

CALL TO ARTISTS

Public Art Opportunity

City of Austin (Texas): Art in Public Places

Montopolis Neighborhood Park and Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest District Park Pools

Deadline for Submissions – 5:00PM CST: December 7, 2022

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

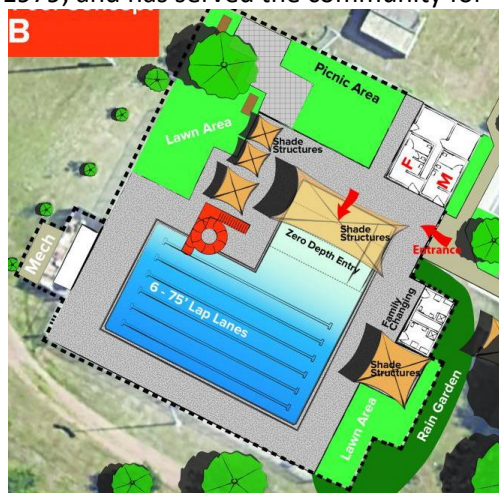
The City of Austin Art in Public Places program (AIPP) of the Cultural Arts Division, Economic Development Department (EDD) seeks to commission professional visual artists or artist teams, to design and fabricate artworks for the Montopolis Neighborhood Park Pool at 1200 Montopolis Dr, Austin, TX 78741 and Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest District Park Pool at 7000 Ardath St, Austin, TX 78757.

BACKGROUND

An important aspect of life in Austin, is the robust network of public parks and aquatic facilities. The City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department Aquatic Division operates 22 Neighborhood pools. Most of Austin’s aquatic facilities were built between 1927 and 1990. Neighborhood Pools, on average receive nearly 434,000 visitors annually. One major objective of the Aquatics Division is to bring all facilities, including associated buildings, parking, decks, etc. up to current standards and codes, such as ADA, health, safety and pool codes. Montopolis Neighborhood Pool Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest District Park Pools are currently undergoing renovation. [2018 Aquatic Vision Plan](#)

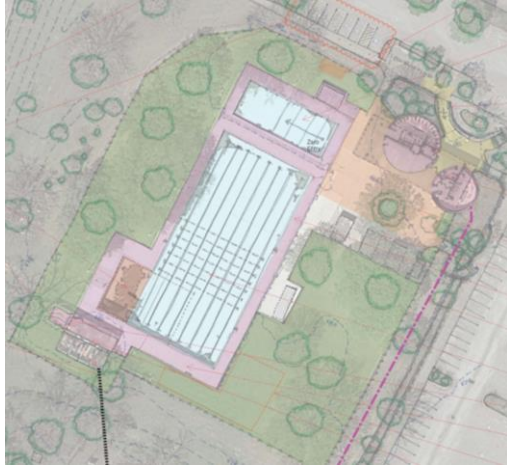
Montopolis Pool

On February 1, 1974, Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PAR) purchased the Montopolis Community Center while also acquiring five surrounding acres to develop into a park. In 1976, the Austin Planning Commission began emphasizing a need for swimming pools throughout all communities and expedited the construction of a swimming pool at Montopolis Park. The Montopolis Pool was championed later that year by the Parks and Recreation Board, and the development process began in December 1977. The pool opened in 1979, and has served the community for 43 years.



Sheffield Pool

On July 28, 1956, the Northwest Pool and Bathhouse opened to the public and were dedicated with great fanfare the same year on August 9th. The original cost of construction was \$200,000. The Northwest pool was the first 50-meter regulation Olympic-sized pool in Austin, which allowed the city to qualify for national swimming meets. In its first full month of operations, attendance at the new Olympic-size pool eclipsed that of Barton Springs. The Northwest Park Bathhouse was a modern-design circular bathhouse with open-air dressing rooms. The building is eligible to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The name of the park and pool was later changed to honor former Parks and Recreation Director Beverly S. Sheffield. The existing pool building will be lightly renovated, and an additional pool building will be built to provide a family restroom and changing space.



OVERVIEW OF PROJECTS

Both projects are opportunities for selected artist(s) or artist teams to work collaboratively with project stakeholders to design artwork that will connect the history of each the respective iconic places to the growth of Austin (considering old Austin and new Austin). Proposed artworks should be integrated, to the greatest extent possible, into the construction of each site. Ideally, the final artwork will also increase visibility and appeal of each place to a broader community. A range of materials and conceptual approaches are welcome

BUDGETS

- **\$100,000** - Montopolis Neighborhood Park Pool
- **\$100,000** - Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest Pool

One commissions will be awarded per Pool project. 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 professional visual Austin-based artists who reside in the seven counties of the Austin metro area (Travis, Hays, Williamson, Bastrop, Caldwell, Burnet, and Blanco counties) and who are at least 18 years of age. 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 will review all eligible submissions. Three to five artist(s)/artists teams will be shortlisted for each project and invited to interview, *unless there is consensus to recommend one applicant and one alternate for each opportunity*. 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 either Montopolis Pool or Sheffield Pool?
 - o Do you have previous experience creating public art and engaging communities?
 - o Describe any previous experience that would make you a good fit for this opportunity.
 - o How will the history and heritage of the surrounding area inform your conceptual approach?
- **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 the specific community settings

Information Meeting	October 12, 2022
Submission deadline	December 7, 2022
Short-listed artists notified	December 22, 2022
Interviews	January 2023
Selected Artist under contract	June 2023
Target Installation/Project close-out	Montopolis Pool: Winter 2024 Sheffield Pool: Winter 2024

Submit all information via www.publicartist.org. Deadline to submit qualifications is December 7, 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:
Anna Bradley, Art in Public Places anna.bradley@austintexas.gov