

Mill Avenue Underpass

Tempe Public Art Opportunity

The City of Tempe is looking for artists who are interested in the opportunity to enhance the Mill Avenue Underpass with artwork of significant scale. The underpass is located on a major arterial road that connects existing neighborhoods to the downtown core in Tempe. Heading north in the underpass, drivers are greeted by the iconic and historic Gammage Theater, a Frank Lloyd Wright building located on the edge of Arizona State University's campus, before entering downtown Tempe. Heading south offers the experience of leaving the university campus and downtown for residential neighborhoods, business, and other aspects of life in Tempe. The underpass also intersects Tempe High School and several neighborhoods. As a passthrough, this site should be viewed as an opportunity to provide a landmark experience for all who encounter it.

The artwork should bring a sense of vibrancy, vitality, and dynamic energy to the site and in ways that reflect the City of Tempe's progressive spirit. This can be achieved through the addition of color, shape, and light through a variety of materials. The current condition of the underpass includes exposed aggregate walls, planter, and a pedestrian walkway that aligns with 2 lanes of traffic in each direction. Possible art enhancements include the addition of tile, metal, ceramic, paint, stucco, and other construction grade materials.

Areas for artist applicants to consider include:

- East and West walls
- Center Pier Walls
- Planters (located along the walls on either side of the roadway along the west wall)
- Lighting (possible to be on the center piers or on the interior of the underpass, must comply with dark sky ordinance and all traffic safety regulations)

Site description:

The east and west walls of the underpass total approximately 17,000 square feet (including approximately 2,240 square feet of space in the center pier walls). All walls are finished with an older exposed aggregate surface, making the surface uneven in texture. The exposed aggregate surface of the walls may prove challenging for intricate painted murals or designs that require detail. Both the east and west side of the underpass are lined with a buffered pedestrian walkway that runs along traffic. The west side of the wall includes planters at the entrance and exit to the underpass. Artists interested in this opportunity should be willing to consider the east walls, west walls, center pier walls, planters, and/or possible light enhancements as areas of opportunities for art enhancement.

The upper deck is owned and operated by the Union Pacific Railroad. Artwork may not be included in any area that meets the upper deck.

Artwork should require minimal care and maintenance due to the activity in the area. Artworks that require bolting into the walls may require a structural review for weight and stability as part of the design development process.

Eligibility

This Call to Artists is open to a professional artist or artist team residing and eligible to work in the United States. This is a fast-track project that requires an artist or artist team with significant past experience working on highly complex projects. Artists must demonstrate that they have experience completing artworks valued at \$100,000 or more, experience creating construction drawings, the ability to oversee the fabrication and installation of large-scale artworks and possess knowledge of durable materials appropriate to the Sonoran Desert climate. Selected artists must be able to attend regularly scheduled meetings with the City throughout the design process and attend public meetings in Tempe as needed.

Accepted artist will be required by Arizona State Law HB 2008 to sign a statement verifying that they are lawfully present in the United States. City of Tempe employees, steering committee members, and their immediate family members are excluded from participating in this project.

Budget

Up to \$400,000

The current budget covering all costs associated with design and construction of the public art elements within the Mill Avenue Underpass is \$400,000. The project budget must include all costs related to the artist's design fees; construction document preparation; meeting attendance; the artwork's final design, fabrication, transportation, delivery and installation costs; subcontractor and consultant fees including any engineers or fabricators; permit and license fees; General Liability and other insurance required by the City; travel if necessary; and all other costs associated with the art project.

Deadline and Schedule

Monday June 5th 5pm Mountain Standard Time

Pre-Submittal Session

Thursday May 11th , 12pm (MST) via ZOOM

Public Art staff will present the Mill Avenue Underpass project and application process in this meeting. Attendees are welcome to ask questions and gain better insight to the opportunity. For those unable to attend the live presentation, a recording will be made and available upon request. Please contact Rebecca_rothman@tempe.gov with questions or to receive information.

- Register in advance for this meeting:
- <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting?meetingRef=7P1IPTcR7K50MmyVj>
- After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

How to Apply

The entire submission must be completed on Submittable at <https://tempepublicart.submittable.com> . All requirements listed below must be met or the application will be removed from consideration.

Specific proposals are not requested at this stage in the process and will not be accepted.

- **Letter of interest:** (Maximum 1 page) Describe why you are interested in this project and explain previous relevant experience that outlines your experience with like scale projects. If you are applying as a team, the letter should clearly describe the contribution of each collaborator.
- **Resume:** (Maximum 2 pages) outline your recent experience and accomplishments as an artist as it relates to public art. If applying as a team, each member may submit a one-page resume.
- **Digital Images:** 6 images of previously completed work. Specific proposals will not be accepted.
- **Image List:** (Maximum 2 pages) A separate document listing information about the 6 digital images. For each image submitted list the title, date, size, location, and budget with a thumbnail of the image.
- **Professional References:** 3 professional references including name, title, email address, and phone number

Artist Selection Process

Applications will be pre-screened by City staff to ensure that the submissions meet the minimum qualifications as described in the eligibility section. An artist selection committee will review artists' submissions and select 3 finalists. Submissions will be reviewed using the following criteria:

1. Quality of previously created work as demonstrated in submitted images
2. Ability to create dynamic design solutions as demonstrated in submitted images
3. Experience working on complex projects as demonstrated in support materials

Up to three finalists will be provided with a stipend to visit Tempe for an onsite orientation and develop proposed design concepts. Finalists will meet with City staff, stakeholders, and review the site. From the information provided, the finalists will be asked to create proposed design concepts to be presented in an interview with the selection panel. Finalists will be given further information about the project prior to the interview. The steering committee is comprised of members from community stakeholders, arts professionals and associated city staff. The selected Artist will work with Tempe Public Art and Tempe Transportation throughout the project.

Application deadline:	Monday June 5th, 5 PM Mountain Standard Time
Finalists selected:	July 2023
Finalist orientation & site visit:	August 2023
Finalist interviews:	September 2023
Contract award:	October 2023
Design development:	Fall/Winter 2023/24
Fabrication/Construction:	Spring/Summer 2024
Completion:	Fall 2024

Information

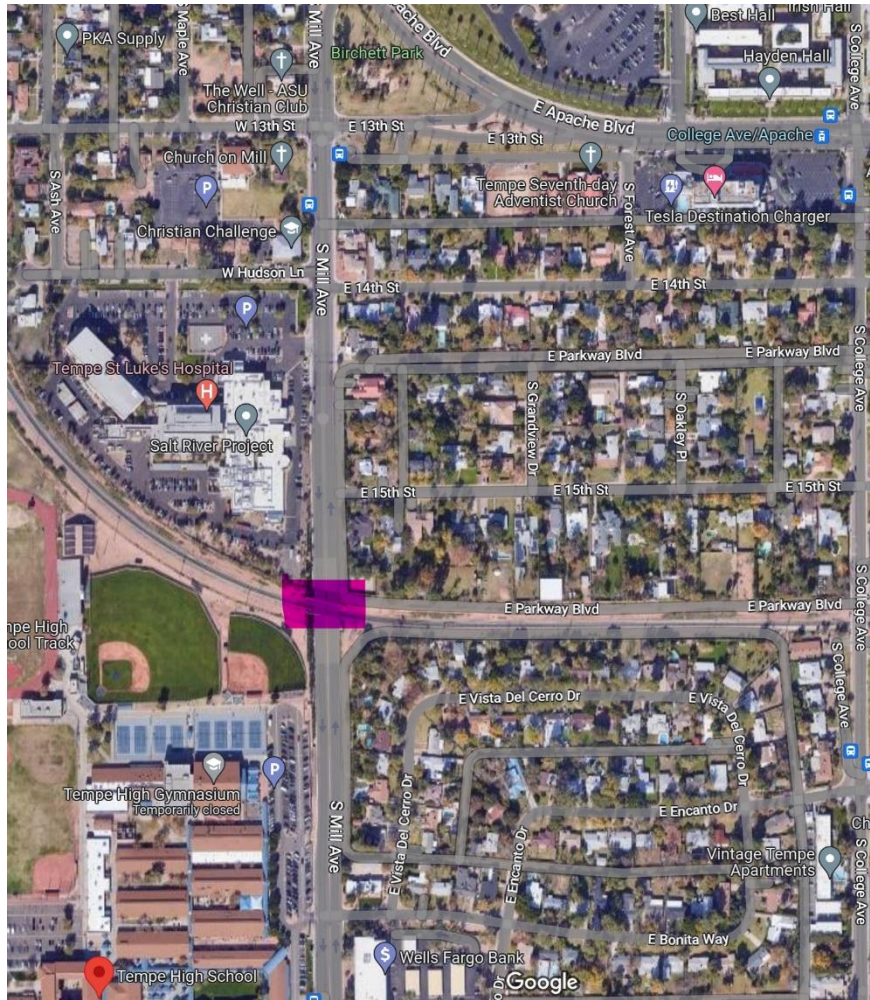
Tempe Public Art aspires to cultivate a unique community identity that advances Tempe as a vibrant and progressive destination. Tempe's diverse collection of permanent and temporary public art complements the natural and built environment through innovative place-making, installations and infrastructure enhancements. Tempe Public Art promotes artistic expression, bringing people together to strengthen Tempe's sense of community and place. www.tempe.gov/PublicArt

Tempe Transportation is responsible for the design of signage and pavement markings as well as barricading and traffic control projects, maintaining streets, alleys, sidewalks, storm drains, traffic signals and street lights and providing bus, bike, pedestrian and light rail facilities. www.tempe.gov/transportation

We are here to help, contact: Rebecca Blume Rothman, Public Art Manager
rebecca_rothman@tempe.gov 480-350-2827

This Call to Artist does not commit the city to enter into any agreement, to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of the proposal to this request or in subsequent negotiations, or to produce a contract for the project. The city reserves the right to reject any or all applications, reissue the Call to Artist, revise the project terms or procure any service by other means. While all reasonable care will be taken, the city is not responsible for loss of or damage to materials included with applications.

Photos



Site map shown to the left.

Pink rectangle is the location of the underpass within the entry road towards downtown Tempe.

Center pier and upper deck shown to the right.

Note: upper deck is not eligible for art treatment.





Shown above:

View heading north on Mill Avenue, entering downtown Tempe



Shown above:

View heading south on Mill Avenue, exiting downtown Tempe