

OPEN CALL FOR PUBLIC ART

City of Austin Art in Public Places Project Sidewalks & Shared Streets (City-wide)

Call open – Monday, June 22, 2026

Deadline for Submissions – Monday, August 3, 2026, at 5:00 PM CDT

Submit all information via PublicArtist.org

Call Summary

Austin Arts, Culture, Music and Entertainment's (ACME) Art in Public Places program (AIPP) in partnership with Austin Transportation and Public Works (ATPW), seeks to commission three (3) Austin-based mid-career professional visual artist or artist-led team to design, fabricate and install one exterior site-specific work of art. Four artwork locations include Avenue G and Avenue H from East 51st Street to East 56th Street (D4 and D9), Neils Thompson Drive and Longhorn Boulevard (D7), Davis Lane and Latta Drive (D8) and Kendra Page Park (D2). Only one artist or artist-led team per location.

Budget: \$170,000 | Budget Description:

As per City of Austin Ordinance, 2% of capital project costs are set aside to commission public art through the AIPP Program. Sidewalks and Shared Streets is funded by a 2020 voter-approved bond, the Capital Improvement Project features the projects listed below.

The total award for each artist contract is \$170,000.00 is paid over the course of the commission with milestones at community engagement, design, fabrication, installation, and closing. AIPP recommends that selected artists or artist-led teams budget 10% for contingency, and budget the remainder for all other project expenses including but not limited to: insurance, promotion, community engagement, design, all engineering, fabrication, materials, subcontractors, travel, transportation, shipping, permits and installation.

Artwork Goals

- A work of art of redeeming quality that advances public understanding of visual art and enhances the aesthetic quality of public places
- Conceptualizes a strong overall artwork design approach that integrates with the site and surrounding natural environment
- A work of art that responds to the neighborhood, community, or history in collaboration with community engagement feedback
- Is easily maintained and vandal resistant in an exterior environment
- Is permanent with an expected life span of at least 20 years

Artwork Location Background

The [Sidewalk and Urban Trails Division](#) is responsible for the sidewalk and shared streets network. Urban trails are built to connect with our sidewalk/shared street and bicycle networks and designed to provide a safe and comfortable way to walk and bike.

There are over 1,500 miles of missing sidewalks in Austin. Currently, about 800 miles are planned to be shared streets and 700 miles are planned to be sidewalks. Shared Streets are designed to accommodate all travel modes, ages, and abilities while prioritizing the comfort and safety of pedestrians.

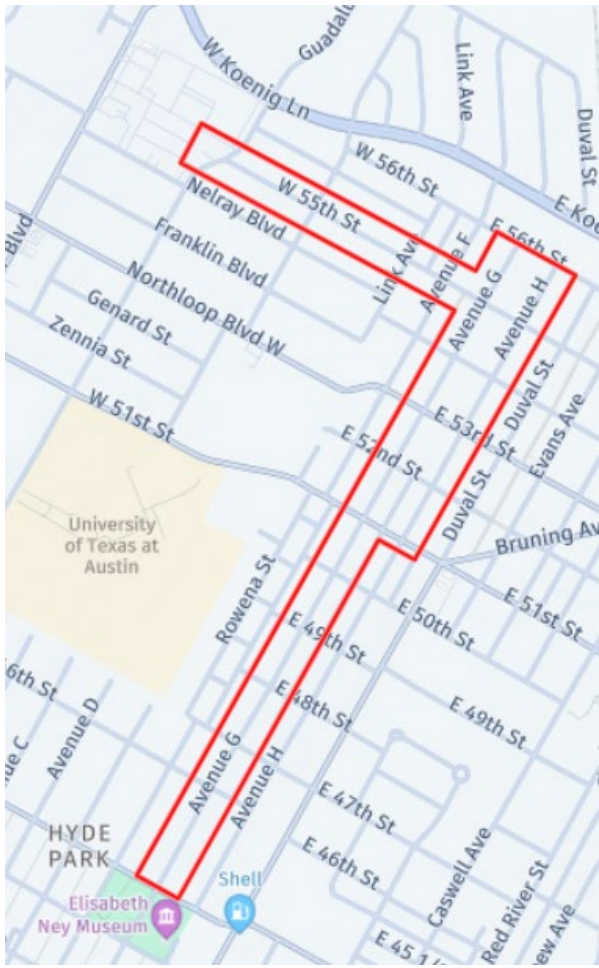
Four locations have been identified for possible public art installations, see details below. Only one artist or artist-led team will be selected per location at a maximum of three locations. The final artwork site for each location will be determined in collaboration between the selected artist, City staff, sponsor project design team and the community.

Location 1: Avenues G and H and 55th St

ATPW is converting a pilot shared street project along [Avenue G and Avenue H between East 51st Street up to East 56th Steet](#) to a permanent project, including two [Healthy Street](#) projects and Avenue G and East 55th Street. See project map below.

Anticipated timeline: (subject to change)

Project Design:	complete spring 2026
Project Construction Starts:	fall/winter 2026
Project Construction Complete:	early 2027



Location 1: Avenues G and H and 55th St Project Area

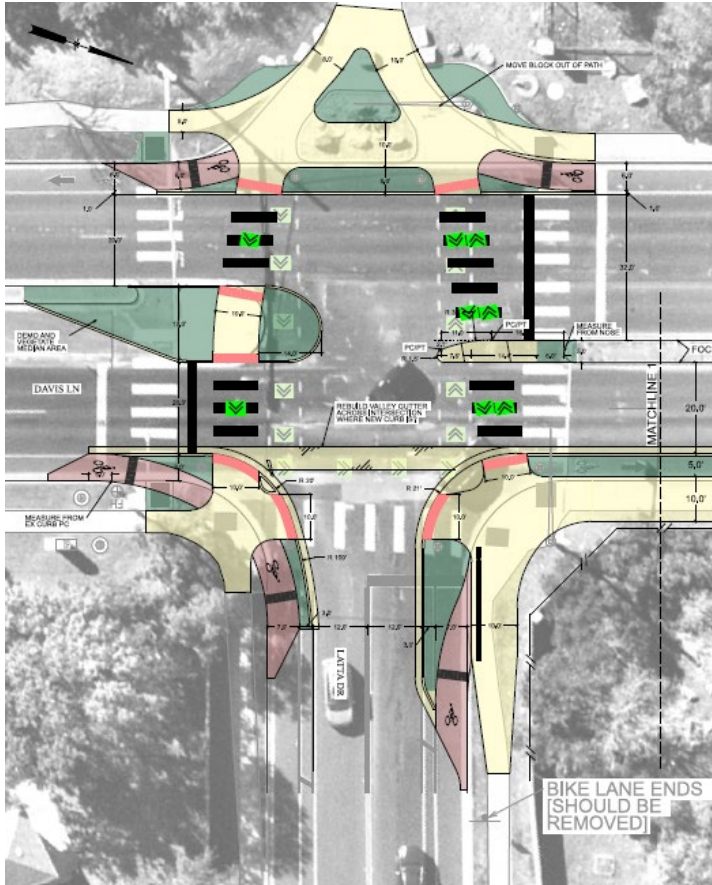
Location 2: Neils Thompson Drive and Longhorn Boulevard

ATPW Sidewalk Program is constructing a shared use path on a section of Shoal Creek Trail along Neils Thompson Drive and Longhorn Boulevard. The shared use path will include separate bicycle and pedestrian facilities, see project area and schematic plans below.

Anticipated timeline: (subject to change)

Project Construction Starts: currently under construction

Project Construction Complete: Spring 2026



Location 3: Davis Lane and Latta Drive Project Area and Schematic Design

Location 4: Kendra Page Park

ATPW's [Safe Routes to School Program](#) recently completed a new sidewalk along Kendra Page Park, along Blue Meadow Drive across the street from Langford Elementary School. Artwork opportunity includes collaboration with Austin Parks and Recreation to install an artwork within Kendra Page Park. ATPW has completed construction.



Location 4: Kendra Page Park Sidewalk completed on Blue Meadow Drive

Eligibility Description

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. AIPP defines “artist” as an individual recognized by critics and peers as a professional practitioner of serious intent and substantial ability.

- **Austin-based** public artist or artist team who reside in the seven counties bounding the Austin metro area (Travis, Hays, Williamson, Bastrop, Caldwell, Burnet, and Blanco counties)
- **Mid-career** public artists are recognized in their fields and have a track record of exhibits, engaging communities, and completed projects in the public art realm. Minimum of five relevant completed projects with budgets up to \$100,000.
- at least 18 years of age

Artists who have three or more permanent commissions represented in the AIPP public art collection; artists who are currently under an active contract for a permanent AIPP project; and artists who have completed a permanent AIPP project within the past year are not eligible to apply.

City of Austin full-time employees, or contractors hired by the sponsor project, are ineligible.

Requirements

1. Credentials: CV/Resume (limit 2 pages)
2. Ten images of previous work (only one image per page)
 - a. Label each image with: title, date of completion, location, materials, art budget.
 - b. For team applications, please indicate the lead artist for each project; or provide an annotated image list.
 - c. IMAGES OF INCOMPLETE PROJECTS OR PROPOSAL IDEAS WILL NOT BE REVIEWED
3. Short responses to the following questions (100-300 words per question):
 - a. Describe your artistic practice, professional experience, and how you are the right fit for this opportunity. Please give examples describing your creative process of completed artworks, and how you managed the project.
 - b. As an artist approaching public art, how do you design works that respond to a particular site? Please elaborate on what “site specificity” means to you.
 - c. Phase I of the AIPP contract is Community Engagement. With this in mind, how do you collaborate or engage with community members and other stakeholders in your art practice? Please give an example of a successful public artwork with elements informed by community feedback.
4. Three Professional references: (names, phone numbers and email addresses)
5. Demographic Survey (optional, will not be used as part of selection process)

Selection Process

A three-member selection panel comprised of visual arts professionals and community representatives will review all eligible submissions. The selection panel may choose recommendations and alternates at the time of the initial review. Up to six artists or artist-led teams may be shortlisted and invited to interview. Only three artists or artist-led teams and three alternates will be recommended for the commission.

Additional community representatives and City staff advise the selection process as non-voting members, providing their respective knowledge and expertise about the site, the community, the neighborhood, and

the sponsor project, to help select the best candidate for this opportunity.

Selection Criteria

- Artistic merit, creative capacity, and technical expertise of past work (30%)
- Demonstrated experience in the field of public art (40%)
- Enthusiasm and ability in creating site-specific public artwork and working with local communities (30%)

Timeline (Subject to Change)

Call Open	June 22, 2026
Call Deadline	August 3, 2026
Selected Artist under contract	Late fall 2026
Target Installation Complete	TBD

Contact Information

Questions regarding this solicitation must be directed in writing to: AIPP Coordinator Senior, Rebecca Rende at rebecca.rende@austintexas.gov.

Artist Information Meetings

- **Tuesday, June 23, 2026; 10:00am-12:00pm** – Virtual Open Office Hours
- **Tuesday, June 30, 2026; 10:00am-12:00pm** – Virtual Open Office Hours
- **Friday, July 3, 2026; 6:00-9:00pm** – Tabling at Lockhart First Fridays
Spellerberg Projects Gallery: 103 S Main St, Lockhart, TX 78644
- **Monday, July 6, 2026; 6:00pm** – Presentation at [AIPP Panel](#)
- **Tuesday, July 7, 2026; 10:00am-12:00pm** – Virtual Open Office Hours
- **Thursday, July 9, 2026; 6:00-8:30pm** – Hybrid Workshop
Asian American Resource Center: 8401 Cameron Rd, Austin, TX 78754
- **Tuesday, July 14, 2026; 10:00am-12:00pm** – Virtual Open Office Hours
- **Monday, July 20, 2026; 6:00pm** – Presentation at [Arts Commission](#)
- **Tuesday, July 21, 2026; 10:00am-12:00pm** – Virtual Open Office Hours
- **Tuesday, July 21, 2026; 6:00pm** – Presentation at [Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission](#)
- **Tuesday, July 28, 2026; 10:00am-12:00pm** – Virtual Open Office Hours
- **Monday, August 3, 2026; 10:00am-4:00pm** – Virtual Open Office Hours

AIPP staff will present information on the project and answer questions from interested artists. AIPP staff will also review the application procedures. The presented materials, along with Q&A, will be posted to City's website.

Language interpretation may be requested for all Artist Information Meetings at least two business days before the scheduled event.