

OPEN CALL FOR PUBLIC ART

Art in Public Places Project

Northeast Service Center Cistern Murals - District #1

Call open – [DAY, DATE]

Deadline for Submissions – [DAY, DATE, TIME CENTRAL]

Submit all information via PublicArtist.org

Call Summary

Austin Arts, Culture, Music, and Entertainment's Art in Public Places (AIPP) Program in partnership with Austin Financial Services (AFS), Austin Resource Recovery (ARR) and Austin Fleet Mobility Services Department (AFMS), seeks to commission one Austin-based emerging artist or artist team to work with our partners, design team and community stakeholders to design, fabricate, and install a two murals on cisterns sited at the north and south campus for the new Northeast Service Center (NESC) campus at 8301 Johnny Morris Rd, Austin, TX 78724.

Budget Description | Budget \$300,000

As per City of Austin Ordinance, 2% of capital project costs are set aside to commission public art through the AIPP Program.

The total award for the artist contract is \$300,000 (\$150,000 per mural) and is paid over the course of the commission with milestones at community engagement, design, fabrication, installation, and closing. AIPP recommends that selected artist or artist-led teams budget 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.

Project Description

AIPP in partnership with AFS, ARR, and AFMS seeks an artist or artist team to create two site-specific murals for the NESC campus. The selected artist will work with ARR, AFMS, other City Departments, project consultants, and community stakeholders to develop, design, fabricate and install artworks to enhance the NESC campus.

The public art opportunity includes **two site-specific artworks** that will be applied to new corrugated metal water tanks (cisterns). The two cisterns are located at the north and south campus and can be seen from Johnny Morris Road. The two murals should stand alone and work together with a cohesive theme. The selected artist should take into consideration the users of the site, public who visit the site, as well as pedestrian and vehicular traffic from the street. Additionally, the selected artist will be asked to take into consideration themes of the campus mission and goals when developing an artwork theme.

The campus completed design and began construction in 2025 with a tentative operation start date for August 2027. The selected artist is responsible for all site prep at the individual artwork locations.

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 natural environment
- Is easily maintained and vandal resistant in an exterior environment
- Is permanent with an expected life span of at least 20 years

The NESC is a multi-use facility for the City of Austin and the people they serve. The themes of the two site-specific artworks are intended to speak to the day-to-day work of the essential workers of ARR and AFMS. The north campus cistern, see **Exhibit 2**, should consider a central focus around ARR such as recycling and reuse. The south campus cistern, see **Exhibit 4**, should consider a central focus around AFMS such as mobility, movement, connectivity, people and community they serve. The artworks should be illustrative and representative of the essential work within the NESC vs literal representation.

Additionally, the selected artist will be asked to create a community engagement plan that incorporates engagement with City departments and the surrounding Colony Park neighborhood community when designing an artwork concept.

There is an overall campus goal for the AIPP public art opportunities to work well together rather than compete. The selected artist may be asked to coordinate with other selected artists working within the campus to ensure continuity across the campus.

Artwork Location Description

Two cisterns have been identified within the campus, one at the north campus and the second at the south campus. Both locations can be seen from Johnny Morris Road.

Exhibit 1: Public Art Opportunity – north parcel cistern location



Exhibit 2: North Cistern Rendering:



Exhibit 3: Public Art Opportunity – south parcel cistern location



Exhibit 4: South Cistern Rendering



Exhibit 5: Cistern Example



Site History

The new Northeast Service Center will create a new state-of-the-art service center facility to better serve the customers of [Austin Resource Recovery](#) (ARR) and [Austin Fleet Mobility Services Department](#) (AFMS). The facility will incorporate vehicle servicing shop areas, warehousing, administrative office, outside storage and vehicle storage that will be merging/consolidating the current operation from various separate locations. The facility will operate 24/7 and will support key operations during emergency events.

[ARR](#) is the department within the City responsible for trash collection, recycling, composting, large brush collection, and bulk items pick-up. ARR is also responsible to sweep the streets and safely dispose of household hazardous waste. ARR provides essential services that protect people and our planet and drives the transformation of traditional waste management to sustainable resource recovery. ARR requires the use of additional facilities to better service their customers, improve operational efficiencies, reduce long term operating costs, allow for staff expansion and reduce the department's carbon footprint. ARR currently houses its entire operations team in southeast Austin on Todd Lane. The NESC will house all ARR operational staff and resources. In the event of an emergency, it is critical for these facilities to remain operational around the clock to a reasonable level of functionality for an extend period.

[AFMS](#) supports the vehicle maintenance needs of approximately twenty-five departments within the City of Austin. This totals over 7,000 fleet assets for departments such as ARR, Austin Energy, Austin Water, Fire, Police, EMS, Watershed and Parks. AFMS manages a comprehensive full life cycle management program. AFMS has a number of service locations within the City and is looking to consolidate, enhance and expand their operational capacity with the development of the NESC. In addition to directly supporting ARR vehicle needs, the NESC will provide much needed and improved space to support a wide range of fleet assets from lawn mowers to watercraft to fire/police/EMS vehicles to public works trucks. More information about AFMS can be found at <https://www.austintexas.gov/department/fleet-mobility-services>.

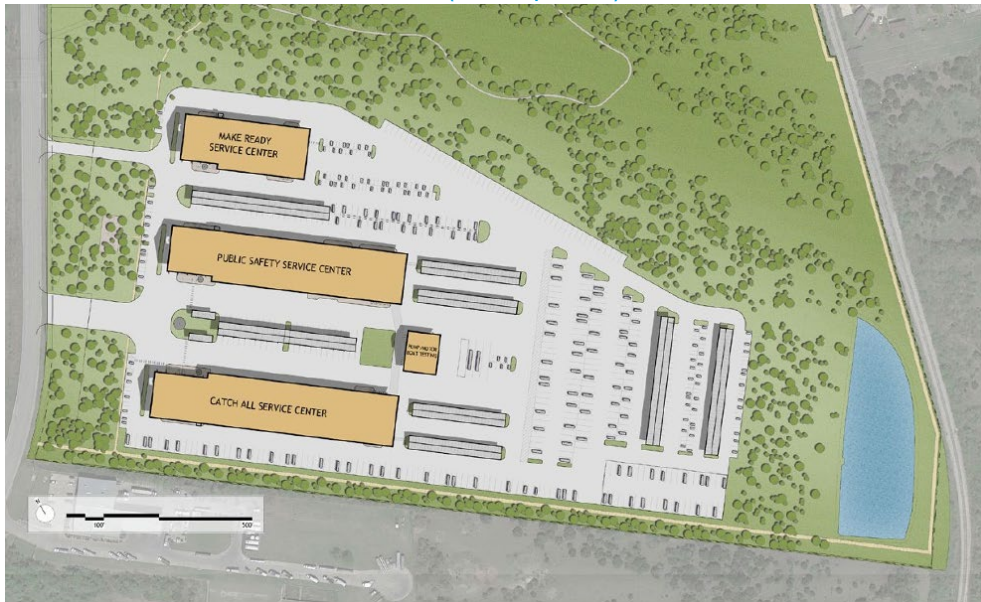
The vision for the NESC campus is to merge design, development, and contracting experience to create a highly functional and sustainable facility in a timely fashion on City-owned land. It is important to the City, ARR and AFMS that this project achieve an Austin Energy Green Building (AEGB") 3-star rating or higher.

Key social impact goals and creative sustainability measures to reduce waste and enhance reuse wherever possible are being prioritized. Additionally, the building must be designed and constructed for flexibility in uses and long-term durability as well as future on-site expansion.

Northeast Service Center Site Plan (north parcel)



Northeast Service Center Site Plan (south parcel)



Eligibility Description

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.

- Austin-based visual artists who reside in the seven counties bounding the Austin metro area (Travis, Hays, Williamson, Bastrop, Caldwell, Burnet, and Blanco counties)

- 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
- at least 18 years of age

Artists who have three or more permanent commissions represented in the AIPP public art collection; artists who are currently under an active contract for a permanent AIPP project; and artists who have completed a permanent AIPP project within the past year are not eligible to apply. City of Austin full-time employees, or contractors hired by the sponsor project, are not eligible.

Requirements

1. Credentials: CV/Resume (limit 3 pages)
2. Ten images of previous work (only one image per page)
 - a. Label each image is: title, date of completion, location, materials, 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. Short responses to the following questions (100-300 words per question)
 - a. Describe your artistic practice, professional experience, and how you are the right fit for this opportunity. Please give examples describing your creative process of completed artworks, and how you managed the project.
 - b. As an artist approaching public art, how do you design works that respond to a particular site? Please elaborate on what “site specificity” means to you.
 - c. Phase I of the AIPP contract is Community Engagement. With this in mind, how do you collaborate or engage with community members and other stakeholders in your art practice? Please give an example of a successful public artwork with elements informed by community feedback.
4. Three Professional references: (names, phone numbers and email addresses)
5. Demographic Survey (optional, not part of selection process)

Selection Process

A selection panel will review qualifications using selection criteria from all artists who meet the eligibility requirements. Three voting panelists who are working visual arts professionals provide scores to determine a short-list of applicants to discuss as a group and make the final vote for one artist or artist-led team and one alternate to be recommended for the commission.

Additional community representatives and City staff advise the selection process by providing their respective knowledge and expertise about the site, the community, the neighborhood, and the sponsor project, to help select the best candidate for this opportunity.

Selection Criteria

- Artistic merit, creative capacity, and technical expertise of past work (30%)
- Enthusiasm and ability in creating site-specific public artwork and working with local communities (40%)
- Demonstrated experience in the field of public art (30%)

Timeline (Subject to Change)

Call Open	TBD
Call Deadline	TBD
Selection Process	TBD
Artist Notifications	TBD
Selected Artist under contract	TBD
Target Installation Complete	Fall 2027

Additional Resources: Please visit PublicArtist.org to find this document translated in Spanish, a sample Scope of Work, and a flowchart summarizing the AIPP process.

Contact Information: Questions regarding this solicitation must be directed in writing to: Rebecca Rende at rebecca.rende@austintexas.gov.

Artist Information Meetings

DATES TIMES 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: [\[LINK\]](#)

Language interpretation may be requested for all Artist Information Meetings at least two business days before the scheduled event.