



OPEN CALL TO ARTISTS

2026-2028 City of Austin Art in Public Places Pre-Qualified Texas Public Artist Pool

Individual project budgets between \$10,000 and \$250,000+

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

The City of Austin Art in Public Places (AIPP) program from Austin Arts, Culture, Music, & Entertainment (AACME) seeks exceptional emerging, mid-career, and established public artists working in a variety of visual media and artistic approaches for its 2026-2028 Pre-Qualified Texas Public Artist Pool (Pool). Selected artists or artist teams from the Pool may be contracted to design, fabricate and install potential public artworks for eligible Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) of various scopes, timelines, and budgets throughout the City of Austin. Certain projects may offer opportunities for an artist to work as part of the sponsor project design team.

Possible artwork opportunities include but are not limited to public art construction projects involving the following City of Austin departments: Austin Transportation and Public Works (ATPW), Austin Parks and Recreation, Austin Public Health Department, Austin Public Library, Austin-Bergstrom International Airport, and the Austin Convention Center.

In addition, AIPP is partnering with ATPW to support artist commissions for City of Austin programming. The Pool will be available for ATPW to commission artists for [Neighborhood Partnering Program](#) (NPP) and [Artbox Program](#). Artist commissions awarded outside of AIPP funding will not count against AIPP eligibility requirements.

Other programs that may utilize the Pool for artist commissions include [Planned Unit Developments](#) (PUDs), [Public Private Partnerships](#) (P3s), and [Downtown Density Bonus Programs](#) (DDBP). Similarly, artist commissions awarded outside of AIPP funding will not count against AIPP eligibility requirements.

Purpose of the Pool

The purpose of the Pre-Qualified Texas Public Artist Pool is to provide a streamlined application and selection process for artists interested in being commissioned for public art projects through the City of Austin Art in Public Places Program and other eligible programs identified above. The process requires one application from interested artists or artist teams. The Selection Panel will convene once to review all eligible applications. The Selection Panel will then recommend artists and artist teams for approval to the Art in Public Places Panel and Austin Arts Commission. Once

approved, all artists and artist teams in the Pool remain eligible for contract opportunities for a two-year period, which may be extended by staff as needed.

Program staff and the Art in Public Places Panel may use the Pool, in whole or in part, for commission opportunities based on project timeline, scope, previously identified project outcomes, and/or a highly specialized field of opportunity. The list of artists in the Pool may also be made available to private developers or independent public art commissioning entities for consideration for their use. Commissions awarded outside of AIPP funding will not count against AIPP eligibility requirements.

Program Background

The Austin Art in Public Places program manages a diverse range of public art projects within the City of Austin. Since AIPP's inception in 1985, over 400 public artworks have been created in City sites and facilities, including but not limited to libraries, streetscapes, public safety facilities, health centers, Fire and EMS stations, parklands, pools, recreation centers, trails and bikeways, Austin-Bergstrom International Airport, and Austin Convention Center. The CIP Projects are managed in coordination with many City departments who are collaboratively dedicated to deepening the community experience within a civic space. For additional information about the Austin Art in Public Places program, please visit www.austincreates.com.

Program and Project Goals

The Art in Public Places program seeks artists and artists teams whose work advances public understanding of visual art and enhances the aesthetic quality of public places through innovative and thoughtful design. An artist, or artist team, is expected to design artwork that:

- » Supports the artwork goals set for the respective CIP project for which the artist or team is chosen;
- » Reflects a high level of aesthetic and technical quality;
- » Identifies and considers opportunities for innovation or enhanced civic engagement;
- » Transforms a space or the user experience;
- » Contributes to a local, regional and/or national contemporary art dialogue;
- » Enriches or adds to the depth/breadth of the City of Austin's public art collection;
- » Is low maintenance and vandal-resistant.

Individual project budgets between \$10,000 and \$250,000

By ordinance, the funds for public art are appropriated from 2% of the City of Austin's construction projects. The total award artist contract 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 20% for their artist design fee, 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. The individual project budgets anticipated through the City of Austin's current and upcoming CIP Plan for this artist Pool are projected to range between \$10,000 and \$250,000 (or potentially more).

Artist commissions awarded through this artist Pool without AIPP funding may have different milestones and deliverables. Individual programs (ATPW) will establish budgets, milestones, and deliverables.

Eligibility Description

This call is open to professional visual artists or artist teams residing in the State of **Texas**. Professional visual artists, or artist teams, who work in a variety of visual media that are at least 18 years of age are eligible to apply. AIPP defines artist as an individual recognized by critics and peers as a professional practitioner of serious intent and substantial ability.

Artists and artist teams are asked to self-identify as an emerging, mid-career, or established public artist. Artist teams are encouraged to use the team members' highest attained level of experience.

- **Emerging** public artists show professional achievement and are developing qualifications that show significant potential in the field of public art. Minimum of one relevant completed project with a budget up to \$10,000.
- **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.
- **Established** public artists are recognized as leaders in the field of public art as evidenced by their career accomplishments and installations in a variety of scales, media, and locations, including significant community engagement, working with design teams, and other stakeholders as part of their design process. Minimum of four relevant completed projects with budgets over \$100,000.

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

Full-time, permanent City of Austin employees and project consultants and their employees are ineligible to apply.

Artists who are currently under an active contract for a permanent AIPP project, and artists who have completed an AIPP project within the past year are eligible to apply. Artists may not be eligible for an AIPP commission but may be still eligible for other City programs utilizing the Pool. Please note artists may only have one active permanent artwork commission contract with the Art in Public Places program at a time.

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. Letter of Interest (limit 500 words)

4. Three Professional references: (names, phone numbers and email addresses)
5. Demographic Survey (optional, will not be used as part of selection process)

The City of Austin Art in Public Places encourages artists from diverse demographic backgrounds and geographic locations to apply, in order to select from a diverse pool of artists for public art commissions. A demographic survey will be part of the application materials required for submittal.

For technical assistance submitting your application online, please contact info@publicartist.org or 210-701-0775 (9:00 am – 5:00 pm CST).

Selection Process

A selection panel will review qualifications using evaluation criteria from all artists who met the minimum eligibility requirements. Up to five voting panelists who are working visual arts professionals provide scores to determine artists to be recommended for inclusion in the Pool. The selection panel's recommended Pool of artists will go to the Art in Public Place Panel and Arts Commission for approval.

For each individual CIP artwork opportunity, staff work with the Art in Public Places Panel and Arts Commission to identify the best artist selection process, which may or may not use the Pool. If using the Pool, the Art in Public Places Panel and Arts Commission may recommend an artist directly from the Pool, recommend a short-list of artists for interviews or paid proposals, or recommend inviting the artists in the Pool to apply for a limited or open Art Call.

Other programs (such as ATPW) utilizing the Pool will work with the Art in Public Places Panel to commission artists. A minimum of three Art in Public Places Panel members will be used as the selection panel to award a commission.

Additional Policies

- » The Austin Art in Public Places program reserves the right to decline all submissions, cancel any qualified list at any time, or commission an artist through another process.
- » Inclusion in the Pre-Qualified Texas Public Artist Pool does not guarantee a commission.
- » Additional eligibility criteria may be set for commission selections. Artists or artist teams may only have one active permanent artwork commission contract with the Art in Public Places program at a time. Artists or artist teams awarded commissions outside of Art in Public Places funding will not count against eligibility requirements, excluding artists commissioned outside of AIPP funding (ATPW).
- » The Pre-Qualified Texas Public Artist Pool may be shared with community members, developers, or entities desiring to commission an artist for a public artwork project, and limited information on artists in the Pre-Qualified Texas Public Artist Pool may be promoted on the City of Austin website.
- » The Austin Art in Public Places program may open the Pre-Qualified Texas Public Artist Pool for new applicants as needed.

Selection Criteria

The Pool will include emerging, mid-career, and established public artists whose applications will be reviewed and juried separately.

- » Artistic merit, creative capacity, and technical expertise of past work
- » Applied experience and proficiency in the field of public art
- » Expressed interest in creating public artwork and working with local communities

Schedule (subject to change)

Call Open	June 22, 2026
Call Deadline	August 3, 2026
Artist Notifications	Fall 2026

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.