

Request for Proposals

CONGRESS AVENUE BIKE RACK SCULPTURE PROJECT

Deadline: September 24, 2008

Budget: \$10,000 per bike rack

The Downtown Austin Alliance (DAA) is issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) to artists/artist teams interested in creating unique durable artwork to serve as bike racks at specific right-of-way locations along Congress Avenue. It is the intent of the DAA for the bike racks to be donated to the City of Austin and become part of the Art in Public Places Collection.

OVERVIEW AND PROJECT GOALS

The DAA is a partnership of individuals and businesses working together to promote and maintain a safe, clean, attractive, accessible and fun downtown, making downtown a destination for Austin residents, employees and visitors. One of the primary goals of the organization is to support the arts in downtown Austin. This project provides a chance for DAA to realize this goal, in cooperation with downtown business owners and the City of Austin, while also providing amenities for an eco-friendly mode of transportation and encouraging residents and visitors to spend more time downtown.

Funding has been secured for an initial round of artwork commissions (Phase I) with the intent to continue partnering with organizations to realize the remaining bike rack projects along Congress Avenue (Phase II). (See attached map for both confirmed and proposed locations). Funding of future bike rack projects is contingent upon donations and other community support.

The selected artists will be expected to work collaboratively with the DAA and City staff to identify the nature and exact location of the public artwork. Artists may propose a site specific bike rack proposal based on the locations provided in the attached map, or artists may submit a general bike rack proposal with the final location to be determined by the DAA and City. The artist will be responsible for designing and fabricating the work and coordinating installation.

The selection panel will be open to a wide range of ideas, but there are several fundamental aims of the project that the selected artists/artist teams should keep in mind, while designing artwork for the site.

These include the importance of:

- High aesthetic merit of the work
- Functionality as a bike rack, able to support and secure at least two bikes
- Overall safety of the design
- Low degree of maintenance of the work

The artists are encouraged to consider addressing the historical context of the site in which the bike racks will be placed. Resources on the history and culture of downtown are available at the Austin History Center located at 810 Guadalupe, Austin, TX 78701 or at the Austin Convention and Visitor's Bureau located at 209 East 6th Street, Austin, TX 78701.

ART OPPORTUNITIES

Given that there are multiple possible locations available for artwork placement, the artist/artist team will be given the ability, to the extent possible, to choose the location(s) that best fits their proposed artwork, and design with the specific location(s) in mind.

The locations for the proposed bike racks are as follows:

401 Congress Avenue, in front of Frost Bank Tower

600 Congress Avenue, in front of One American Center

Other Locations Pending

Artwork must be functional (allowing at least two bikes to be secured to the rack), and should be appropriate and responsive to the pedestrian-oriented streetscape environment. Details on the city requirements for bike rack installations can be found at

http://issweb.ci.austin.tx.us:5151/~aeservices/spec_detail/exhtml/details700series.htm.

BUDGET

The budget available for artwork (inclusive of artist fee, design, fabrication, installation, structural drawings, engineering, city permits, insurance requirements and documentation) is **\$10,000**, for each bike rack.

ARTIST ELIGIBILITY

Eligible artists must be 18 years or older and reside within 100 miles of Austin. *Please Note:* The selected artist/artist team must be available to begin design work immediately (late summer 2008). Artist/artist team must also be available to manage installation of the artwork, tentatively scheduled for April 2009, with planned unveiling in May 2009.

ARTIST SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants must demonstrate the following qualifications and qualities:

- Ability to work collaboratively with other design professionals, stakeholders and staff
- Experience working with durable materials specific to the outdoor environment
- Ability to understand a locale's sense of place, and design in a context-sensitive manner
- Demonstrated successful creative, innovative, and effective approach in comparable projects
- Excellent communication skills
- Posses a proven mastery or skill in at least one artistic medium
- Experience or knowledge of artwork installation of public artwork

SELECTION PROCESS

The selection panel for this project will consist of Joe Janson, Austin Museum of Art; Sylvia Orozco, Mexic-Arte Museum, and Margo Sawyer, artist. The selection panel and advisors will review the

Request for Proposals – Artist-Created Bike Racks on Congress Avenue

submissions and recommend artists and alternates for commission. The artists will work closely with staff from the DAA and City of Austin to finalize design for presentation as an artwork donation to the City of Austin. Once approved, the artists will proceed with fabrication and installation.

ARTIST INFORMATION MEETING

A meeting will be held on Thursday, September 4, 7:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at the Arthouse, located at 700 Congress Avenue. We will discuss the project, answer questions and tour potential installation sites. We encourage you to use public transportation, walk or ride bicycles to the meeting. Free parking is also available in the DAA garage, located on 7th St. between Brazos and San Jacinto.

SCHEDULE *(may be revised)*

Request for Proposals Issued	August 14, 2008
Artist Information Meeting	September 4, 2008, 7 p.m.
Deadline for Artist submittals	September 24, 2008
Review of proposals/interviews	Late Sept./Early Oct. 2008
Artists chosen/put under Contract	Late October 2008
City of Austin relevant Board & Commission approvals	Spring 2009
Fabrication Commences	Spring 2009
Installation	Late April 2009
Public Unveiling	May 2009

~~~~~ SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS ~~~~~

1. Letter of Interest

Please describe your interest in this project and general approach to an artwork installation of this type, describing your proposed design concept, including preliminarily identified materials, approximate sculptural dimensions, anticipated fabrication and installation methods, and requirements for long-term maintenance and care, and prioritized listing of preferred locations. Entire letter should be no longer than one (1) typed page.

2. Professional Resume

Please provide your resume or outline your experience as an artist (no longer than four (4) typed pages). In the case of a team application, please include resumes for each team member.

3. Images of Proposed Work for this Project

Please provide 1 – 3 images of your proposed concept for this project, as hand-drawn or digitally created rendering, on paper (hard copy) or in digital format (.jpg). If paper (hard copy), please restrict size to 8 _ x 11, mounted on a piece of foam core, cardstock or cardboard backing in a protective sleeve. If digital (.jpg), please restrict dimensions to a maximum of 800 x 600 pixels, and a minimum of 720 x 480 pixels. If digital in any other format, please contact Lacy LaBorde at DAA for instructions on how to submit your material (see contact information below).

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4. Digital Images of Past Work

Please provide 10 digital images of past work on one PC-compatible CD, in a PowerPoint presentation, with images in priority order of desired presentation. Images within the PowerPoint should have maximum dimensions of 800 x 600 pixels and minimum dimensions of 720 x 480 pixels. Each PowerPoint slide must include (at minimum) the artist's name, title of the work, medium and size. Additional information, if applicable, could include site, commissioning person or agency, and budget. Installations or 3-dimensional work may be illustrated by multiple images. Please keep formatting simple and do not include fancy fonts, colors, transitions, sound or other "extras." **Please keep total size for the PowerPoint presentation under 2 MB, or it will not be viewed.** The CD should be clearly labeled in ink with the artist's name and contact information. CDs will not be returned, unless requested.

5. Professional References

Please provide the names and contact information of three individuals with whom you have worked or who have commissioned your work in the past. Actual letters of reference are not required.

~~~~~ **IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS** ~~~~~

- Please do **not** use staples or submit your application materials in notebooks or binders.
- Printed photographs and/or web sites may **not** be substituted for images on CD.
- Applications received after 5:00 p.m., **Wednesday, September 24, 2008**, will **not** be considered.

**MAILING OR DROP-OFF ADDRESS:**

Downtown Austin Alliance (*Bike Rack Project*)  
211 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 100L  
Austin, TX 78701

**HOURS:**

Monday - Friday  
9:00 am - 5:00 pm

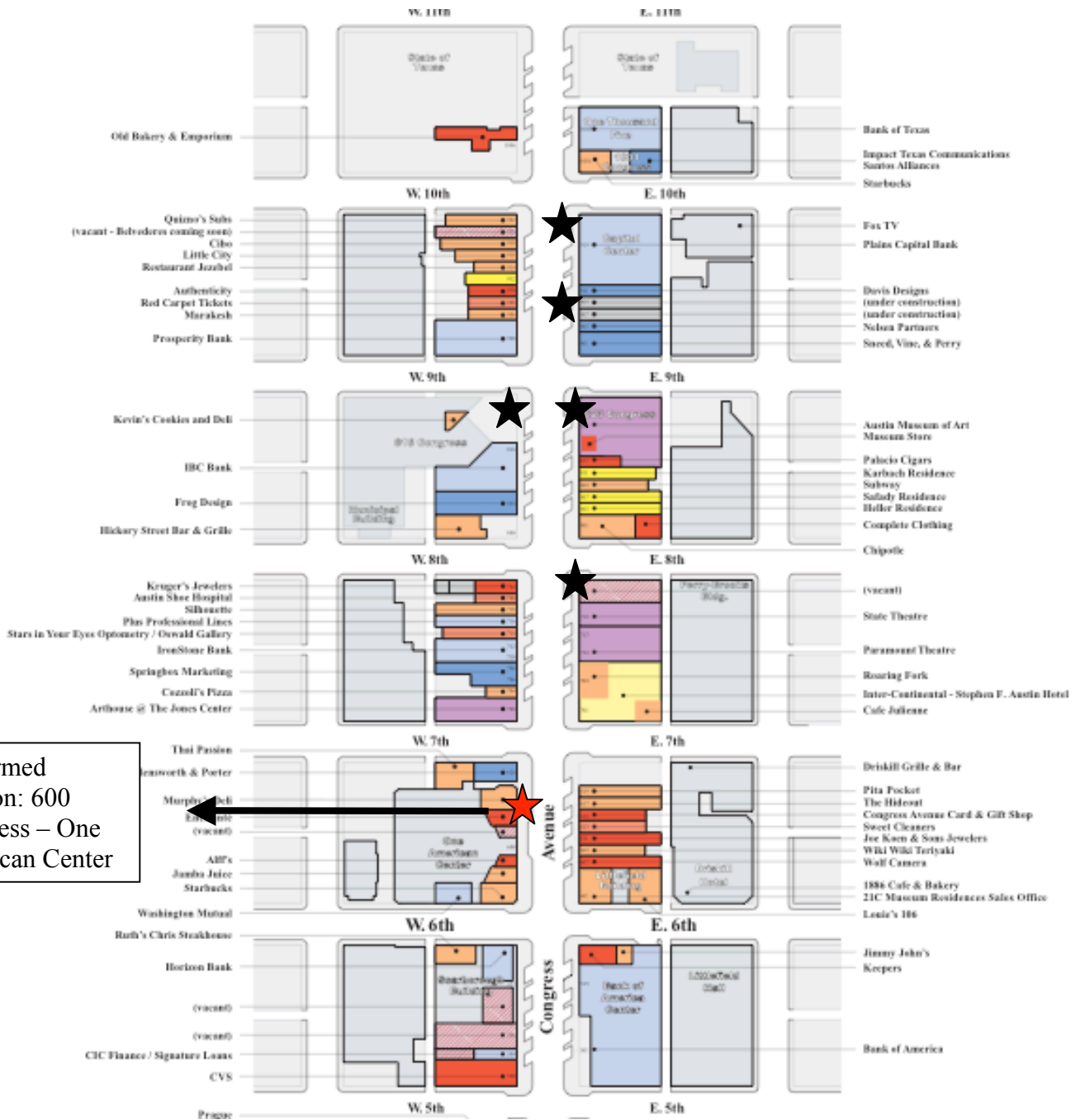
**QUESTIONS:**

Lacy LaBorde, DAA Marketing and Communications Director  
(512) 469-1776  
[lacy@downtownaustin.com](mailto:lacy@downtownaustin.com)

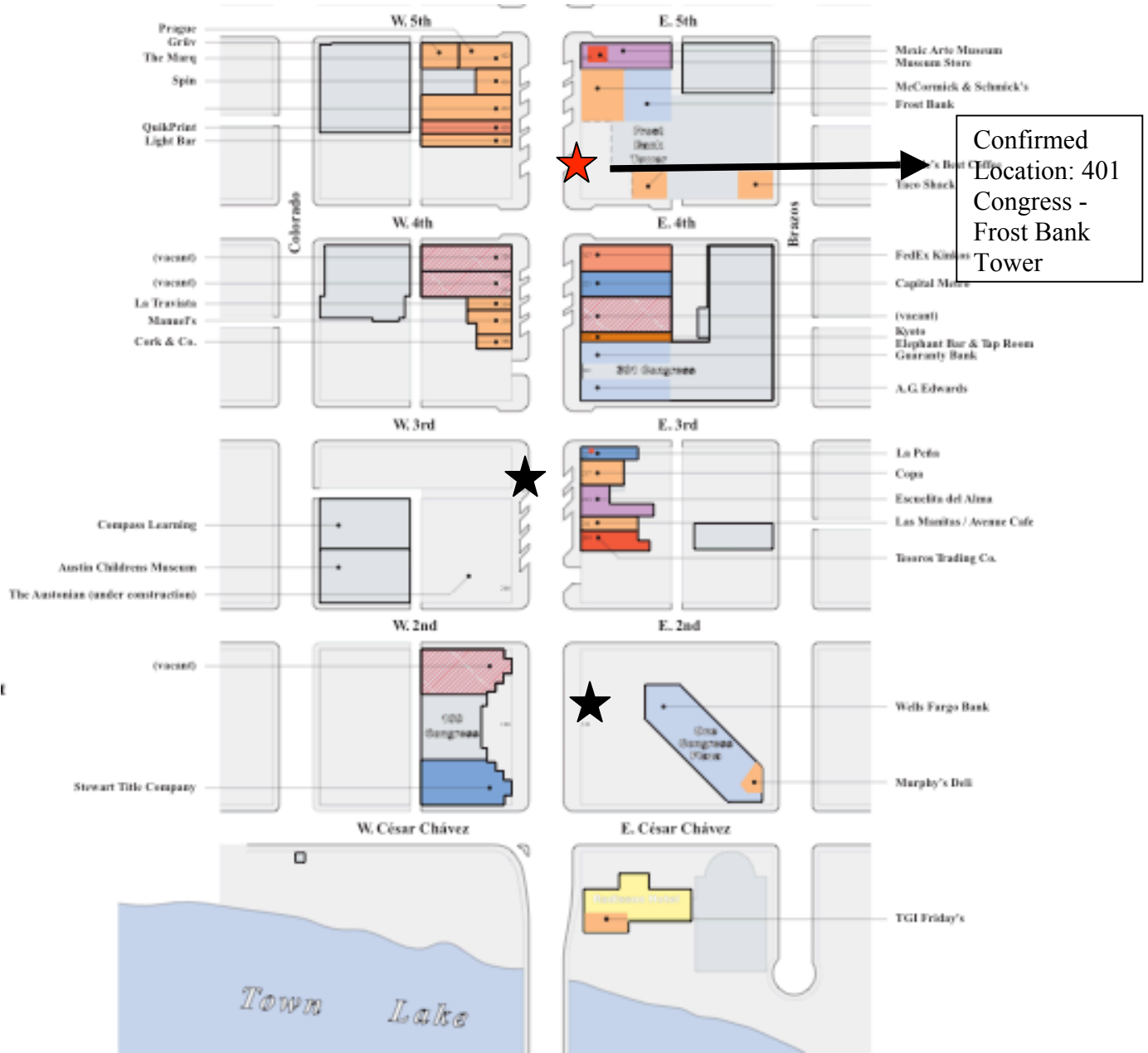
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**Potential Bike Rack Sculpture Locations**

- Confirmed locations marked with a red star:
  - 401 Congress Avenue: Frost Bank Tower
  - 600 Congress Avenue: One American Center
- Other potential locations marked with a black star



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Confirmed Location: 401 Congress - Frost Bank Tower