

Art in Public Places Program
Austin City Hall
301 West 2nd Ste. 2030
Austin, Texas 78701
512.974.9308 / www.cityofaustin.org/aipp



Request for Proposals

Project: Danny G. McBeth Recreation Center

Budget: \$32,000

Deadline: August 7, 2009, midnight

Project Summary

The City of Austin Art in Public Places (AIPP) program of the Cultural Arts Division, Economic Growth & Redevelopment Services Office seeks to commission an artist/design professional to design and construct a work of art that will contribute to the Danny G. McBeth Recreation Center located in Zilker Park. The public artwork created for the McBeth Recreation Center is intended to define the entryway to the site and be accessible to members of the public with differing abilities.

The City of Austin requests conceptual proposals from visual artists/design professionals who live or work in Austin or the surrounding area within a 100 mile radius. The total public art budget is \$32,000. Submission deadline is midnight, Friday, August 7, 2009.

NOTE: To be considered for the project, applicants must join the AIPP Artist Registry and submit for the Danny G. McBeth Recreation Center project through the Application System for Art in Public Places (ASAPP!) found at:

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/aipp/apply/default.cfm>.

About the Site

The Danny G. McBeth Recreation Center is currently housed in one of two buildings built by the Knights of Columbus/Austin Catholic Diocese in the 1960's. The site is located in the western part of Zilker Park off Columbus Drive. The capital improvement project, funded by \$1.5 million in public bonds, will result in upgrades to the two buildings.

The first phase of the capital improvement project involves upgrades to the northwest building, currently occupied by the Park Police. The upgrades will provide for enhanced



recreational after-school and summer programs for people with differing abilities, including those with developmental, physical, mental health, and visual and auditory disabilities.

The center was named after Danny G. McBeth who was active in advocating for rights and services for the disabled community. In operation since February 1986, the McBeth Recreation Center provides community based leisure programs and inclusion assistance.

The goal of the McBeth Recreation Center is to provide a variety of meaningful recreation experiences that enhance the quality of life of its clientele. Activities are offered year round for children and adults through an after school program, spring break and summer day camps, and recreational day program for challenged adults. There are also ongoing evening classes such as cooking, bingo, crafts, gardening, and creative arts.

The Center also coordinates Special Olympics teams in tennis, swimming, cycling, basketball and more.

Visitors to the site include the Center's special-needs clientele, their families and caregivers. The facilities are also available for special event rental by other organizations and individuals. Additionally the playscape is used by the general public.

For links to additional information and programs visit:
<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/mcbeth.htm>

Artwork Opportunity

The selected artist/design professional will be responsible for developing a work of public art on the grounds of the Danny G. McBeth Recreation Center that will define the entryway to the site and serve to enhance the experience of site users and visitors. The selected artist will meet with McBeth Center representatives and the architecture/engineering team to integrate the artwork into the site design.

Designs must be in compliance with the American Disabilities Act (ADA). The Parks and Recreation Department will be responsible for the ongoing operation and maintenance of the artwork. Only artworks of substantial durability and minimal maintenance requirements will be considered.

Program and Project Goals

The goal of the Art in Public Places program is to commission works of art and public art projects of redeeming quality that advance public understanding of visual art and enhance the aesthetic quality of public places. The Art in Public Places program is open to a wide range of ideas and interpretation.

The goals of this specific public art project are to select an artist who will design with the following priorities in mind:

- » create an engaging and unique work of contemporary art for the public at the location selected on the site (see attached photos and site plan);
- » enhance clientele, staff, and visitor experience through public art;
- » reuse or demolish an existing concrete sculpture base (see attached photos and site plan);
- » create a work of art that is accessible to members of the public with differing abilities;
- » create a work of art that is compatible with the planned use of the facility;
- » increase the visibility and diversity of the city's

public art; and

- » create a work of art that is easily maintained.

The following artist qualifications may be considered as part of the selection process.

- » quality and completeness of the submission;
- » artistic merit and ability as evidenced in images submitted;
- » the conceptual basis for the artist's body of work as expressed in the written statement;
- » training and education;
- » availability of artist to meet the planned design and construction schedule;
- » ability to work in coordination with other design and engineering professionals and City staff;
- » experience working with materials suited or adaptable to an outside environment;
- » willingness to incorporate an educational component (lecture, open studio, mentor), if requested.

Budget

The total public art for this project for public art is \$32,000. The artist/design professional contract must include all aspects of design and construction including design fee, fabrication and materials cost, and installation (including site preparation) to either provide for re-use of, the existing concrete base and curb, or for its demolition.

Artist Eligibility

Visual artists/design professionals, at least 18 years of age, from Austin and the surrounding area within 100 miles radius are eligible to submit proposals.

All artists/artist teams shall be considered regardless of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age or disability. Full-time, permanent City of Austin employees, employees of the sponsor department, and project consultants and their employees and sub-consultants are ineligible to apply.

Selection Process

The Call to Artists will be open for 7 weeks.

The Art in Public Places program will host a project information meeting on Monday, June 29, 5:30-6:30 pm to familiarize applicants with the project and the proposed site for artwork. The meeting will be held on site at the

McBeth Recreation Center at 2401 Columbus Drive in Zilker Park.

Proposals and required documentation must be received by Art in Public Places no later than midnight on Friday, August 7, 2009.

The City of Austin Art in Public Places Panel will convene a selection panel to evaluate the submissions. The Selection Panel and Project Advisors shall review proposals (images of work, resume, letter of interest, references) submitted by artists/design professionals as well as their qualifications. The Selection Panel will recommend one artist/design professional and one alternate from the eligible applications to present to the Art in Public Places Panel (AIPP Panel) and the Arts Commission (AC) for approval.

The City shall facilitate the selection process and manage the contract for artist commission. Once under contract, the selected artist/design professional will be required to submit a final design to be reviewed and approved by the AIPP Panel and Arts Commission prior to fabrication of the artwork.

The selection of an artist, or team of artists, shall be based on who best meets the requirements and goals contained in this Request for Proposals, artist qualifications and reference checks conducted.

Schedule (subject to change)

June 19, 2009

RFP released

June 29, 2009, 5:30-6:30 pm

Artist information meeting at 2401 Columbus Drive in Zilker Park.

August 7, 2009

Submission deadline

August 21, 2009

Selection panel reviews submissions

September 14, 2009

AIPP Panel approval of Selection Panel recommendation

September 21, 2009

AIPP Panel recommended artist presented to Arts Commission for final approval

October 2009

Execute contract with selected artist/design professional

November 2009

Stakeholder meetings and start of design

February 1, 2010

AIPP Panel approves final design

February 15, 2010

Arts Commission approves final design

March 2010

Artwork fabricated

April 2010

Artwork installed

Submission Requirements

Applicants must submit the following materials through the ASAPP! online application system. The system may be accessed by visiting the Art in Public Places homepage, www.cityofaustin.org/aipp. Click on ASAPP! to begin.

FIRST: Register with ASAPP!

Please be prepared to submit the following:

Professional resume - (artist registry step 1 of 3)

Please outline your experience as a visual artist/design professional. If applying as a team please enter information as a team and include resumes for each team member in the ASAPP! registry system.

Three references - (artist registry step 2 of 3)

Please include the names and contact information for 3 individuals with whom you have worked, collaborated or who have commissioned your work in the past. Actual letters of reference are not required and will not be accepted.

Digital images - (artist registry step 3 of 3)

Upload a minimum of 10 images (maximum of 40) demonstrating your past work. Installation or 3-dimensional work may be illustrated by multiple images. Formatting requirements:

- » Images must be uploaded in .jpg format.
- » Image size must not exceed 800 pixels wide x 600 pixels height, and 72 dpi. *Note: dimensions are not interchangeable; images cannot be 800(h).*
- » File size cannot exceed 400KB.
- » Images must be named according to the following format example: lastname_firstname_01.jpg

Note: AIPP is not responsible for distortion/alteration of images as they appear on monitors or projected.

NEXT: Apply for call to artists

Please be prepared to submit:

Digital images - (10 - 20 images)

Select a minimum of 10 images (maximum of 20) from your registry profile to apply for the call. Artist teams must have each team member's work represented in the 10 - 20 images selected for review.

At least one image must be a sketch, drawing or rendering of your conceptual proposal. If you are unable to provide an image of your conceptual proposal through the ASAP submission, it must be provided in a hard copy format not to exceed 11" x 17". Hard copies may be hand delivered or sent by **U.S. Postal Service** by the submission deadline to:

City of Austin
Economic Growth & Redevelopment Office
Art in Public Places Program
Attn: Alyson McGee
301 W. 2nd Street, Suite 2030
Austin, TX 78701

Or by **FedEx** or **United Parcel Service (UPS)** to:

City of Austin
Economic Growth & Redevelopment Office
Art in Public Places Program
Attn: Alyson McGee
2006 E. 4th Street
Austin, TX 78702

Letter of Interest/Conceptual Proposal Narrative
- (2000 character limit)

Briefly describe how you propose to approach the Danny G. McBeth Recreation Center AIPP Project in a narrative format. What interests you about the project and how might these interests be incorporated in the artwork? Suggest possible materials and methodology. Please address how your design will enhance the user experience of the site and be compatible with the planned use of the facility.

Narrative must also include a conceptual budget with costs for design, fabrication, installation (including site preparation to either provide for re-use of the existing concrete base and curb, or for its demolition), and insurance requirements.

Contact/Questions

Alyson McGee, Art in Public Places Coordinator
(512) 974- 7801
alyson.mcgee@ci.austin.tx.us

Important Instructions

- » **All artists/design professionals must submit via the ASAPP! Online** application system. Except for conceptual proposal images, hardcopy materials WILL NOT be accepted.
- » Applications received after midnight, Friday, August 7, 2009 will not be considered.
- » If your work is best represented by other media types (video or audio), please call AIPP at 974-9308 for further instructions.
- » E-mail list - the fastest way to get the latest project opportunities and information from AIPP! Sign up for our e-mail newsletter through our website, at www.Cityofaustin.Org/aipp

Site Photos





Location of existing concrete block and curb

Block - approx. 4' h x 4' w x 4' l
Curb - approx. 13' square
Sidewalk surround - 2' w

EXISTING TREE TO BE REMOVED

Sidewalk surround - 2' w

EXISTING TREE TO BE REMOVED