



REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

INTERSTATE 35 BRIDGE OVERPASS (RFQ #00240)

DEADLINE TO APPLY: 5:00 PM, MARCH 30, 2022

CONTACT:

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San Antonio River Authority

ehanson@sariverauthority.org or 210-302-3605



In partnership with:



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CALL SUMMARY

The San Antonio River Authority (River Authority), in partnership with Bexar County, seeks to commission a large-scale, functional artwork for the third phase of San Pedro Creek Culture Park (Culture Park) which is currently under construction. The artwork must provide (and demonstrate) water quality improvements, one of the main goals of Culture Park, by capturing run off from the Interstate 35 bridge overpass. The artwork will be located near the confluence of San Pedro and Apache Creeks, where the Culture Park meets an existing trail leading to the San Antonio River.

The River Authority seeks applications from professional artists (individuals or teams) who reside in the United States. Teams may include artists from multiple disciplines; however, each team must include at least one visual artist.

The selected artist (or team) will be expected to review concepts with the River Authority and Bexar County to ensure that the artwork is appropriate for the site, with a final acceptance subject to approval by Bexar County Commissioners Court, who will become the owner of the artwork. The artist will also need to coordinate design with the Texas Department of Transportation and the City of San Antonio.

More information about San Pedro Creek Culture Park can be found at: www.spcculturepark.com

ELIGIBILITY

The opportunity is open to all professional artists, age 18 and over and residing in the United States, regardless of residence, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, military status, sexual orientation, marital status, or physical or mental disability.

BUDGET

The budget for this opportunity is \$250,000. The budget includes all artist design and project management fees; materials/site research; meetings with design/construction teams; community outreach; proposal for artwork that includes: project narrative, itemized budget, maintenance plan, renderings and/or other visuals, schedule, and roles and responsibilities for installation; stamped structural engineering drawings (if necessary); all required insurance and permits; materials, fabrication, and installation.

Note: Some elements may be installed by the contractor for convenience depending on the final design of the artwork. However, all installation costs will be paid by the art budget.

ARTWORK GOALS

The artwork commissioned for this site shall be a visually impactful, functional work of art that serves as a gateway from the Culture Park to the lower segment of San Pedro Creek and the San Antonio River. The artwork should:

- Be compelling and aesthetically excellent
- Create excitement and interest about environmental improvement efforts at the Culture Park

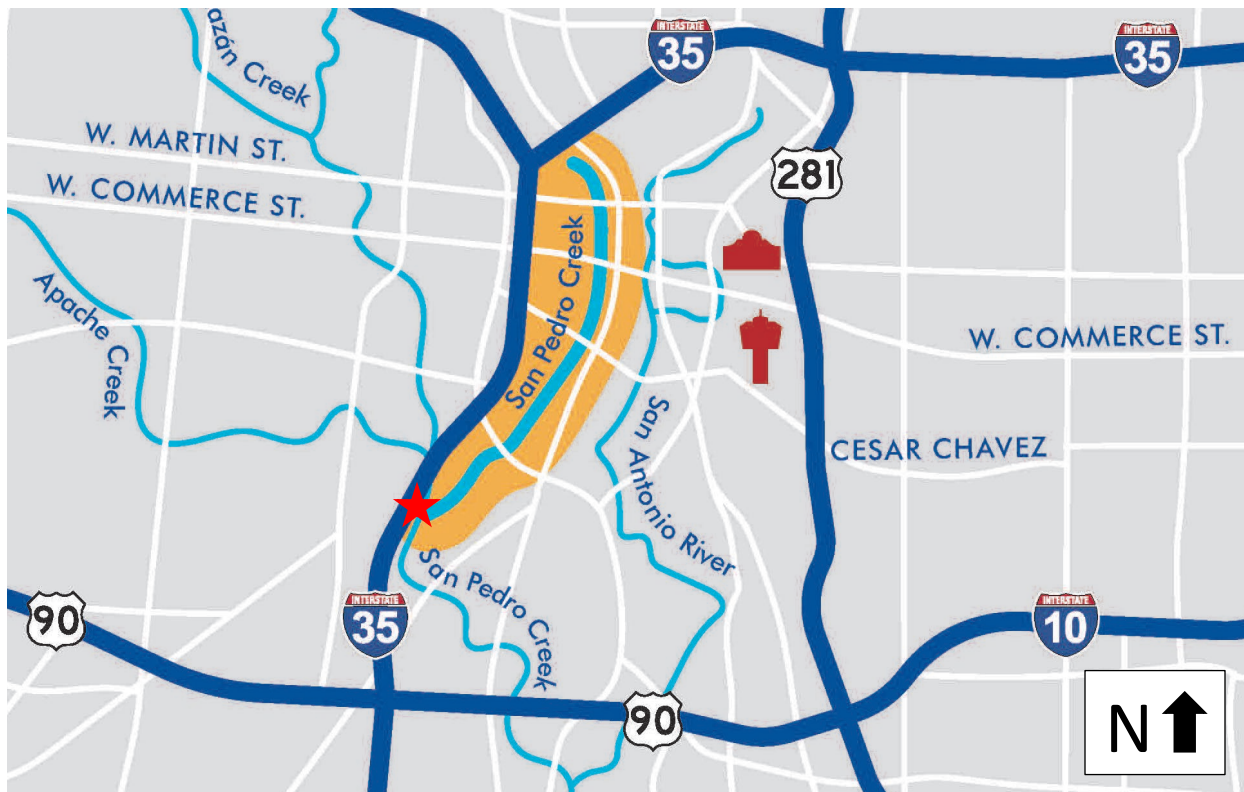
- Provide an educational experience for the community and culture park visitors
- Strive to meet River Authority and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) water quality standards
- Endure the climate of this area, the flooding nature of the creek and a variety of linear park public uses

SAN PEDRO CREEK HISTORY

The legacy of San Pedro Creek is often overshadowed by the San Antonio River and its world-renowned Paseo del Rio, but the creek played a primary and vital role in the history of Bexar County and San Antonio. As the community evolved cultures, languages, values, and religions were interwoven over hundreds of years, and are still evident today. San Pedro Creek touched lives in numerous ways. Revered as a life source (for drinking, abundant flora and fauna, and irrigation), the spring-fed creek provided direction for settlement. The creek eventually ceased to bring lives together and resulted in segregation, emerging as a dividing line between Anglo and Hispanic populations. Returning its healing spirit and embracing its ability to unite the community is part of the creek's legacy. The San Pedro Creek Culture Park reflects on this rich history, reconstitutes life-giving qualities, and creates a sense of place.

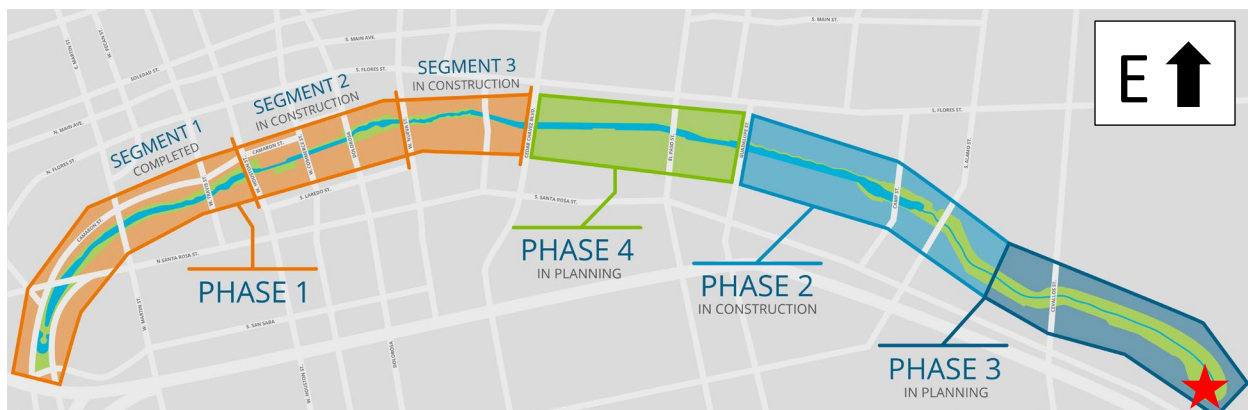
Additional information on the history of the creek, a historical narrative and a mythic narrative are available online at: www.spcculturepark.com.

SITE DESCRIPTION



The San Pedro Creek Culture Park, located on the western edge of downtown San Antonio, exemplifies beauty with purpose, as it serves as vital infrastructure for a growing downtown. Bexar County and the River Authority, in coordination with the City of San Antonio, have restored San Pedro Creek's natural environment and created a world-class linear park – with a purpose that goes well beyond just being beautiful and enjoyable. It combines public art, architectural design and historic preservation with engineering, ecosystem restoration and native landscaping.

Phase 1.1 – stretching from the flood control tunnel inlet near Fox Tech High School to Houston Street – opened to the public on May 5, 2018. Phase 1.2 and 1.3 – from Houston Street to Cesar Chavez Street – is currently under construction and scheduled to open in fall 2022. Phases 2, 3, and 4 are expected to be open to the public in late summer 2023. When the four phases are completed, the Culture Park will span 2.2 miles through downtown, removing 30 acres from the 100-year flood plain and adding more than 11 acres of native landscaping.



ARTWORK LOCATION + DESCRIPTION

This artwork opportunity is located on the west bank of the creek, between Cevallos St and the confluence of San Pedro and Apache Creeks (red star). Specifically, the artwork must be located near the drainage openings on the east side of the Interstate 35 bridge overpass. As stated above, the artwork must provide and demonstrate water quality improvements by capturing run off from the Interstate 35 bridge overpass and diverting it from the trail below. Additionally, the design of the artwork should strive to meeting River Authority and TCEQ water quality standards; assistance in achieving this goal will be provided by the River Authority. Lighting for the artwork will be provided by the River Authority.

It is not necessary for the artwork to be viewable from Interstate 35 however it is desirable for the artwork to be visible to pedestrians from a distance. The artwork should also provide an educational experience for pedestrians as they approach the artwork from the trail. The selected artist will work with the River Authority and Bexar County to determine if additional signage describing the functions of the artwork will be necessary.

More information about the flood mitigation and water quality aspects of the Culture Park can be found at: www.spcculturepark.com.



Phase 3 of San Pedro Creek Culture Park. **NOTE:** Insert shows view underneath Interstate 35 from the *west* side of the highway (the artwork will be located on the *east* side of the highway). Yellow square marks approximate location of downspout from highway.

SELECTION PROCESS

The River Authority is administering the artist selection process for this opportunity, in partnership with Bexar County. The process will occur in two phases. During the first phase, artists are invited to submit qualifications through this Request for Qualifications. The River Authority will convene a selection panel made up of art and design professionals and Bexar County representatives to review and evaluate the applications received. The selection panel will then select up to three finalists.

During the second phase, the selected finalists will be asked to submit proposals for which they will each receive a \$1,500 honorarium upon delivery of the proposal. The honorarium includes all costs of preparing the proposal. Proposals must detail the finalist's conceptual approach for artwork at the site and presentations must describe the concept, materials, size, weight, installation requirements, maintenance requirements, and preliminary budget. Finalists will be interviewed and one artist will be selected for the commission.

A recommendation for approval of the selected artist team will be presented at the subsequent regular meeting of Bexar County Commissioners Court. Once approved, the artist team will contract with the River Authority, the project manager of the Culture Park.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Artists should demonstrate the following:

- 1) Experience completing a project of similar scope and scale (project type and budget) (40%)
- 2) Expressed interest in the way San Pedro Creek Culture Park is improving water quality to ensure the sustainability of the natural ecosystem (30%)
- 3) Demonstrated knowledge of materials and fabrication methods, and sensitivity to site (20%)
- 4) Expressed interest in creating a signature work of art for the Culture Park (10%)

TIMELINE (dates may be adjusted at any time)

2022

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| February 18 | Release Request for Qualifications |
| March 23 | Deadline for submitting questions |
| March 30 | Applications due |
| Week of April 11 | Application review and selection of finalists |
| Week of May 16 | Finalist proposal presentation |
| Late-May | Bexar County Commissioners Court presentation |
| June | Contract negotiation and execution |
| July – September (est) | Design development and coordination with design/construction teams |

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| October | Artwork fabrication begins |
| <u>2023</u> | |
| March - April | Artwork installation |
| Late Summer | Grand opening of Phase 3 and dedication of artwork |

HOW TO APPLY

Artists interested in being considered should submit the following materials no later than 5:00 pm (Central Time) on March 30, 2022, through www.PublicArtist.org, an online application system. The following application materials are required:

- 1) **Letter of interest.** The letter should be approximately one page in length and should explain your interest in creating artwork for the San Pedro Creek Culture Park. Please also include a description of your team and the qualities each person brings to the project.
- 2) **Resume.** Indicate commissions, exhibitions, awards, publications, education, or other relevant information for each team member.
- 3) **10 samples of past work** with annotated image description including title, date, size, medium, location, and if a commissioned project, the commission budget.
- 4) **References.** A list of three professional references that have a thorough knowledge of your team's work and working methods. The list must include current addresses and telephone numbers.

There is no application fee to use the www.PublicArtist.org online application system. Applicants can receive support by contacting www.PublicArtist.org at info@publicartist.org or 210-701-0775 (9:00 am – 5:00 pm Central Time). Applications mailed or delivered to the River Authority will be considered ineligible and will not be accepted.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding this request for qualifications, please contact Emily Hanson, Purchasing Coordinator, San Antonio River Authority, at 210-302-3605 or ehanson@sariverauthority.org.

AMENDMENTS TO RFQ

Should an amendment to this RFQ become necessary, it will be provided to artists who have initiated applications and posted to our website with all answers to questions received about this RFQ. It is the sole responsibility of any artist interested in submitting qualifications to check their email for amendments. If the artist does not have access to the internet, they must contact Emily Hanson to inquire.

RESTRICTIONS ON COMMUNICATION

Once the RFQ has been released, artists are prohibited from communicating with the River Authority elected officials and staff, Bexar County elected officials and staff and members of the Design Team regarding the RFQ, with the following exceptions:

- 1) Questions concerning substantive RFQ issues shall be directed, electronically only, to ehanson@sariverauthority.org. Verbal questions and explanations are not permitted other than for general non-substantive issues or as may be described by this section and during interviews, if any. No inquiries or questions will be answered if received after 5:00 pm Central Time on March 23, 2022, to allow ample time for distribution of answers and/or amendments to this RFQ. Artists wishing to receive copies of the questions and their responses must notify Emily Hanson in writing prior to the date and time the questions are due.
- 2) Currently contracted vendors may communicate with River Authority staff in order to continue working on active matters, but such communication shall not include discussions regarding this RFQ.
- 3) The River Authority reserves the right to contact any artist for clarification after responses are opened and/or to further negotiate with any artist if such is deemed desirable.

ADDITIONAL POLICIES

- 1) The River Authority has the discretion to disqualify artists whose applications are late or incomplete, and whose applications do not comply with all stated requirements.
- 2) The River Authority reserves the right to select one, more than one, or no applicants in response to this RFQ.
- 3) The River Authority may accept any Proposal in whole or in part. If subsequent negotiations are conducted, they shall not constitute a rejection or alternate RFQ on the part of the River Authority.
- 4) The River Authority reserves the right to accept or to reject any or all proposals received in response to this RFQ, and to waive informalities and irregularities in the proposals received. The River Authority also reserves the right to terminate this RFQ, and reissue a subsequent solicitation, and/or remedy technical errors in the RFQ process.
- 5) No work shall commence until a mutually acceptable contract document(s) is signed by the River Authority and the selected artist provides the necessary evidence of insurance as required in this RFQ and the Contract. Contract documents are not binding on the River Authority until reviewed by legal counsel. In the event the parties cannot negotiate and execute a contract within the time specified, the River Authority reserves the right to terminate negotiations with the selected artist and commence negotiations with another artist.

END