

# CALL TO ARTISTS

## Public Art Opportunity



### City of Austin (Texas): Art in Public Places

#### Mexic-Arte Museum

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

### REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

The City of Austin Art in Public Places program (AIPP) of the Cultural Arts Division, Economic Development Department (EDD) seeks to commission one team of professional visual artists to create site-specific artwork that reflects the mission of the Mexic-Arte Museum. The Museum is located at 419 Congress Avenue at the corner of 5th Street.

### BACKGROUND

Mexic-Arte Museum was founded in 1984 by artists Sylvia Orozco, Sam Coronado and Pio Pulido in the Arts Warehouse in downtown Austin to share the art and culture of Mexico. It was designated by the 78<sup>th</sup> Legislature of the State of Texas as the Official Mexican and Mexican American Fine Art Museum of Texas. Mexic-Arte Museum is dedicated to cultural enrichment and education through the presentation and promotion of traditional contemporary Mexican, Latino and Latin American art and culture. As the Museum develops and the collection grows, their collections will be displayed to teach about culture and heritage with dignity and pride for generations to come. Constructed in 1868, only 10-15% of the original Mexic-Arte structure remains. What stands is primarily a three-sided façade held together with wooden struts and trusses. Currently a new facility is being developed for the Mexic-Arte Museum to house its priceless art and heritage collection. Additional information will be provided to the selected artists or artist teams.

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

The vision of this opportunity includes selecting one team of artists to create iconic artwork(s) that will transform the site at Congress and 5<sup>th</sup> Streets. The selected team of artists will be expected to work collaboratively with Museum stakeholders and the immediate community to propose and ultimately design, fabricate and install one or more artworks that are interactive or programmable and contribute to the site as a placekeeping icon for downtown Austin. The artworks should endow respect while celebrating and honoring the cultural contributions of Hispanic, Latino and Mexican-American heritage. Mexic-Arte website: <http://www.mexic-artermuseum.org/mexicarte/about/mission.html>



1936 PHOTO

## **BUDGET**

**\$260,000**

One commission will be awarded for this project. The 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 teams of artists based in Texas with at least one artist residing in Austin. All team members must be at least 18 years of age. Selected artists must have lived experience with or relating to Mexican-American culture and heritage. 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 or employed by either the Projects' Consulting firm.

## **SELECTION PROCESS**

A three to five-member selection panel comprised of visual arts professionals and community representatives and advisors will review all eligible submissions. Up to five teams of artists will be shortlisted, invited to interview and submit a proposal for a fee of \$1,500. The selection panel reserves the right to recommend one team of artists and one alternate at the time of initial review. Only one applicant 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 permanent artwork for the Mexic-Arte Museum?
  - o Describe any previous public art experience that would align your approach with this opportunity.
  - o How does community engagement and participation inform the outcomes of your artwork?
  - o What is your team's lived experience with or relating to Mexican-American culture and heritage?
  - o Describe your relationship to or understanding of the history or heritage of the Downtown Austin and Latino/a Austin artists.
- **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 in portfolio of past work
- Expressed interest in and ability to engage and include communities specific to the artwork site

**TIMELINE (subject to change)**

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	2026

Submit all information via [www.publicartist.org](http://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](mailto:alex.irrera@austintexas.gov)