



REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

FIVE PANEL MURAL (RFQ #00216)

DEADLINE TO APPLY: 5:00 PM, MARCH 24, 2021

CONTACT:

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San Antonio River Authority

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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 permanent mural (five panels) for the second segment of the San Pedro Creek Culture Park which is currently under construction. The mural may be rendered in hand-glazed or digitized porcelain tile, glass, ceramic, or stone mosaic tile, or other similar material suitable for the creek environment. The mural will serve as a signature work of art for one of the most culturally significant sections of the park.

The River Authority seeks applications from teams of artists (2-5 members) who will be responsible for the development of a cohesive design for all five panels (approximately 1600 square feet in total). Teams may include artists from multiple disciplines; however, each team must include at least one visual artist.

The selected artist 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.

More information about the 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 Bexar County, regardless of residence, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, military status, sexual orientation, marital status, or physical or mental disability. It is not necessary for all team members to reside in Bexar County, however the lead artist who submits the application must reside in Bexar County.

BUDGET

The budget range for this opportunity is \$350,000-\$400,000. The budget includes: all artist design and project management fees; materials/site research; meetings with design/construction teams; community outreach and historical research; 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 will be a visually impactful work of art for one of the most culturally significant blocks of the culture park. The artwork should:

- Be compelling and aesthetically excellent

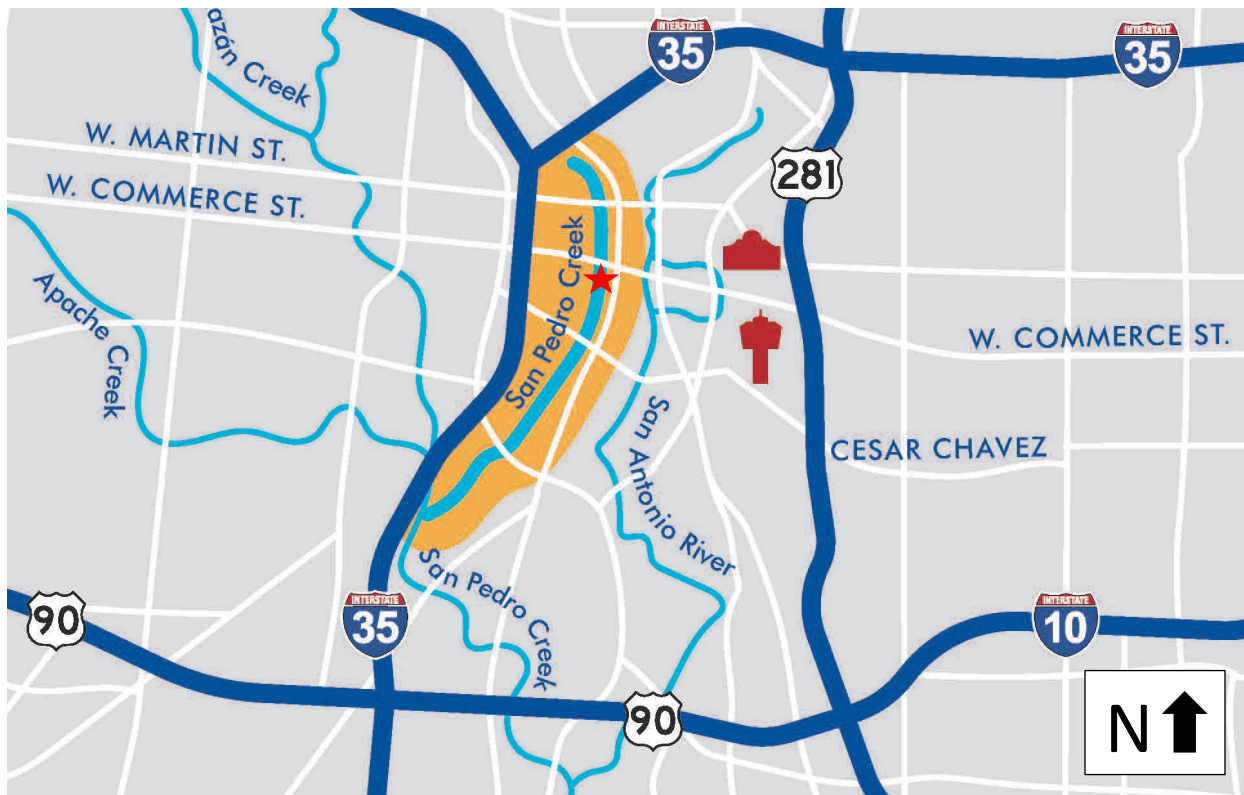
- Celebrate the cultural diversity of the creek and its connection to San Antonio’s and Bexar County’s origin stories
- Create excitement and interest from the community and culture park visitors
- Endure the climate of this area, the flooding nature of the creek and a variety of linear park public uses.

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.

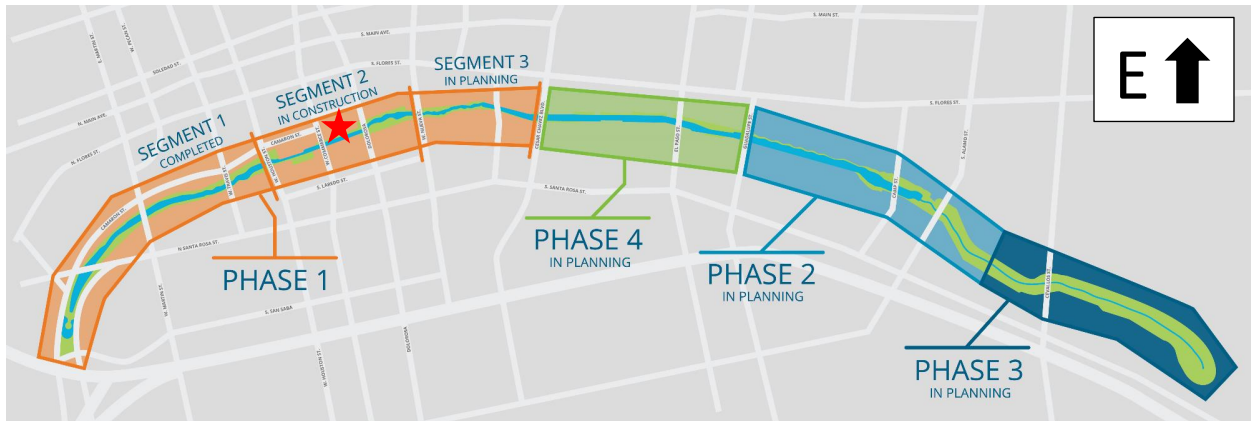
Additional information on the history of the creek, a historical narrative and a mythic narrative are available online at: www.spcculturepark.com.

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 – 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.



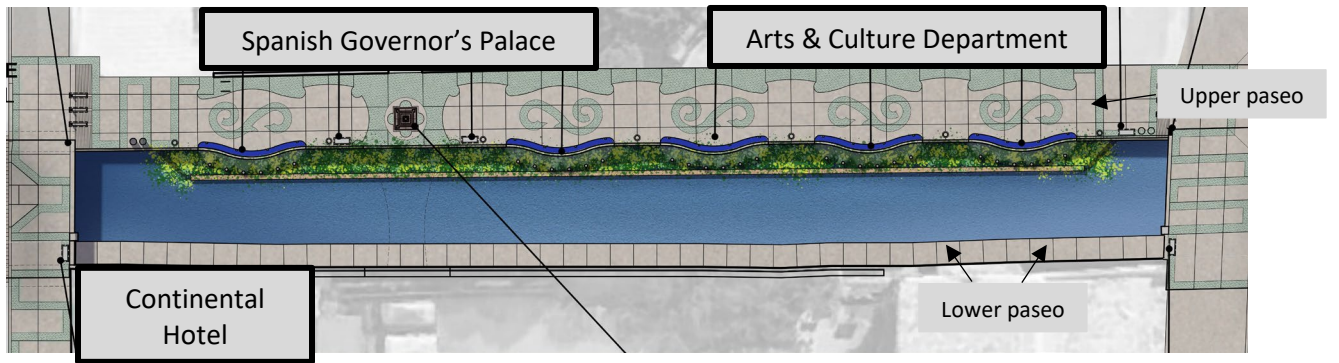
ARTWORK LOCATION + DESCRIPTION

This artwork opportunity is located on the east bank of the creek, between Commerce and Dolorosa Streets. This block includes the Spanish Governor’s Palace, City of San Antonio’s Cultural Arts Division main offices and art gallery, and the historic Continental Hotel (built in the 1890’s). Each panel of the mural will be surrounded by low-profile aquatic plantings and dedicated lighting. The mural is only viewable from across the creek as shown in the rendering below.

Mural theme: The civil history of San Antonio began with the Presidio de Bexar and Villa de San Fernando, both sustained by the waters of San Pedro Creek. The interweaving of peoples and destinies that formed the foundation of San Antonio and Bexar County, as we know it today, will be the central focus of the mural’s content. To that end, the mural should reference Native Americans, Presidiales, Canary Islanders, Bexarenos/Tejanos, and Texitans.

In addition: In light of recently discovered historically significant foundations, the artwork should also consider the contributions of freed slaves to the development of San Antonio along San Pedro Creek, specifically the African Methodist Episcopal Church community. Research and documentation of this site and its history can be found at: www.sppculturepark.com (Archaeological Site 41BX2359).

The mural should be figurative in nature with a narrative approach to the design. The mural will serve as a signature work of art for one of the most culturally significant sections of the park and will continue the storytelling aspect of the park’s design.



Plan view of San Pedro Creek Culture Park between Commerce (left) and Dolorosa (right) Streets
Five panels of mural marked in blue



San Pedro Creek Culture Park, Phase 1.2, Five Panel Mural
View from Dolorosa Street looking north, lower paseo
(Rendering provided by Munoz and Co. *Imagery for rendering purposes only*)



San Pedro Creek Culture Park, Phase 1.2, Five Panel Mural
View from Commerce Street looking south, upper paseo
(Rendering provided by Munoz and Co.)

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, artist teams 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 four 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 budget. Finalists will be interviewed, and one artist team 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 San Pedro Creek 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 influenced the cultural development of San Antonio and Bexar County (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 creek (10%)

TIMELINE (dates may be adjusted at any time)

2021

February 24	Release Request for Qualifications
March 17	Deadline for submitting questions
March 24	Applications due
Week of March 29	Application review and selection of finalists
Week of April 5	Construction site visit with finalists
Week of May 3	Finalist interviews
Mid-May	Bexar County Commissioners Court presentation
Late May – July	Contract negotiation Design development and coordination with design/construction team
August – November	Artwork fabrication
December	Artwork installation

2022

Spring	Grand opening of Phase 1.2 and dedication of artwork
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HOW TO APPLY

Artists interested in being considered should submit the following materials no later than 5:00 pm (Central Time) on March 24, 2021, 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 17, 2021, 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