



CALL TO ARTISTS

Public Art Opportunity

Armadillo Water Tank Mural, District 5

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

Call open – Tuesday, September 24th, 2024

Deadline for Submissions – 7:00 PM CST, October 22, 2024

Submit all information via <https://www.publicartist.org/austinaipp>

Request for Qualifications

The City of Austin Art in Public Places program (AIPP) of the Cultural Arts Division, Economic Development Department (EDD) seeks to commission one professional visual artist or artist-led team to design, fabricate and install an exterior mural at 910 Armadillo Road, Austin, TX 78745.

Public Artwork Goals

- A work of art of redeeming quality that advances public understanding of visual art and enhances the aesthetic quality of public places in relation to Armadillo Park and its community
- Conceptualizes a strong overall artwork design approach for all ages that integrates with the site and reflects the corresponding feelings around the surrounding natural environment
- Celebrates the historical fabric of South Austin, including the legacy of the Armadillo World Headquarters and the vibrant spirit of music, art, and creativity that defined the area and helped shape Austin's cultural identity
- Is permanent with an expected life span of at least 20 years
- Is easily maintained and vandal resistant in an exterior environment

Project Background

The City of Austin purchased the parkland that is now Armadillo Park in 1986 and through the support and advocacy of the surrounding neighborhood and community, the park was completed in 2014. Armadillo Park provides a natural outlet for recreation and community building. Near the park is a storage tank owned by Austin Water, the City's water and wastewater utility, that is no longer in service and provides an opportunity to display public art that reflects Austin's identity and the history and importance of the Armadillo neighborhood. In 2023, Austin City Council passed Resolution No. 20230816-015 directing Austin Water to explore the feasibility of placing a mural on the Armadillo Park water storage tank. Austin Water has evaluated its water storage tank and agrees that it provides an opportunity to display public art for the community and its customers.



Artwork Budget: \$133,000



A single commission of \$133,000 will be awarded to create one mural on Armadillo Water Tank. The total award 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.

Eligibility

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.

- Experience creating 2-dimensional permanent artwork in materials suitable for exterior environments
- Austin-based visual artists who reside in the seven counties bounding the Austin metro area (Travis, Hays, Williamson, Bastrop, Caldwell, Burnet, and Blanco counties)
- at least 18 years of age

Ineligibility

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.

Artists who have more than three permanent artworks represented in the AIPP public art collection; artists who currently are under an active contract for a permanent AIPP project; and artists who have completed an AIPP project within the past year are ineligible to apply.



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

Submission Requirements

1. Credentials: CV/Resume (limit 3 pages)
2. Short responses to the following questions (100-300 words per question):
 - a. Describe your artistic practice and how you are a good candidate for this particular opportunity.
 - b. As an artist approaching public art, how do you design works that respond to a particular site?
 - c. How do you collaborate or engage with community in your art practice? Please give an example of a successful public artwork with elements informed by community feedback.
 - d. Do you have a personal connection to the community or nearby communities? If so, please describe.
3. 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
4. Three Professional references: (names, phone numbers and email addresses)
5. Demographic Survey

Selection Criteria

- Technical quality and aesthetic appeal of past work
- Dedicated and consistent artistic practice
- Authenticity, creativity, and innovation of work as presented
- Communication of ideas and intentions
- Ability and enthusiasm to engage the community in which the artwork will be installed
- Experience with public art projects of a relatively similar size and scope

Selection Process

A three to five-member selection panel comprised of visual arts professionals and community representatives will review all eligible submissions. Three to five artist(s)/artists teams will be invited to interview *unless there is consensus to recommend one applicant and one alternate for each opportunity*. One applicant will be selected to receive a commission.

Project Schedule (Subject to Change)

Information Meeting	September 28 th , 2024
Submission deadline	October 31 st , 2024
Target Installation/Project close-out	Summer 2026

Artist Information Meeting



DATE;TIME (CST) TBD

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 after the meeting: www.austintexas.gov/department/aipp-opportunities.

Questions regarding this solicitation must be directed in writing to:

Art in Public Places Coordinator – Bryana Iglesias, bryana.iglesias@austintexas.gov