



CITY OF EL PASO CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT STREETSCAPE PUBLIC ART PROJECT

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Deadline: January 15, 2013, 5:00pm (MST)

Budget: \$30,000 Design Fee

With ongoing efforts to make downtown El Paso more attractive to citizens, visitors and businesses, The City of El Paso's Public Art Program seeks to commission a professional artist or artist team to work with engineering and design consultants to design artistic elements for the reconstruction of and streetscape improvements for the Central Business District (CBD) Phase IV Project.

Public Art Program

The mission of the El Paso Public Art Program is to promote and encourage private and public programs to further the development and public awareness of, and interest in, the fine arts and cultural properties, to increase employment, and opportunities in the arts, to encourage the integration of art into the architecture of municipal structures for the City of El Paso, and to provide for the citizens for the City high quality, publicly accessible works of art, which contribute to the urban landscape and symbolize the City's sense of place.

CBD Project Overview

In order to provide a pedestrian-friendly environment, the selected artist or artist team will be tasked with collaborating on all aspects of the design by choreographing the artistic elements of the streetscape. CBD Phase IV Improvements will consist of the reconstruction of the entire roadway/street; to include parkway (trees), sidewalk, ADA upgrades, roadway, drainage, street lighting, pedestrian lighting, bike amenities, traffic infrastructure, signing/stripping, and traffic control plans. (Please refer to aerial map enclosed as Exhibit A).

Artistic elements will be integrated in the major streets with more pedestrian traffic. Selected artist or artist team may incorporate artistic design elements in the following, but not limited, areas: bollards, seating, patterned sidewalks, shade/canopy structures, recycling/trash bins, bike racks, planters, utility boxes, incorporate energy saving/sustainable approaches, LED light incorporation to give a nighttime presence, work with a colorful palette, and include interactive and site-responsive elements. Designs should also incorporate appropriate outdoor materials with little to no maintenance.

Selected Artist or Artist team will be required to perform extensive local research and work with a project design team consisting of engineers, designers, contractors, City officials, et al. Design should reflect the inherent sense of place and pride the community of Segundo Barrio.

Budget

The total budget is \$30,000 to include all design development expenses, and fabrication and installation oversight. Fabrication costs will be part of the construction budget.

Eligibility Requirements

This project is open to artists working and living in El Paso, TX who are eighteen (18) years of age or older. Artists applying for this project do not necessarily need to have experience in the public art field, but a strong interest in the field and working with community members of the area is required. Artists working in any media are eligible to apply.

About the Area

The streets in Downtown El Paso are located in a neighborhood called *Segundo Barrio* or the Second Ward. *Segundo Barrio* is home to more than 8,000 people, of whom 50.8 percent are U.S. citizens, 13.7 percent are naturalized citizens and 35.5 percent are non-citizens, according to U.S. Census statistics. *Segundo Barrio*, located in south of El Paso, is a port of entry to the United States and one of the oldest and most culturally historic neighborhoods in the City of El Paso. It is the first community people see when they cross the border from downtown Cd. Juarez, Mexico.

The design for the streetscape improvements should be reflective of the area of *Segundo Barrio*, must complement and reinforce the unique identity and character and speak of the diversity of the area. The design consultants and artist/artist team shall facilitate public workshop sessions to get information out to the general public, provide an opportunity for public input and to share information through development of the plan.

Scope of Work

The selected artist or artist team will work closely with the engineer and design consultants to help set the tone of the downtown experience. More specifically, the artist/artist team will:

- Contract with City of El Paso to fulfill the artist's services
- Collaborate with the design team to generate artwork proposal(s)
- Work with members of the *Segundo Barrio* community, hold meetings and be sensitive to feedback from the community and the history of the area
- Conduct research, which includes examining the site, reviewing pertinent documents, meeting with City staff, etc.
- Prepare verbal, written and visual presentations to show schematic and final artwork proposal(s) to stakeholders. Presentations should include:
 - A preliminary depiction of the proposed artwork(s) in the form of a to-scale drawing accompanied by either a three-dimensional rendering or a three dimensional model, if applicable
 - A narrative description of the sources and methodology used to develop the proposal(s) which may include research, findings and/or input plus information about the scale, location, context, relationship of components, materials, operation requirements, maintenance requirements, and fabrication and installation methods, if necessary
 - A site plan

- A photographic survey of the site and other images depicting the site context
- Material samples, if available
- An outline of the anticipated budget for full design, fabrication, installation, maintenance and operation expenses
- Participate in in-person meetings/presentations with stakeholders and respond to feedback.
- Engage subcontractors, if necessary.
- Create and submit engineer-approved construction documents.
- Perform site preparation, if necessary.
- Submit documentation images and a maintenance/operations report.
- Participate in ribbon-cutting ceremony and/or outreach to press, if requested.
- Coordinate with City Staff, as required.

Timeline

- Submission Deadline: **January 15, 2013 5:00pm**
- Artist Selection Panel Review: **week of January 21, 2013**
- Public Art Committee Review: **February 12, 2013**
- Notification to Selected Artist: **week of February 18, 2013**

The above dates are contingent on the agencies' schedules and may be changed at any time.

To Apply

Applications must be submitted via mail to Museums and Cultural Affairs Department. Five (5) hard-copies of the Letter of Interest, Resume, Annotated Image List, CD, and References are required in the packet. Only complete applications will be accepted.

Submission Requirements

- One (1) page Letter of Interest: briefly describe your interest and qualifications for this project. Describe your ability to work with a government agency, engineers, design consultants and community members.
- Current Resume: outline your experience as an artist. **Artist teams must submit a resume for each member.**
- Ten (10) jpg images of completed past artworks. Each image must be burned onto a cd and have good resolution. Each file name should include the artist's name and numeric order in which the images are to be viewed (For example: SmithSue_01).
- Annotated image list: A typed page listing each digital image in sequence. Indicate the thumbnail image, file name and title of work, medium, dimensions, date and location. If applicable, for previous public art projects please list the project location, commissioning body and budget. **If applying as a team, only ten (10) images can be submitted.**
- Three (3) professional references (with title, email, phone, mail contact information) that are qualified to testify to your artistic capabilities and accomplishments.
- This is a request for qualifications only. Do not send proposals. Incomplete submittals will not be reviewed. Include your name on each page of each item submitted. Qualifications are to be submitted by January 15 - 5:00 pm MST at the address identified below. All elements (including hard copy and

electronic/digital elements) of submittals must be in hand by that date and time. Mail or Hand deliver to:

- **Museums and Cultural Affairs Department**
Attn: Public Art Program
2 Civic Center Plaza, 2nd floor
El Paso, TX 79901

Artist Team Requirements

- If available, please include images of work that demonstrate a collaborative effort to create an artwork by all members of the team.
- Artist teams must include a lead artist.
- In your Letter of Interest please state how the team has worked collaboratively in the past and what role each team member played. If you are applying as a team and do not have previous experience working as a team, please state how you would approach working collaboratively on a municipal project, e.g. bridges, neighborhood park, branch library, public safety facility, etc.
- When applying as a team you are expected to accept the commission as a team throughout the span of the project.

Selection Process and Criteria

Applications will be reviewed by the Artist Selection Panel (ASP), which may be comprised of a representative(s) from the design consultant, representatives of *Segundo Barrio* community, a visual art professional, and a member of the Public Art Committee. The ASP will review all complete, eligible applications received by the deadline.

Criteria used to select artists will be:

- Original vision, strong creativity, and sophisticated conceptual skills
- Technical competence and high quality workmanship
- Experience and/or interest in creating artworks in the public realm
- Experience and/or good interpersonal skills working with architects, landscape architects, planners, engineers, etc. in designing for projects with complex and technical parameters
- Aptitude for interpreting architectural and landscape drawings and plans
- Understanding of architectural and landscape materials, technology and construction techniques
- Demonstrated interest in and understanding of the project
- High-level verbal, written, and visual communication skills
- Immediate availability and ability to work with fluctuating deadlines

For Further Information or Questions Please Contact:

Patricia Dalbin

Public Art Program Coordinator
City of El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Department
915.541.4894 | dalbin@elpasotexas.gov

Alejandra M. Carrillo

Public Art Program Specialist

Exhibit A

