



CALL TO ARTISTS

Public Art Opportunity

City of Austin (Texas): Art in Public Places

Walter E. Long and John Treviño, Jr. Metro Parks

Deadline for Submissions – 5:00PM CST: April 27, 2023

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 a professional visual artist or artist team to design and fabricate artwork for the Walter E. Long Metro Park at 6620 Blue Bluff Rd, Austin, TX 78724 and the John Treviño, Jr. Metro Park at 9501 FM 969, Austin, TX 78724.

BACKGROUND

Parks play a vital role in the life of a city. As public places, parks bring diverse communities together in a shared place and through collective experiences. As natural systems, parks provide habitat and a wealth of species increasingly challenged by urban growth. That this can all occur within a shared experience allows parks – and especially large urban parks – to have a special opportunity to strengthen communities and their connection to the land. This spirit is embodied in the Austin Parks and Recreation Department motto “Cultural Places, Natural Spaces” and is an attitude central to its approach to parkland development.

Walter E. Long Metro Park

Walter E. Long Metro Park is Austin's largest park by acreage. It is located on the far eastern boundary of Austin, just west of State Highway 130, a short drive from Downtown Austin. The property is comprised of 3,695 acres of parkland and includes Lake Walter E. Long—a 1,165-acre lake teeming with bountiful fishing opportunities and surrounded by natural resources. The Travis County Exposition Center is also located within the site. There are several existing amenities in the park including hike and bike trails, picnic areas, volleyball courts, boat ramps, fishing piers, a skeet shooting range, and a model airplane range. There have been several plans to develop the park dating back to the mid-1960s. City Council approved the current Walter E. Long Metro Park Vision Plan on October 15, 2020. The first phase of development will center on the existing Lakeside Park area and emphasize rehabilitation of the site's infrastructure.

John Treviño Jr. Metro Park

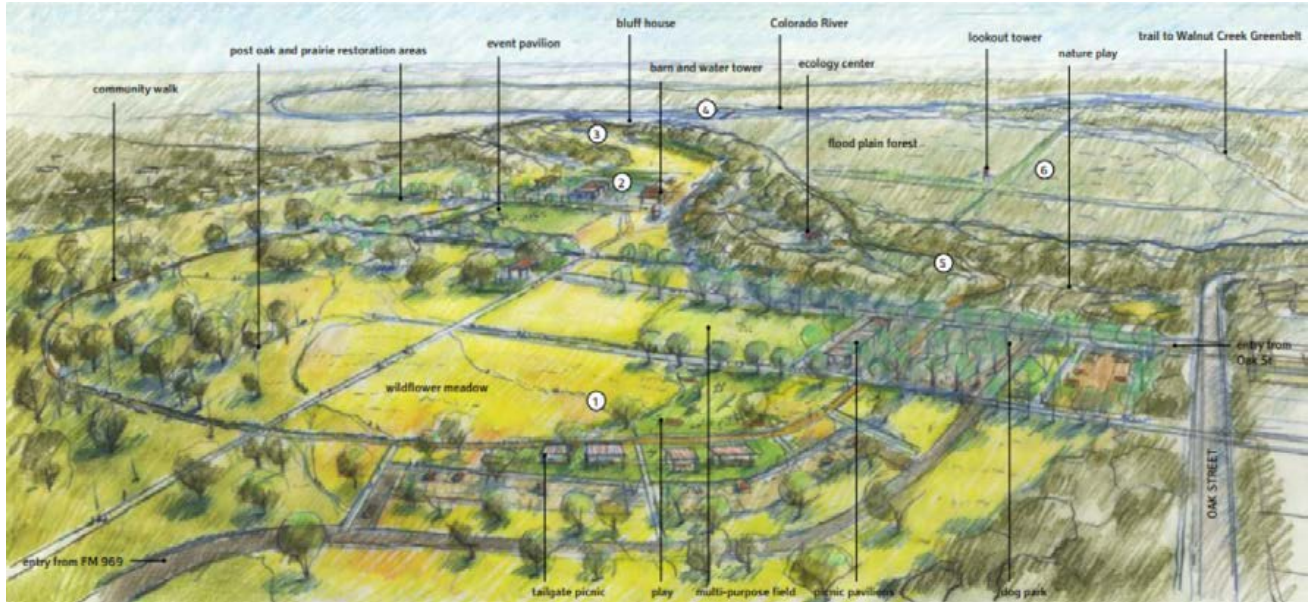
John Treviño Jr. Metro Park at Morrison Ranch consists of approximately 330 acres of parkland on FM 969. The property, which is bound by FM 969 to the north and the Colorado River to the south, was purchased by the Austin Parks and Recreation Department in 2003. In 2006, Austin City Council voted to name the park after John Treviño Jr., Austin's first Latino Council Member and Mayor Pro Tem. The property has been utilized for farming and ranching operations up until 2016. It currently contains a paved entry drive, two-track dirt roads, a farm house and several out buildings. From FM 969, the site slopes up gradually before dropping off to relatively flat open farm fields and riparian vegetation adjacent to the river. Approximately, two-thirds of the property is located within the 100-year floodplain. Vegetation is a mix of field grasses, Live Oak-Ashe Juniper Woods, and riparian species along the river. City Council approved a Vision Plan for the park on October 15, 2020. The first phase of development will focus on establishing vehicular access and infrastructure improvements to allow for the opening of the park. It is also planned to include nature trail development and some neighborhood park like amenities, such as picnic sites and play facilities.

OVERVIEW OF PROJECTS

A single artist or team will be commissioned to design, fabricate, and install two artworks—one at the entrance to each park. These three-dimensional artworks will serve as entry features to increase the visibility of each park’s main entrance. The artworks must capture the unique character of the individual parks. The selected artist or team will work collaboratively with the project team and AIPP staff to integrate their artwork into the overall set of park improvements.



Walter E. Long Metro Park is regionally renowned for its beautiful lake with its surrounding natural resources, and also as an outstanding fishing location.



A conceptual drawing illustrating potential future parkland development at John Treviño, Jr. Metro Park at Morrison Ranch



One artist or team will be commissioned to create two artworks—one at each park entrance (Pictured: entrance to the Walter E. Long Metro Park)

BUDGETS

A single commission of **\$106,000** will be awarded to create two artworks--one at each park. The combined 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. This opportunity is open to artists who create sculptural and three-dimensional works of

art. 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 a consultant for these park improvements. Applicants not meeting these eligibility requirements will be withdrawn from consideration.

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 invited to interview *unless there is consensus to recommend one applicant and one alternate for each opportunity*. 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):
 - Introduce Yourself: What does the jury need to know about you to better understand you and your work as an artist? How long have you been working as artist and in what media? Tell us about your previous training and experience as an artist.
 - What specifically would make you a good fit for this opportunity? Do you have a personal connection to the John Treviño Jr. or Walter E. Long Metro Parks or nearby communities?
 - What experience do you have managing projects or budgets similar in size to this opportunity (\$50,000+)? If so, please describe.
- **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

PROJECT SCHEDULE (Subject to Change)

Information Meeting	April 2023
Submission deadline	April 2023
Interviews (if needed)	May 2023
Selected Artist under contract	November 2023
Target Installation/Project close-out	Summer 2024

Submit all information via www.publicartist.org. Deadline to submit qualifications is April 27,, 2023, 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:
Curt Gettman, Art in Public Places curt.gettman@austintexas.gov