



# **REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS**

**FIVE PANEL MURAL (RFQ #00178)**

**DEADLINE TO APPLY: 5:00 PM, OCTOBER 23, 2019**

## **CONTACT:**

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**San Antonio River Authority**

**ehanson@sara-tx.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 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 selected artist, or artist team, will perform as Lead Artist and will be responsible for inviting up to four additional artists to collaborate on the mural. As Lead Artist, the selected artist/artist team will manage the assembled team of artists and oversee the development of a cohesive design for all five panels (approximately 1600 square feet in total).**

The selected artist/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](http://www.spcculturepark.com).

## ELIGIBILITY

This opportunity is open to all artists included in the San Pedro Creek Culture Park Pre-Qualified Artist Pool established in 2017. Artist teams are eligible to apply, including teams of artists from multiple disciplines, however teams must include at least one visual artist. In addition, teams can include artists who are *not* in the Pool, however the artist who is in the Pool must submit the application on behalf of the team. [www.publicartist.org/sara](http://www.publicartist.org/sara)

## BUDGET

The budget range for this opportunity is \$350,000-\$450,000. The budget includes: all artist design and project management fees; materials/site research; meetings with design/construction teams; collaborating with invited artists; community outreach plan; 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;

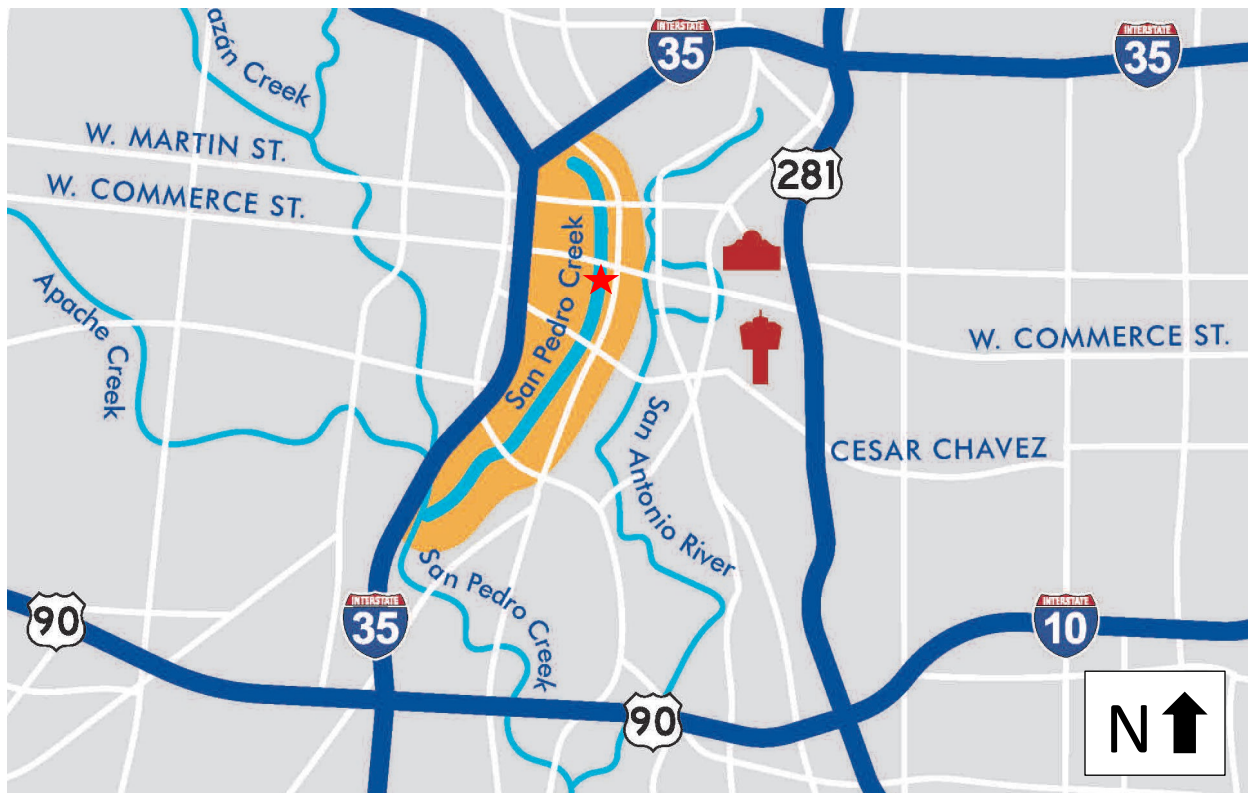
- Incorporate participation from the community into the design of the artwork;
- Celebrate the cultural diversity of the creek and its connection to San Antonio's and Bexar County's origin stories;
- Create excitement and interest from the community and culture park visitors; and
- Endure the climate 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.

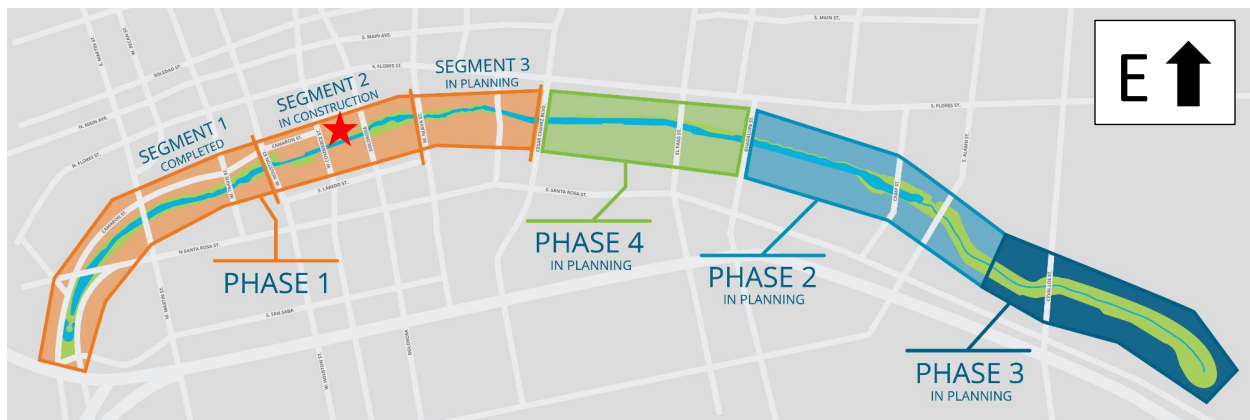
Additional information on the history of the creek, a historical narrative and a mythic narrative are available online at: [www.spculturepark.com](http://www.spculturepark.com).

## 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

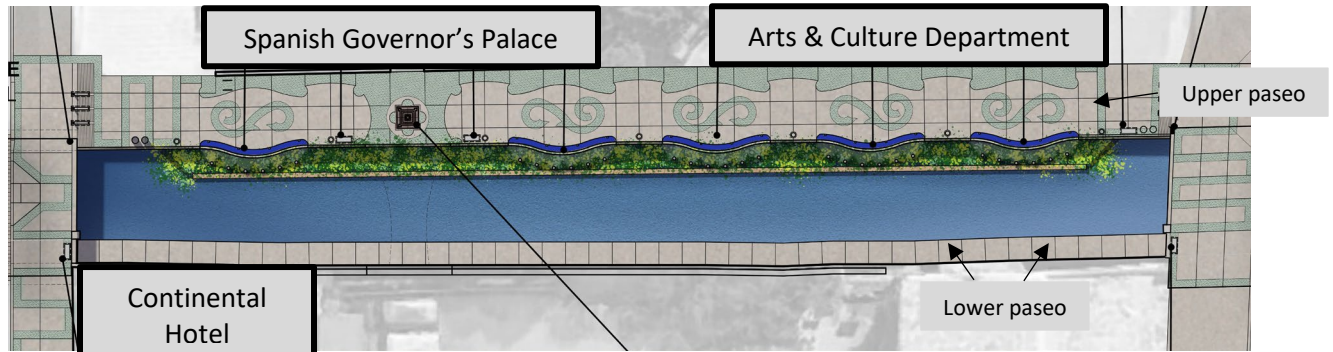
This artwork opportunity is located on the east bank of the creek, between Commerce and Dolorosa Streets. This block includes the Spanish Governors Palace, City of San Antonio's Cultural Arts Division main offices and art gallery, and the historic Continental Hotel (built in the 1890's). Each panel of 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 central focus of the mural's content will be the interweaving of peoples and cultures that formed the foundation of San Antonio and Bexar County. To that end, the mural should include these five groups: Native Americans, Presidiales, Canary Islanders, Bexarenos/Tejanos, and Texicans. The theme of the mural supports the San Pedro Creek Culture Park Interpretive Plan (currently under development) which outlines historical, cultural, and ecological topics to be featured throughout the park. The Interpretive Plan is scheduled to be complete in November 2019 and should be used as a key resource in developing the design of the artwork.

Additionally, the selected artist/artist team will develop a community outreach plan to work with the identified groups, and associated communities or organizations, to develop the design of the artwork. The River Authority will assist with execution of the community outreach plan.



*Note: Additional artists chosen by the selected artist/artist team to collaborate on the mural are not required to be on the San Pedro Creek Culture Park Pre-Qualified Artist Pool, however they must reside in Bexar County.*



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 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 recommend an artist, or artist team, based on submissions to this RFQ.

A recommendation for approval of the selected artist/artist team will be presented at the subsequent regular meeting of the Bexar County Commissioners Court. After approval from Commissioners Court, the selected artist/artist team will be put under contract to 1) establish the team of artists, 2) conduct research and community outreach, and 3) fully develop the design concept. Fabrication and installation of the artwork will be handled through a subsequent contract.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

Artists should demonstrate the following:

- 1) Experience completing a project of similar scope (collaboration, community outreach) (30%);
- 2) Expressed interest in the way San Pedro Creek influenced the cultural development of San Antonio and Bexar County (20%).

- 3) Experience completing a project of similar scale (budget size) (20%);
- 4) Expressed interest in creating a signature work of art for the creek (15%);
- 5) Demonstrated knowledge of materials and fabrication methods, and sensitivity to site (15%);

#### **TIMELINE** (dates may be adjusted at any time)

##### 2019

September 23	Request for Qualifications issued
October 23	Request for Qualifications deadline
Week of October 28	Selection Panel reviews applications and selects finalists
Week of November 18	Selection Panel interviews finalist and recommends artist

##### 2020

January 7	Commissioners Court presentation of recommended artist
January – March	Develop team of artists; conduct research + community outreach
April	Final Design due; Briefings with Commissioners; issue NTP to begin fabrication
May – September	Fabrication; community outreach follow-up
Late September	Finalize installation plan with contractor
October – November	Installation of artwork

##### 2021

April	Grand opening of Phase 1.2 + artwork unveiling
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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 October 23, 2019, through [www.PublicArtist.org](http://www.PublicArtist.org), an online application system. 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](http://www.PublicArtist.org) online application system. Applicants can receive support by contacting [www.PublicArtist.org](http://www.PublicArtist.org) at [info@publicartist.org](mailto: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@sara-tx.org](mailto:ehanson@sara-tx.org).

## AMENDMENTS TO RFQ

Should an amendment to this RFQ become necessary, it will be provide to artists on the Pre-Qualified Artist Pool 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@sara-tx.org](mailto:ehanson@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 October 16, 2019, 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\*\*\*