

Request for Proposals: University Christian Church, Austin/Endowment for Creative Ministries

Concept

[University Christian Church](#), a church that takes seriously God's call to love, affirm, and welcome every person, is just steps away from the University of Texas campus. We seek proposals for a semi-permanent outdoor public art installation reflecting the themes of unity, wholeness, and "healing the divides." The piece will be situated in **one** of the two limestone planters in the front of the church. Final placement will be determined through conversations with the artist.

Deadline for Materials: November 1, 2022

Goals/Mission

- Authentically reflect the communities around the church: congregants, students, faculty, staff, and others who live and work nearby
 - The artist should talk with church members, passers-by, and congregational partners to gain ideas of what/how to incorporate the lived experiences of the local community
 - There should be a tangible connection with 1-2 UT art students, serving as interns/assistants to the artist
- Spark conversations between the thousands of individuals who walk by every day
- Be bold, eye-catching, and dynamic, including elements of evolution, changeability, and/or interactivity
- The work should not harm the limestone planter in which it will be placed
- Convey a sense of hope that healing and wholeness are possible. Themes of unity, expansive love, healing, and wholeness should be emphasized. More context:
 - Our church's denomination is the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Our identity statement says "We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world."
 - Our denomination is committed to becoming a pro-reconciling/anti-racism church. This initiative invites the church to listen to the once-silenced voices of its racial/ethnic communities, learn from their wisdom, and gain insight from their leadership.¹
 - Our denomination is historically a movement for Christian unity. Christian unity is expressed by cooperating and partnering with other faith communities to work for bringing about wholeness – healing and justice – in the world. We move to answer God's call for justice particularly in the areas of care for the earth, the challenges for women and children, poverty and hunger, and immigration,

¹ <https://disciples.org/our-identity/the-four-priorities-of-the-church/>

cooperating with other people of faith. Our heritage of unity is also honored by staying together in covenant even when we disagree, making room and welcoming all to the table. Our spiritual ancestors were fond of saying, “unity, not uniformity.”²

- University Christian Church affirms and celebrates LGBTQIA+ persons. LGBTQIA+ individuals have been vital members and leaders of UCC for many years.

Budget

The commission budget is **\$40,000** for all related expenses of this work, including (but not limited to) artist fees, design, fabrication, delivery, and installation.

Submission Instructions and Required Materials

Please submit via email your CV, website, and PDF with photographs of previous works. Initial proposals should also include a written statement, a basic budget and schedule, and concept sketch. Proposals should be emailed to mpeglar@ucc-austin.org.

Selection Process

Proposals will be evaluated by the Endowment for Creative Ministry’s (ECM) Program Committee through a two-stage selection process. Finalists will be asked to present a detailed concept, budget, and timeline and will receive an honorarium after final submission to use for creating a model, other visuals, and to honor the time spent creating the final proposal.

Schedule

November 1, 2022 – Deadline for submission of initial proposals

December 2022 – Finalists notified

February 2022 – Finalists present detailed proposals to the ECM Program Committee

March 2022 – Artist selected

Fall/Winter 2022 – Project completion

Site measurements

Sanctuary-side planter: 25’5” x 11’9”

Chapel-side planter: 23’2” x 15’8”

² <https://disciples.org/our-identity/identity-resources/>

Site Photos



Front of church: two planters face the UT campus; piece will be situated in one of the two



From the church looking toward campus, with two planters in view



Aerial view