



City of Austin Art in Public Places Program (AIPP)

AIPP offers local, regional and national artists an opportunity to contribute to Austin's ever-evolving cityscape. The program provides unique works of art for publicly funded facilities and, since 1985, has been an integral part of Austin's transformation into a top cultural and artistic destination.

Public art contributes to the city in a variety of ways: it enhances the aesthetics of the city, it promotes dialogue within communities, and it serves as a reflection of the city's values, collective memory, and diversification. It provides jobs for artists and other professionals, including engineers, architects, and fabricators, as well as vendors who supply the materials artists use in their work.



Approvals



Selection



Public Engagement

Who oversees the Program?

The Art in Public Places Panel oversees the work of the AIPP program.

The seven members of the AIPP Panel are, by ordinance, visual arts professionals. They go through an interview process prior to being appointed to the panel. The current member of the panel are:

Jaime Salvador Castillo, Chair, Visual Artist/Curator
 Hollis Hammonds, Vice Chair, Visual Artist
 Scott Daigle, Arts Commission Liaison
 Ilse Frank, Urban Designer
 Emily Little, Architect
 Chris McCray, Visual artist
 Jade Walker, Visual Artist and Curator

The recommendations by the AIPP Panel go to the Arts Commission for approval.

The members of the Arts Commission are appointed by Council and are Council's direct connection to the AIPP program. The current members of the Arts Commission are:

Brett Barnes, Chair
 Scott Daigle, Vice Chair
 Ernest Auerbach
 Lulu Flores
 Amy Wong Mok
 Samuel Tinnon
 Bruce Willenzik

Artists are chosen by an independent jury or Selection Panel

By ordinance, selection panels are made up of three or five visual arts professionals. Selection Panelists are chosen by the Art in Public Places Panel and approved by the Arts Commission. Selection panelists select from artists who have responded to RFP or RFQ.

Stakeholder engagement:

As part of due diligence throughout the life of AIPP projects, staff works with a variety of groups and individuals, including:

Neighborhood Groups such as Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association, Dawson Neighborhood Association, South Lamar Neighborhood Association, Old West Austin Neighborhood Association, etc.

Groups such as Austin Parks Foundation, Sustainable Food Center, West Austin Youth Association, PODER, LATINITAS (Com mi Madre), an immigrant group assembled through MACC Advisory Board, The Trail Foundation, UT Leadership Initiative, The Salvation Army, etc.

Boards and Commissions such as African American Resource Advisory Commission, Design Commission, Downtown Commission, Joint Committee (Parks + Environmental Boards), Parks Board, etc.

How AIPP Brings Public Art to the City

1. Bond Election

Citizens vote in bond election to fund a public amenity such as a building, streetscape improvement or park.

Annual CIP (Capital Improvement Project) budget is approved by City Council.

2. Staff research

Staff researches the department's needs and opportunities, and works with stakeholders, to propose a prospectus for the project (project goals, budget for the art, and selection process for artist/artwork).

3. Funding

AIPP receives 2% of the eligible construction budget for art. Eligible funding comes from new building construction, parkland acquisition, parking facilities, street improvements, bridges and many other types of city construction projects.

4. Approvals

The AIPP Panel, a citizen body of volunteer arts and design professionals, reviews and approves the prospectus.

Austin Arts Commission, a citizen body appointed by the City Council, reviews and approves the prospectus.

5. Selection

AIPP Project Manager

- finalizes and releases the Call to Artists
- facilitates selection process with Selection Panel
- presents Selection Panel recommendations
- AIPP Panel and Arts Commission review and approve Selection Process Recommendation

6. Authorization

If project budget is over administrative authority, then Council grants authority to negotiate contract with the selected Artist. Artist is placed under design contract.

7. Kick-Off

Artist and AIPP staff meet with project stakeholders, such as project advisors, the project design team, and neighborhood representative(s) to discuss the opportunities and constraints for the artwork.

8. Artist research

Artist researches the site context, then begins to design, touching base with stakeholders as questions arise. Artist's designs are reviewed by Registered Accessibility Specialist and Arts Conservator for safety and long-term maintenance.

9. Design/Refine

AIPP Panel reviews Artist's mid-design work and provides feedback. Further design refinements based on reviews and feedback from staff and project stakeholders. Artist may return to AIPP Panel for further review.

10. Final Design

Artist submits final design work for approval, including

- renderings and narrative explaining the Artist's vision/intent
- stamped engineering drawings, showing plans for fabrication and installation
- budget for all costs related to the artwork

11. Approvals

AIPP Panel reviews and approves the Artist's final design submittals. Austin Arts Commission reviews the AIPP Panel's recommendations and approves the Artist's final design. Staff then negotiates the commission contract with the Artist.

12. Fabrication

Upon notice to proceed, the Artist fabricates his/her artwork, or hires a fabricator to make the artwork.

Staff monitors fabrication and provides updates to the project team.

Artist coordinates schedule of installation with project stakeholders.

13. Installation

Artist installs his/her artwork, or hires an installer to install the artwork. Staff monitors installation.

Artist works with staff to supply close-out documentation. Maintenance plan provided to department.

14. Collection

AIPP staff closes out the project, archives all files related to the artwork, and accessions the piece into the City's public art collection. AIPP Collection Manager works with each city department to ensure artworks receive the proper care.

15. Celebration

AIPP staff organizes an artwork unveiling and dedication to let the public know about the new artwork.

Staff creates a plaque with Artist name, name of artwork and key information for display adjacent to the artwork.

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Sample Timeline by month

Gathering input Approvals Selection Public Engagement

