



REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
TRICENTENNIAL ARTWORK
FOR THE SAN PEDRO CREEK CULTURE PARK

DEADLINE TO APPLY: 2:00 PM, AUGUST 30, 2018

CONTACT:

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In partnership with:



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CALL SUMMARY

Bexar County has engaged the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) to assist them in selecting an artist for a commission to install a permanent public artwork at the newly opened San Pedro Creek Culture Park in downtown San Antonio, TX. The Tricentennial Artwork will serve as a signature work of art for the Park and commemorate the Tricentennial of Bexar County and the City of San Antonio. The total budget available for this commission is \$425,000.

The Tricentennial Artwork will engage the viewers in a thoughtful and celebratory way, and reflect the rich interweaving of cultures that define Bexar County and San Antonio. The site is near the location where the first Spanish Colonial Mission was founded, Mission San Antonio de Valero, which was later moved to the San Antonio River and became known as the Alamo. This artwork should emphasize the historic importance of San Pedro Creek and convey the story and culture of Bexar County and San Antonio. The site offers a unique opportunity to create a landmark for San Pedro Creek Culture Park, which has dramatically transformed the west side of downtown San Antonio.

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

ELIGIBILITY

The project is open to all professional artists, age 18 and over, regardless of residence, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, military status, sexual orientation, marital status, or physical or mental disability. Artist teams are eligible to apply, including teams of artists from multiple disciplines. Teams must include at least one visual artist.

BUDGET

The budget for the Tricentennial Artwork is \$425,000. The budget includes but is not limited to: all artist design and project management fees; travel; models and renderings of artwork; fabrication, transportation, and installation of artwork; and all required insurance and permits. Additionally, a stipend of \$2,500 will be provided to finalists selected during the competitive selection process.

ARTWORK GOALS

The artwork commissioned for this site will be an iconic representation of San Antonio's unity and diversity by honoring its past and embodying its future. The artwork should:

- Be compelling and aesthetically excellent;
- Commemorate the celebration of the 300th anniversary of Bexar County and San Antonio;
- Celebrate San Pedro Creek's culture and history by referring to its story with an authentic voice;
- Bring to life imagery that speaks to diversity, inclusivity, tradition, and the future of our community;
- Create excitement and interest from the community; and
- 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: <https://spcculturepark.com/learn/> and <https://spcculturepark.com/about/>.

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 SARA, 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 – from Houston Street to Nueva Street – is currently under construction. When the four phases are completed, the San Pedro creek 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

Bexar County seeks a dynamic work of art for Plaza de Fundacion (Foundation Plaza), located between the flood control tunnel inlet and Santa Rosa Street in Phase 1.1. The plaza was the selected because it is located at what is considered to be the founding of San Antonio – both the first Mission, San Antonio de Valero, and the Presidio de Bejar were founded on San Pedro Creek. The exact location for the Tricentennial Artwork, an area within the plaza, is marked with a red star on the maps above. It is at the intersection of Santa Rosa Street and San Pedro Creek.

The selected artist, or artist team, will be expected to review concepts with Bexar County and SARA to ensure that the artwork is appropriate for the space, with a final acceptance subject to approval by Bexar County Commissioners Court, who will become the owner of the artwork.

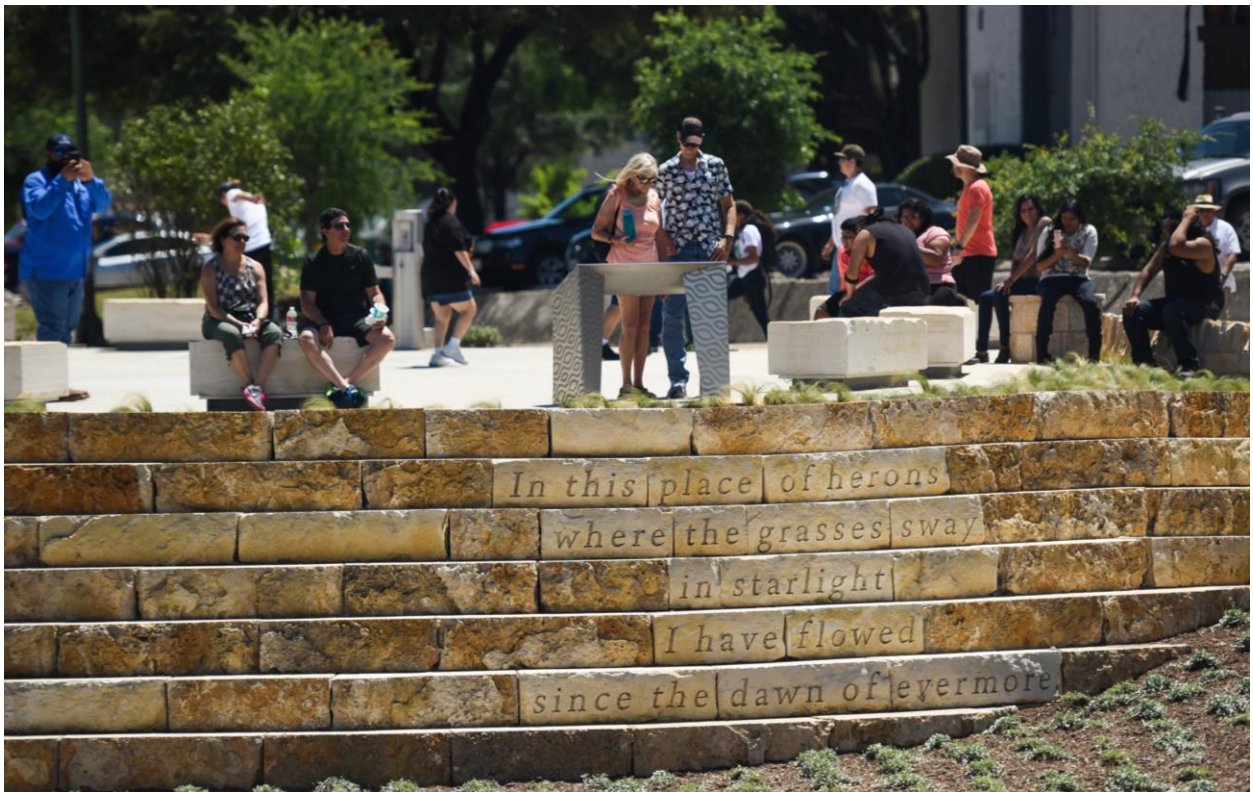
The artwork location is currently being used for events and cultural programming (right). The Tricentennial Artwork should accommodate this activity in some way, either spatially or functionally, however the primary usage of this space will be for the Tricentennial Artwork.

Note: the stepped limestone terrace that surrounds the artwork location is adorned with poetry by local writer John Phillip Santos (below). For information about artwork in Phase 1.1 visit: www.spcculturepark.com/about/art.





San Pedro Creek Culture Park Grand Opening (Phase 1.1), May 5, 2018 © Tom Reel, San Antonio Express News
View of Plaza de Fundacion (artwork location not in view)



View of artwork location from across the creek
Text by John Phillip Santos

SELECTION PROCESS

SARA is administering the artist selection process for this commission, 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. SARA 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 \$2,500 honorarium, plus travel expenses, 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 budget. Finalists will be interviewed in person and one artist, or artist team, will be selected for the commission.

A recommendation for approval of the selected artist, or artist team, will be presented at the subsequent regular meeting of Bexar County Commissioners Court. Once approved, the artist will contract with SARA, the Project Manager of the San Pedro Creek Culture Park.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Artists should demonstrate the following:

- 1) Experience completing a public project in a prominent location, with a budget of this size (50%);
- 2) Sensitivity, creativity and engagement with diverse community (25%); and
- 3) Interest in the way that San Pedro Creek influenced the development and culture of San Antonio (25%).

TIMELINE (dates may be adjusted at any time)

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| 1) July 30, 2018 | Request for Qualifications issued |
| 2) August 9, 2018 | Artist Information Meeting and Site Visit |
| 3) August 30, 2018 | Request for Qualifications deadline |
| 4) Week of September 17, 2018 | Selection panel reviews applications and selects finalists |
| 5) October 24, 2018 | Proposals due from selected finalists |
| 6) Week of October 29, 2018 | Finalist interviews conducted, artist selected |
| 7) November 2018 | Bexar County Commissioners Court approval of selected artist |
| 8) Winter 2019 | Artwork installation complete |

HOW TO APPLY

Artists interested in being considered should submit the following materials no later than 2:00 pm (Central Time) on August 30, 2018, through www.PublicArtist.org, an online application system. The application can be accessed by visiting www.sara-tx.org under "Contracting Opportunities" or www.spcculturepark.com under the "Art" tab. The following application materials are required:

- 1) **Letter of interest.** The letter should be no more than one page in length and should explain your interest in creating artwork for the San Pedro Creek Culture Park.
- 2) **Resume.** Indicate your commissions, exhibitions, awards, publications and education. If submitting as a team, a current resume should be submitted 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 work and working methods. The list must include at least one client who commissioned the artist for an artwork installation. The list must include complete 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 SARA will be considered ineligible and will not be accepted.

ARTIST INFORMATION MEETING

An Artist Information Meeting will be held on Thursday, August 9, 2018 from 5:30 – 6:30 pm (Central Time) at the San Antonio River Authority main office located at 100 E. Guenther Street, San Antonio, TX 78204. At this meeting, SARA staff will provide an overview of the San Pedro Creek Culture Park, review the artwork opportunity, and demonstrate how to apply using PublicArtist.org. Participants are invited to ask questions regarding the Request for Qualifications. All questions and responses will be made available through www.sara-tx.org under “Contracting Opportunities” and at www.spculturepark.com located under the “Art” tab. The meeting will be recorded and available online after the meeting.

To join the meeting remotely, please log in from your computer, tablet or smartphone at: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/296286829>. The access code is: 296-286-829. You can also dial in using your phone at 646-749-3122.

First GoToMeeting? Do a quick system check at: <https://link.gotomeeting.com/system-check>

After the meeting, an opportunity to travel to the site will be available for artists. Please RSVP to Carrie Brown at cbrown@sara-tx.org by 5:00 pm (Central Time) by August 7, 2018 if you plan to attend.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding this request for qualifications, please contact Joe Kibe, Contract Officer, San Antonio River Authority, at 210-302-3277 or wkibe@sara-tx.org.

AMENDMENTS TO RFQ

Should an amendment to this RFQ become necessary, it will be posted along with all answers to questions received about this RFQ at www.sara-tx.org under “Contracting Opportunities” and at

www.spcculturepark.com located under the “Art” tab. It is the sole responsibility of any artist interested in submitting qualifications to check this website for amendments. If the artist does not have access to the internet, they must contact Carrie Brown to inquire.

RESTRICTIONS ON COMMUNICATION

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

- 1) Questions concerning substantive RFQ issues shall be directed, electronically only, to wkibe@sara-tx.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 August 22, 2018, 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 Carrie Brown in writing prior to the date and time the questions are due.
- 2) Discussion during the Artist Information Meeting.
- 3) Currently contracted vendors may communicate with SARA staff in order to continue working on active matters, but such communication shall not include discussions regarding this RFQ.
- 4) SARA 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) SARA has the discretion to disqualify artists whose applications are late or incomplete, and whose applications do not comply with all stated requirements.
- 2) SARA reserves the right to select one, more than one, or no applicants for the RFP in response to this RFQ.
- 3) SARA 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 SARA.
- 4) SARA 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. SARA 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 SARA and the selected artist provides the necessary evidence of insurance as required in this RFQ and the Contract. Contract documents are not binding on SARA until reviewed by legal counsel. In the event the parties cannot negotiate and execute a contract within the time specified, SARA reserves the right to terminate negotiations with the selected artist and commence negotiations with another artist.