



CALL FOR ARTISTS

TEMPO ON THE TRAIL



The Trail Conservancy's call is for a year-long temporary public art exhibition on the Ann & Roy Butler Hike-and-Bike Trail in the heart of downtown Austin. This program is in partnership with the City of Austin's Art in Public Places program.

Virtual Open House: August 19
In Person Open House: August 21

APPLICATIONS DUE: SEPTEMBER 8

APPLY ONLINE:
[SUBMIT VIA SLIDEROOM](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Contact: Sara Vanderbeek
Email: sara.vanderbeek@gmail.com



Scan here to learn more,
register, or submit your
application.



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ABOUT THE TRAIL CONSERVANCY:

The Trail Conservancy (TTC) is the nonprofit steward of the Ann and Roy Butler Hike-and-Bike Trail at Lady Bird Lake. Through a Park Operations and Maintenance Agreement with the City of Austin, TTC manages the ecological restoration, public programming, and daily operations of the 10-mile Trail and its surrounding 300 acres of parkland.

In 2023, TTC launched the Art + Culture Plan for the Butler Trail, marking the end of a longstanding moratorium on art in the park. This bold initiative aims to:

- Inspire innovative, site-specific art that surprises and engages Trail users
- Highlight environmental awareness and stewardship
- Celebrate the Trail's connection to the broader community, watershed, and ecosystem.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

TEMPO on the Trail is a temporary public art exhibition presented in partnership by the City of Austin's Art in Public Places (AIPP) program and The Trail Conservancy (TTC). As part of the City's TEMPO public art program, this initiative brings site-specific artworks to public spaces, sparking imagination, inspiring creativity, and encouraging exploration.

For this iteration, 8–10 artists or artist teams will be selected through a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process to create original, temporary works along the Ann and Roy Butler Hike-and-Bike Trail at Lady Bird Lake.

Each selected project will receive an all-inclusive budget of \$15,000–\$25,000, depending on the scale and medium. Acceptable media include:

- 3D Sculptures
- 2D Murals
- New Media (e.g., projection, sound, light-based installations)

All artworks must be designed for outdoor installation and be able to withstand weather and public interaction throughout the exhibition.

Artists are encouraged to draw inspiration from the Trail's natural setting and cultural significance, fostering community connection and thoughtful engagement.





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APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications must be submitted through **SlideRoom by 11:59PM on September 8, 2025**. A nominal \$5.00 fee is due upon submission. Each applicant is required to provide the following materials:

Application Submission

- **Artist/Team Credentials:** CV/Resume (limit to 2 pages), including a summary of the artist or artist team background and qualifications, as well as public art experience.
- **Portfolio:** Images (4-8) of previous relevant work or projects that demonstrate artistic ability and technical capacity. Each image should be labeled with the title, date, location, and materials.

Short Answer Questions

- Artist Statement. What does the selection panel need to know about you to better understand your work as an artist? *2500 character limit*
- What is your preferred art medium for this application? *1500 character limit*
- How does site-specificity inform your artistic practice? *1500 character limit*
- Artist Abstract. General concept and/or idea for this particular project. This can be submitted as a written summary or loosely sketched concept. *1500 character limit, optional upload*
- How does your art respond to the locations around the Butler Trail? *2500 character limit*

Site Selection (optional)

- Applicants may indicate up to three preferred sites that best suit their artwork. While your preferences will be taken into account, final placement will be determined by the selection panel.

VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

TTC will host a virtual Open House, where artists can learn more about the TEMPO on the Trail project, ask questions, and become familiar with the project's guidelines, expectations, and application process.

- **Virtual Open House Date:** **Tuesday, August 19 - 5:30PM - 7:00PM** | **Link to Register:** [Zoom](#)
- **In-Person Open House:** **Thursday, August 21 - 5:30PM - 7:00PM** | **Link to Register:** [Register](#)

Applications are due by 11:59 PM on September 8, 2025.

TIMELINE

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| • RFQ Released | August 11, 2025 |
| • Virtual Open House | August 19, 2025 - 5:30PM - 7:00PM |
| • In-Person Open House | August 21, 2025 - 5:30PM - 7:00PM |
| • Applications Due | September 8, 2025 |
| • Artists Selected & Notified | October 17, 2025 |
| • Design Concepts Due | November 4, 2025 |
| • Installation Timeline | February 2026 |



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QUALIFICATIONS

The **TEMPO on the Trail** is open to practicing visual artists who meet the following criteria:

- **Age:** Artists must be at least 18 years of age.
- **Residency:** Artists must reside or work in one of the following counties:
 - Bastrop
 - Burnet
 - Hays
 - Williamson
 - Blanco
 - Caldwell
 - Travis
- **Eligibility**
 - Artists currently under a temporary contract with AIPP or TTC are eligible to apply.
 - Temporary City of Austin employees are eligible to apply.
 - Full-time City of Austin and TTC employees are **not** eligible.
 - Artists who were selected as part of TEMPO on the Trail 2024-2025 are **not** eligible.
- **Previous TEMPO Commissions**
 - Artists or artist teams who have received two previous TEMPO commissions (either as an individual or as a team member) are not eligible to apply.
- **First-Time Applicants**
 - Artists who have not previously received a public art commission are encouraged to submit their qualifications for consideration.
- **Submission Limit**
 - Only one submission per artist or artist team will be accepted.
 - Artists may not apply both individually and as a team member for separate projects.
- **Incomplete or Late Applications** will be disqualified.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The Selection Review Panel will review and consider the following evaluation criteria:

- **Creativity and Artistic Merit:** The quality, originality, and creativity of past work(s), including technical skill, conceptual depth, and innovation.
- **Contextual Relevance:** Artist ability to respond to and integrate with the physical context of the Trail, including natural surroundings, architecture, and cultural significance.
- **Community Impact:** Evidence of the artist's demonstrated ability to engage with the public and surrounding communities through previous works. The panel will assess the potential for artwork to inspire and involve visitors on the Trail.
- **Relations to Local Neighborhoods:** The artist's understanding of and connection to the areas and neighborhoods around the Trail, and how the artwork may reflect or enrich the community's identity, culture, or history.

SITE LOCATIONS

Available **TEMPO on the Trail** sites are listed below. Each site has unique specifications that should be reviewed carefully.

Applicants may indicate up to three preferred sites that best suit their artwork. While preferences will be taken into account, final placement will be determined by the selection panel.



Pfluger Bridge Roundabout

Location: Sand Beach Park - Seaholm District

Types of Art: 3-D

Odom Pavilion

Location: Cesar Chavez & Walter Seaholm Dr.

Types of Art: 2-D, 3-D

Drake Bridge (Trail Side)

Location: Under the 1st Street Bridge

Types of Art: 2-D

Congress & Cesar Chavez

Location: Cesar Chavez & Congress Avenue

Types of Art: 3-D

Rainey Street Trailhead

Location: Cummings St. & East Avenue

Types of Art: 3-D

Festival Beach

Location: Nash Hernandez Drive

Types of Art: 3-D

Holly Shores Overlook

Location: Butler Trail near Riverview Street

Types of Art: 3-D

Lakeshore Park

Location: Lakeshore Drive near Pleasant Valley

Types of Art: 3-D

International Shores

Location: Lakeshore Dr near Town Creek Dr

Types of Art: 3-D

Auditorium Shores

Location: Riverside Drive (west side near parking)

Types of Art: 3-D

Under Lamar Bridge

Location: Underneath Lamar on Trail

Types of Art: 2-D