

CALL TO ARTISTS

AUS – Airport Playscapes Public Art Opportunity



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

Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (AUS)

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

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

AUS invites artists and artist-led teams to submit qualifications to be considered for collaboration, design, fabrication, and installation of a series of up to three playscapes located throughout the airport's concourse areas. Interested artists should approach the opportunities with an open mind and should not attempt to conceptually propose solutions as the sites are directly related to the Airport Expansion Development Plan AEDP and do not yet exist.

BACKGROUND

AUS is owned by the City of Austin and operated by the Department of Aviation. Located on the former Airforce base, Bergstrom field, it is the busiest non-hub airport in state of Texas. On any given day, over 40,000 passengers pass through the airport. The Airport Expansion Development Program (AEDP) intends to add twelve boarding bridges with three new gates, expand food court/retail marketplace, increase security screening areas and improve outbound baggage handling systems, add a "Mobility Assistance Zone and Lounge" as well as build a significant atrium infill project. Related airside expansion will include improvements to aircraft apron facilities, taxiway areas and remain over-night accommodations.

AUS is designed to make you feel as though you are right in the heart of the region. Located about five miles southeast of Downtown Austin, the airport is not just Austin's airport, it is the gateway to the Central Texas Region that provides international air travel access to the Greater Austin Metro (includes five counties with nearly 2.5 million people) as well as to parts of Waco and Houston, Texas. AEDP Programmatic documents will continue to change until iterations of design development are complete. The AEDP will provide near-term improvements through a series of design-build construction projects taking place over the next few years on the south side of AUS's airfield.

These projects will help the airport meet current and future air service demands by enhancing passenger and aircraft flow, terminal amenities, roadways and airfield improvements.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

AIPP compliments AUS's current and ongoing planning for the future. Although the primary function of an airport is to get people to and from their destinations safely and efficiently, a frenzied travel experiences can be eased by designing

an airport ambiance that imparts welcoming and calming feelings as well providing customer experiences that may provide intuitive guidance and directions to restrooms, gates, concessions and other passenger amenities.

The Playscapes opportunity is imagined as a series of installations intended to advance the power of connection by engaging and entertaining young travelers and those who are young at heart. Aspects of the installations could provoke interplay with end-users as they become integral contributors to functional components of the artworks. A key element of this opportunity will be for the artist-led team to create hands-on infrastructure that could include technology while helping users navigate the confluence of art, technology, and place. Interactive elements should demonstrate design flexibility and the ability to add new components for easily upgrading and adding new programming as needed. Additionally, design features along with entrances and exits of playscape areas must meet requisite codes of the American with Disabilities Acts and should be designed with consideration given to users of all abilities.

There will be up to three installation sites located within the security areas. One artist or artist-led team will be expected to design the setting, components and thematic context for each interactive environment. Design and installation of the playscapes sites may progress in distinct phases in alignment with facilities design and construction schedules.

ELIGIBILITY – NATIONAL COMPETITION

Austin-area artists and artist-led teams as well as those working nationally with demonstrated experience creating multi-media artwork and artwork suitable for high-impact public spaces are considered eligible for this opportunity. Members of an artist-led team could include (but not limited to) visual artists, sculptors, makers, digital programmers, computer generated animators, and lighting designers.

BUDGET: \$632,850

The total artwork project budget is **\$632,850** inclusive of artists' design fees, engineering, permitting, machining and fabrication, transportation, installation, travel, shipping expenses, insurance, and other artwork project-related costs.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

The City of Austin AIPP program strives to commission a broad range of artworks which contribute to the current dialogue in the field of visual art by broadly awarding commissions among local, state and national artists. AIPP defines artist as an individual recognized by critics and peers as a professional practitioner of serious intent and substantial ability in the visual, performing, or literary art.

Austin area artists as well as artists working regionally and nationally (over the age of 18) with demonstrated experience creating interactive work are eligible to apply.

Applicants not meeting minimum qualifications will be withdrawn from consideration.

INELIGIBILITY

Design professionals, including architects who do not have a consistent visual art practice are ineligible to apply as team leads, but can be a part of an artist-led team.

Artists who have more than three permanent artworks represented in the City of Austin's Art in Public Places public art collection; artists who currently are under contract with the City of Austin for a permanent Art in Public Places project; and artists who have completed an AIPP project within the past year are ineligible to apply.

Additionally, City of Austin full-time employees and architects or other designers currently contracted with AUS are ineligible.

SELECTION PROCESS

A five-member selection panel comprised of visual arts professionals and members of the AUS design team will review all eligible submissions. Up to five artists or artist-led teams may be shortlisted, invited to interview and requested to prepare a conceptual proposal as a part of the interview process for a fee of \$1,500. The selection panel reserves the right to recommend one artist or artist-led team and one alternate at the time of initial review. Only one artist or artist-led team will be awarded this commission.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- **Credentials:** CV/Resume (limit 2 pages)
- **Short responses** to the following questions and scenario (100-300 words per question):
 - o Describe your previous experience designing and creating multi-media projects as an artist-led team that would make you a good candidate for this opportunity.
 - o How does site-specificity inform your artistic practice and what inspires how you approach your work?
 - o How does your work provoke curiosity and spark wonderment?
- **Ten images** of previous work (only one image per page). Either label 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 as a separate document.
- **OR**

- **Five Videos** of previous work limit two minutes each. Either label each video 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 as a separate document.

IMAGES OF INCOMPLETE PROJECTS, PRELIMINARY SKETCHES, or PROPOSAL IDEAS FOR THIS PROJECT WILL NOT BE REVIEWED and COULD BE SUBJECT TO DISQUALIFICATION.

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

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The panel will evaluate applications based on the following criteria:

- Technical quality and aesthetic appeal of past work
- Relevant and applicable experience
- Authenticity, creativity and innovation of work as presented
- Communication of ideas and intentions

TIMELINE (subject to change)

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| Information Meeting | April 12, 2023 |
| Submission deadline | April 27, 2023 |
| Short-listed artists notified | May 15, 2023 |
| Interviews | June 26, 2023 |
| Selected Artist under contract | October 2023 |

Submit all information via publicartist.org.

Questions regarding this Call to Artist may be directed to:
Constance Y. White constance.white@austintexas.gov