



CALL TO ARTISTS

Public Art Opportunity

City of Austin (Texas): Art in Public Places

Austin Fire Department/Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services Stations

Deadline for Submissions – 5:00PM CST: December 21, 2022

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION

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

Loop 360 / Davenport Ranch Station	4601 Westlake Drive, Austin, TX
Goodnight Ranch Station	9600 Capitol View Drive, Austin TX
Canyon Creek Station	9804 N. FM 620, Austin, TX

BACKGROUND

Austin Fire Department (AFD)

The Austin Fire Department (AFD) 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 seven other work 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.

Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

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.

Loop 360 / Davenport Ranch Station

This 13,500 square foot AFD/EMS station will serve the Loop 360 / Davenport Ranch area in west Austin. The station will feature four apparatus bays, a water treatment pond, site retaining wall, staff exterior space, a day room, kitchen, gym, gear storage rooms, and 14 sleeping rooms. The

station design is compact due to the site limitations. The site has steep, rocky terrain and is adjacent to private residences and the Westlake Apartments. This station is currently under construction and is expected to be completed by February 2023. (See rendering pg. 2)

Goodnight Ranch Station

This 15,200 square foot AFD/EMS station will serve the Goodnight Ranch area in south Austin. The station will feature a training stair, four pull-through apparatus bays, staff exterior space, a day room, kitchen, gym, gear storage rooms, and 15 sleeping rooms. The station is located off East Slaughter Lane. The area nearby features single and multi-family housing units, several schools, and outdoor attractions such as the Onion Creek Metropolitan Park and Greenbelt and McKinney Falls State Park. Station construction is anticipated to take place November 2022 through November 2023. (See rendering pg. 3)

Canyon Creek Station

This new AFD/EMS station is currently in design phase and will serve the Canyon Creek area in northwest Austin. Station construction is anticipated to take place September 2023 through September 2024.

IMAGES



Loop 360 / Davenport Ranch Station Rendering



Goodnight Ranch Station Rendering

OVERVIEW of PROJECTS

Each site shares in common an interest for artwork that integrates with the site, the interior or exterior architecture of the respective stations. The artists or artist teams selected for these projects will spend time observing and researching the work of Austin’s first responders. Final artworks should reflect the mission of AFD/EMS: to create safer communities through prevention, preparedness, and effective emergency response.” There is a strong desire for the artwork to be thematically relevant to the roles specific to these first responders and also that the artworks are physically and conceptually accessible as well as durable and is easily maintained.

BUDGET

- Loop 360 / Davenport Ranch Station: **\$196,000**
- Goodnight Ranch Station: **\$240,000**
- Canyon Creek Station: **\$240,000**

One commissions will be awarded per AFD/EMS station. Each project budget is inclusive of design, fabrication, installation, engineering, permitting fees, travel, shipping expenses, insurance, and other project-related costs.

ELIGIBILITY

This opportunity is limited to Texas-based artists and artist teams who are at least 18 years of age. Artists who have lived experience with the work of AFD/EMS are encouraged to apply. Additionally, artists who have lived experience with the surrounding communities are also encouraged to apply. Applicants not meeting these eligibility requirements will be withdrawn from consideration.

Artists are ineligible if they are currently under contract with the City of Austin for a permanent public artwork commission or if they are a City of Austin full-time employee, contractor of Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services or employed by the Project Consultant’s firm.

SELECTION PROCESS

A five-member selection panel comprised of members of the visual arts professionals and at least two community representatives will review all eligible submissions. Up to nine artist(s)/artists teams will be shortlisted, invited to interview and submit a proposal for a fee of \$1,000. Only one applicant per site will be selected to receive a commission.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- **Credentials:** CV/Resume (limit 2 pages)
- **Short responses** to the following questions and scenario (100-300 words per question):
 - o What do you find appealing about creating artwork for an AFD/EMS station?
 - o Do you have previous experience creating public art or engaging with communities?
 - o Describe any previous experience that would make you a good fit for this opportunity.
- **Ten images** of previous work (only one image per page). Either labeled each image with the following information: title, date of completion, location, materials, art budget. For team application, please indicate the lead artist for each project; or provide an annotated image list

IMAGES OF INCOMPLETE PROJECTS, PRELIMINARY SKETCHES, or PROPOSAL IDEAS FOR THIS PROJECT WILL NOT BE REVIEWED

- **Three Professional references:** (names, phone numbers and email addresses)
- **Demographic survey**

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The panel will evaluate applications based on the following criteria:

- Quality and aesthetics of past work
- Experience with public art projects of a similar size and scope
- Creativity and innovation of work as presented
- Expressed interest in creating artwork within this community setting

TIMELINE

Information Meeting	October 11, 2022
Submission deadline (extended)	December 21, 2022
Short-listed artists notified	January 2023
Interviews	February – March 2023
Selected Artist under contract	August 2023
Target Installation/Project close-out	Loop 360 / Davenport Ranch Station: May 2024 Goodnight Ranch Station: May 2024 Canyon Creek Station: August 2024

Submit all information via www.publicartist.org. Deadline to submit qualifications is December 21, 2022, at 5:00PM CST. **Submissions received after the deadline will be considered unresponsive and will not be reviewed.**

Questions regarding this solicitation must be directed in writing to:
Alex Irrera, Art in Public Places at alex.irrera@austintexas.gov