

CALL TO ARTISTS

Artist in Residence Opportunity

Our Future 35 – Austin’s Cap & Stitch Program

City of Austin (Texas): **Our Future 35 (OF35)** and **Art in Public Places (AIPP)**

Call open – Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Deadline for Submissions – 11:59 PM CST, Tuesday, August 20, 2024

Submit all information via <https://www.publicartist.org/austinaipp>



Request for Qualifications

The City of Austin is looking for an artist! Our Future 35 is hosting its first ever Artist-In-Residence (AIR) program. This is an 18–21-month program that is part of the effort to continue to engage Austin’s community on the Our Future 35 Caps and Stitches program. This program has 3 main aspects:

1. To engage community members that have historically been excluded from city planning
2. To highlight the voices of these members in designing the OF35 caps and stitches amenities
3. To utilize art as a tool to celebrate Austin’s culture and history

The selected artist will work closely with the OF35 project team. The program will aim to create artwork and installations that communicate an impactful message to the public.

Project Background

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is reconstructing I-35 through central Austin. As a result, the City of Austin is leading Our Future 35, a once-in-a-generation effort to create new “caps” (decks covering the highway) over the redesigned freeway. Austin’s OF35 Program has grown from a grassroots advocacy effort into a set of intentional, interrelated projects to realize the community’s vision to claim public space in central Austin. It also aims to celebrate the history of communities that have historically lived around the project area and provide community benefits to those who have been historically underserved. The AIR program will

improve OF35 community engagement efforts, especially within the communities who have been most directly affected by the highway.



Residency Goals & Participation Expectations

The AIR program has 3 main goals:

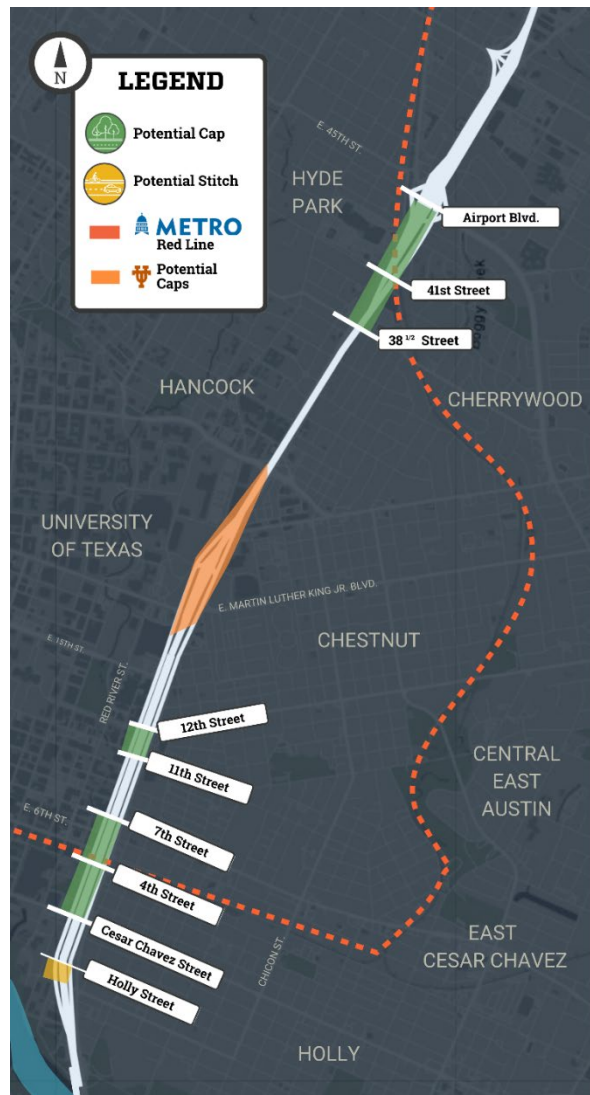
1. To use art as a method to foster connection among community
2. To integrate the rich cultural history of neighborhoods surrounding I-35 into the OF35 planning process
3. To benefit the Austins' local art community

The selected artist will partner with city staff to -create the program's goals, scope, and deliverables. This will be a collaborative process between the artist and staff. At a minimum, the artist can expect to:

1. Engage with community to share and gather information about OF35,
 2. Inform the OF35 design process, and
 3. Generate excitement about OF35.
- This is a collaborative process.

Project Budget (\$70,000)

The project has a budget of \$70,000. This includes an artist's time, materials, and expenses, for example, supplies, mileage, etc. When the artist is selected, they will contract with the City. The artist will be paid according to contract milestones and deliverables. It is important to note this is not a full-time



position. Artists can apply to other City funded opportunities. The number of hours worked, the work location, the number of events attended, and the volume of engagement pieces created will depend on many factors like the program's progress, the artist's skills, and rates.

Eligibility

The AIR program defines an artist as: AIPP defines artist as an individual recognized by critics and peers as a professional practitioner of serious intent and substantial ability in the visual, performing, or literary art." This program is open to professional artists who are:

- At least 18 years old
- Live in Williamson, Travis, Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Burnet, or Blanco County
- From or experienced with East Austin
- Has worked with and among community
- Is aware of I-35's history and cultural context
- Can demonstrate social practice in their art
- Can product art that shares stories, preferable in multiple mediums.

Ineligibility

All City of Austin employees are ineligible to apply to this program. Applications not meeting the criteria above will not be considered by the City.

Submission Requirements

1. Credentials: CV/Resume (limit 2 pages)
2. Short responses to the following questions (100-300 words per question):
 - a. Describe your artistic practice and how you are a good candidate for this particular opportunity.
 - b. As an artist approaching public art, how do you design works or activities that respond to a particular site?
 - c. How do you collaborate or engage with community in your art practice? Please give an example of a successful public artwork with elements informed by community feedback.
 - d. Do you have a personal connection to the site or nearby communities? If so, please describe.
3. Up to ten images of previous work (only one image per page).
 - a. Label each image with: title, date of completion, location, materials, art budget.
 - b. For team applications, please indicate the lead artist for each project; or provide an annotated image list.
 - c. IMAGES OF INCOMPLETE PROJECTS OR PROPOSAL IDEAS WILL NOT BE REVIEWED
4. Three Professional references: (names, phone numbers and email addresses)
5. Demographic Survey (this is for data collection purposes only and will not be a factor for selection)

Selection Criteria

Applications will be scored based on:

- Ability to engage community and show previous experience (35%)
- Experience with public art projects of similar size and type (30%)
- Authenticity, creativity and innovation (20%)
- Technical quality and aesthetic appeal of past work (15%)

Selection Process

A selection committee of 5 people will include representatives from the following departments within the City of Austin:

- Economic Development Department, Cultural Arts Division
- Transportation and Public Works, Strategic Projects Division
- Arts Commission
- Community Stakeholders and Partners

The selection committee will review all applications. There will be one selection committee meeting before the top candidates are announced, then top candidate interviews. One final artist will be selected and one alternate.

SAVE THE DATE: Top candidates will be strongly encouraged to attend Our Future 35's Public Open House on Saturday, September 28th at Canopy Austin to observe the program and staff in action. Interviews after the Open House will ask about candidates' experience at this event. If a top candidate cannot attend due to their schedule, different opportunities to shadow existing engagement will be provided on a case by case basis.

Project Schedule (Subject to Change)

The residency will begin in October 2024 and end in June 2026. Tentative timeline is as follows:

October 2024: Within 10 business days of the award, the City will hold a kick-off meeting with the selected artist to ensure understanding of the program and discuss mutual goals. Together the team will review and confirm the scope and specify how progress against goals will be measured. This meeting will also cover the general working relationship between the artist and the City and will include discussion of artist's working environment, building access, schedule, communication methods, and any applicable City policies.

November 2024: Artist begins attending community engagement events to develop a sense of future planning and coordination needs alongside OF35 Program staff.

December 2024-March 2026: The artist produces and integrates their art in public engagement opportunities that align with the program goals and timeline (i.e., Open Houses, focus groups, tabling events, etc.), ideally at a regular cadence and in dynamic ways, the details of which will depend on the artist's expertise and overall project status.

March 2026 – May 2026: Artist and staff co-develop a residency showcase/exhibition/pop-up to document the preceding 1.5 years of OF35 Program engagement and the artist's work. This event would also include information sharing on the reach of the program, at minimum, and possibly a temporary activation on or near a construction site (pending logistical constraints).

Residency concluded no later than June 2026.

Artist Information Meeting

An artist information meeting (attendance optional) will be held via Teams on **Thursday, August 1st at 6PM** during the open application period to explain the parameters of the project and outline the application procedures. City staff will be available to answer questions. The meeting will be recorded and available afterwards at <https://www.austintexas.gov/page/current-open-calls>. Learn more about the Our Future 35 Program at <https://www.ourfuture35.com/>.

Questions?

Contact Lindsay Hutchens, Art in Public Places Coordinator, at Lindsay.Hutchens@austintexas.gov or +1 (512) 974-3788