



## CALL TO ARTISTS

Permanent Outdoor Artwork or Series of Artworks

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

Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center (ESB-MACC)

AIPP Opportunity

Deadline for Submissions – 5:00PM CST: November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023

### **REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS**

Austin-based Artists and artist-led teams are invited to submit qualifications to be considered for design, fabrication, and installation to create one or more site specific artwork projects to be located at the ESB-MACC, located downtown Austin, 600 River St, Austin, TX 78701.

Interested artists submitting qualifications should approach the opportunity with an open mind and should not attempt to propose new conceptual designs at this phase. Site-specific parameters will be shared at a later phase with artists and artist-led teams who are shortlisted and invited to interview.

### **BACKGROUND**

Named after cultural arts leader and community activist, Emma S. Barrientos, the ESB-MACC was originally designed by prominent Mexican architect Teodoro González de León (1926–2016) — known for his “monumental modernism” — in partnership with CasaBella Architects and Del Campo & Maru Texas and California based firms respectively. The idea for the cultural facility emerged in the early 1970s, and was finally realized in September 2007, with the completion of the first phase of the facility and site. The existing building is known for its monumental modernism and concrete façade that pays homage to a traditional Mesoamerican form.

Now entering the second phase of development, improvements include expansion and renovation of the facility to meet the growing needs of the community. Miró Rivera Architects + Tatiana Bilbao ESTUDIO Joint Venture are overseeing implementation. The completion of this phase will support programs that foster meaningful understanding and appreciation of Mexican American, Native American, Chicano, and other Latin American cultures. Visit <https://www.austintexas.gov/MaccPhase2> to discover more information about the project.

### **ARTWORK PROJECT OVERVIEW**

This phase of the ESB-MACC expansion program intends to develop a new relationship with the site to ...*the lake and the trail and acts as a gesture to*

*bridge the divide of opening the building toward its natural environment, embracing the responsibility of creating architecture for social engagement and in alignment with its built and natural surroundings. - Gabriella Bermea, AIA*

In the spirit of collaboration and responding to the many voices of an ever-changing and diverse community, this AIPP opportunity is intended to complement and increase impact of current and ongoing architectural and cultural programming for the ESB-MACC. While establishing a significant sense of place, the artwork or series of artworks should evoke legacy and inspire reflections of the timeless cultural aesthetics of what is here now and what once was the surrounding residential community.

There are myriad interpretations of the ideas of place-keeping, home, and memory that resonate from our varied human experiences (past, present, and future). The selected artist(s) or artist-led team will work collaboratively with project stakeholders and community advocates to design artwork that will connect the history of place and the iconic facility. Ideally, the final artwork will also increase visibility and appeal to a broader community. This opportunity is open to Austin-based artists and artist-led teams who have multi-media or sculptural practice with experience creating permanent work situated in outdoor spaces. There will be up to two installation areas. Only one commission will be awarded.

**BUDGET: \$190,000**

The total artwork project budget is **\$190,000** inclusive of artists' design fees, engineering, permitting, machining and fabrication, transportation, installation, travel, shipping expenses, insurance, and other artwork project-related costs.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS**

This opportunity is open to Texas artists or artist-led teams who are at least 18 years of age and have demonstrated experience creating work in three-dimensions (3-D), sculpture, stone, large-scale ceramic, cast or forged metal or other permanent materials. Moreover, artists must have lived experience with or relating to Mexican American culture and heritage in central Texas.

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 arts.

Applicants not meeting minimum qualifications will be withdrawn from consideration.

## INELIGIBILITY

Design professionals, including architects who do not have consistent visual art practice are ineligible to apply as team leads, but may 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 the City of Austin are ineligible to participate.

## SELECTION PROCESS

A three to five-member selection panel comprised of visual arts professionals and community representatives will review all submissions meeting the minimum qualifications. Up to five artists or artists-led teams may be shortlisted and invited to submit a proposal and interview for a fee of \$1,000. 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 artists/artists-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 creating permanent sculptural work 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 What is your process of involving community to inform the outcome of your artwork.
  - o Describe how your work could be forward looking while also provoking a sense of memory and legacy.
- **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; or provide a separate annotated image list as a separate document. For team application, please indicate the lead artist for each project.

- IMAGES OF INCOMPLETE PROJECTS, UNFINISHED SKETCHES, RENDERINGS OF UNREALIZED PROJECTS or PROPOSAL IDEAS FOR THIS PROJECT WILL NOT BE REVIEWED and COULD SUBJECT APPLICATION TO DISQUALIFICATION.
- **Three Professional references:** (names, phone numbers and email addresses)

### **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

Submit all information via <https://www.austintexas.gov/aipp>. The deadline to submit qualifications is November 20th, 2023, at 5:00PM CST. Submissions received after the deadline will be considered unresponsive and will not be reviewed.

**Questions** regarding this Call to Artists may be directed to:

**Frederico Geib**, Art in Public Places Project Manager [Frederico.Geib@austintexas.gov](mailto:Frederico.Geib@austintexas.gov)