

CALL TO ARTISTS

Public Art Opportunities

Substandard Streets – Johnny Morris Road (District 1), Ross Road (District 2)

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

Call open – Tuesday, September 24, 2024

Deadline for Submissions – 7:00 PM CST, Tuesday, 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 two professional visual artists or artist-led teams to design, fabricate and install one exterior work of art each at one of these two locations: the Johnny Morris Road project located between Loyola Lane and FM 969 Road, or the Ross Road project located between SH-71 and Pearce Lane.

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
- Conceptualizes a strong overall artwork design approach that integrates with the site and surrounding built and natural environments
- Is easily maintained and vandal resistant in an exterior environment
- Is permanent with an expected life span of at least 20 years

Project Background

Substandard streets are publicly owned roadways within the City of Austin's jurisdiction that do not meet current City of Austin requirements because they have pavement widths that are less than 24 feet and typically lack some curb and gutter, drainage, bicycle accommodations, and sidewalk infrastructure.

This project includes a review of existing conditions, such as traffic counts, crash data, and pinch points, as well as a review of constraints, such as right-of-way and utilities, and coordination with the City's adopted transportation plans and policies.

Johnny Morris Road



The City of Austin will reconstruct Johnny Morris Road as part of the 2020 Mobility Bond.

Ross Road



The City of Austin will reconstruct Ross Road to a five-lane cross-section roadway (two thru lanes in each direction plus a two-way left turn lane and/or median) with pedestrian and bicycle facilities along the corridor as part of the 2020 Mobility Bond.

City Council also approved a contract amendment for additional services for the design of Pearce Lane at the intersection of Ross Road North. The design modification will allow for future widening without tearing up the investment of this Ross Road Project. Additionally, it will significantly improve safety and mobility for the community and enhance access to the three Del Valle ISD schools in the area.

Artwork Budgets:

Johnny Morris Road \$190,000

Ross Road \$330,000

Funded as part of the 2020 Mobility Bond, 2% of the estimated sponsor project construction budget is set aside for the commissioning of public art through the AIPP Program as per City of Austin Ordinance.

The total award for each 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.

Possible Artwork Siting

The final artwork site will be determined in collaboration between the selected artist, City staff, and the community.

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 3-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 2 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 either of the project locations 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 five-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. Six artists or artist-led teams may be shortlisted, invited to interview and submit a preliminary design concept for a fee of \$1,000. Only two artists or artist-led teams and three alternates will be recommended for the commission.

Project Schedule (Subject to Change)

Selected Artists under contract	Winter 2025
Johnny Morris Road	
Sponsor Project Design Phase ends	Winter 2025
Construction begins	Summer 2025
Target Installation	Fall 2026
Ross Road	
Sponsor Project Design Phase ends	Summer 2024
Construction begins	Winter 2025
Target Installation	Spring 2027

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 – Lindsay Hutchens, lindsay.hutchens@austintexas.gov