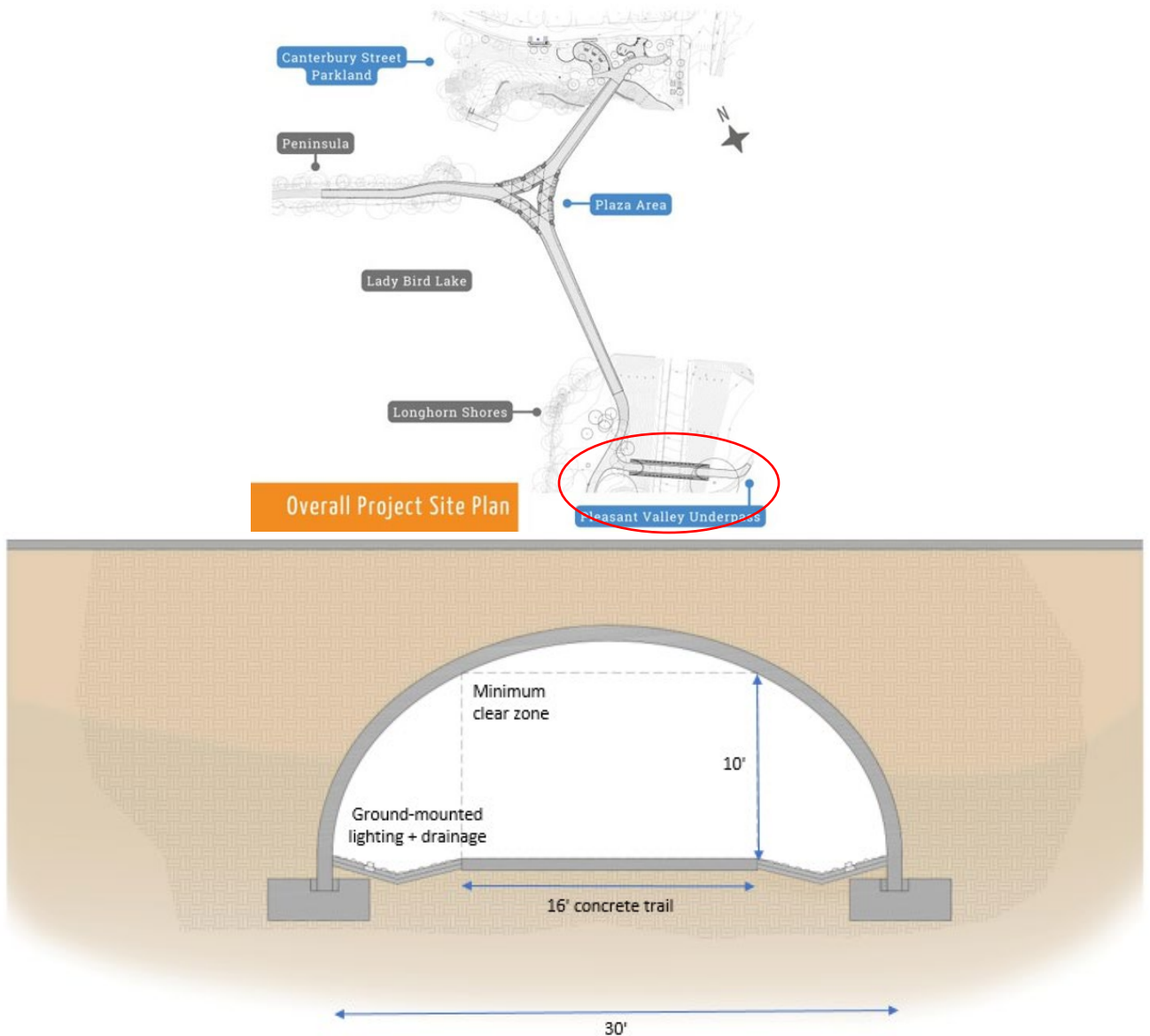
## Budget

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. One commission will be awarded, budgets are inclusive of design, fabrication and installation, including permitting fees, travel and shipping expenses, insurance and other project related costs.

## Artwork Opportunity

This public art opportunity is open to a wide range of ideas to be proposed by the selected artist, or artist team, in consultation with the project's design team. The selected artist or artist team will coordinate with City staff and stakeholders to develop an artwork to be integrated into the construction of the new building addition.

The selected artist, or artist team, will work closely with the project's design team to develop a comprehensive design for an artwork at the new pedestrian underpass. The existing underpass will be decommissioned and a new underpass will be built south of the existing path.





Existing Pleasant Valley pedestrian underpass – Looking east

## Artist Information Meeting

**An Artist Information Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 15, 2022 at 12 pm (CST) via EventBright.com registration.** AIPP staff and Austin Public Health staff will present information on the project and answering questions from interested artists. AIPP staff will also review the application procedures. The presented materials, along with Q&A, will be posted to City’s website after the meeting: [www.austintexas.gov/department/aipp-opportunities](http://www.austintexas.gov/department/aipp-opportunities).

## Artist Eligibility

Applicants should meet the following requirements:

- Professional visual artist, or artist team
- At least 18 years of age; and
- Live and work in the State of Texas

Full-time, permanent City of Austin employees are ineligible to apply. Employees of the project consult- ants and sub-consultants are also ineligible to apply.

Artists who are under an active contract with the Art in Public Places program at the time of application are ineligible to apply.

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

Artists who currently have one active contract for a permanent artwork with the Art in Public Places program are *ineligible* to apply. Artist teams are considered as separate entities; their projects do not count as projects by the individual artists. Applications not meeting all eligibility criteria will be withdrawn from consideration.



## Submission Requirements

**Applications must be received online via [www.PublicArtist.org](http://www.PublicArtist.org) no later than 5:00 pm (CST) on Thursday, August 4, 2022.** 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.

The short answers will be response to the following prompts on the application. These are questions that we've formulated to help artists put their best foot forward in introducing themselves and their practice to the jury.

Applications include:

- A series of short answers
  1. What does the jury need to know about you and your work as an artist? What is your public art experience?
  2. What excites you about the Longhorn Dam Wishbone Bridge public art project?
  3. Are you familiar to the history of the Longhorn Shores and Central East Austin neighborhood? How will you approach your concept towards the history and heritage of the surrounding area?
  4. As an artist, what role has community engagement or social practice played in your work?  
Please list examples,
- 10 images of completed relevant artwork with the required descriptions;
- resume
- 3 professional references

## Selection 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 an outdoor environment;
- » Demonstrated ability to successfully execute a public art project on time and on budget; and
- » Expressed interest in creating artwork for the community.

## Selection Process

Request for Qualifications will be solicited to professional visual artists who live and work in the State of A Texas.

The City of Austin Art in Public Places Panel will convene a selection panel 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.*

This recommendation will be presented to the Art in Public Places Panel, Arts Commission and City Council for approval.

The approved artist(s) will be put under a design + commission 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 prior to fabrication and installation.

### **Selection Jury & Project Advisors**

A 3-member juror will be selected to serve as a jury panel. Possible jury panel members include:

- » Agustina Rodriguez - Visual Arts and Architecture Professional, Govalle/Johnson Neighborhood Association Member, AIPP commissioned artist, District 3 resident
- » Lys Santamaria - Visual Arts Professional, AIPP commissioned artist, District 3 resident
- » Luis Angulo – Visual Arts Professional, AIPP commissioned artist, District 3 Business at Something Cool Studios, E. Cesar Chavez
- » Xaviera Chambers - Arts Facilitator, District 7 homeowner

Project advisors will be invited to participate in the process to provide assistance and expertise to the jury. City of Austin and Sub Contractor Advisors to the jury may include:

- » Dylan Johnstone – Public Works, Project Coordinator
- » Emily Smith – Public Works, Public Information Specialist
- » Laurie Thering – Public Works, Project Manager
- » Katie Wettick – Public Works, Program Manager II
- » D'Anne Williams, Parks and Recreation Department, Project Manager
- » Nathan Wilkes – Austin Transportation Department, Project Manager
- » Heidi Anderson - The Trail Foundation, Director
- » Charlotte Tonsor - The Trail Foundation
- » Grady Reed - The Trail Foundation
- » Jana McCann, FAIA - McCann Adams Studio Architect
- » Lee Frieberg - HDR Inc, Project Manager

AIPP and AAC Project Advisors may include:

- » Stephine Lemmo – Liaison Art in Public Places Panel, District 3 resident
- » Felipe Garza - District 3 Arts Commission Liaison

The selection panel and project advisors will work together to review the applications, including letter of interest, images of recent and relevant work, resume(s), and other information submitted by applicants.

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.

## Schedule (subject to change)

### 2022

January - Project introduction to AIPP Panel

March – Prospectus community engagement meetings

April – Prospectus approval by AIPP Panel & Arts Commission

June 7 – Request for Qualifications released

June 15 - Artist Information Meeting

August 4 – Deadline for RFQ applications

August 18 - Selection panel review of applications

August 30 - Artist Interviews

September 5 – Selection Process Approval by AIPP Panel

September 19 – Selection Process Approval Arts Commission

October 20 – City Council RCA

November 1 – Artist under contract and project Kick-off meeting

December – Artist community engagement

### 2023

February – Mid-Design review by AIPP Panel

Spring – Final Design sponsor department and conservation reviews, Final Design approval by AIPP Panel and Austin Arts Commission

Summer – artwork fabrication

### 2024

Anticipated Construction project beginning

### 2026

Fall – Anticipated Construction project completion and artwork installation

## Contact/Questions

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