



## REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS & PRELIMINARY PROPOSALS

Ion Plaza Art Installation for Ion District

**RFQ deadline: Monday, June 26, 2023, 11:59pm**

**Artwork Commission Budget: \$60,000.00**

**Location:** Ion Outdoor Plaza, 4201 Main Street, Houston, TX 77004

**Eligibility:** Open to Artists or Artist Teams residing in Texas

**Apply:** <http://www.publicartist.org>

**Contact:** Piper Faust, [piper@piperfaustpublicart.com](mailto:piper@piperfaustpublicart.com)

Ion District requests qualifications and preliminary installation proposals from artists or artist teams to create a site-specific temporary installation on the Ion Plaza located within Ion District for six months, from March through September 2024.

Ion District is a new kind of urban district to Houston that prioritizes street life, public space, and a mix of uses that embrace technology, community, and sustainability. It is centrally located at the heart of innovation activity in Houston, encompassing over 16 acres in Midtown. At the center of the district is Ion, a 266,000-square foot structure designed to bring Houston's entrepreneurial, corporate, and academic communities together into collaborative spaces and programs.

Ion District's developing art program is committed to creating opportunities for local and regional artists by creating long-term platforms to create, innovate, and collaborate. As the center for Houston's innovation ecosystem, Ion recognizes the importance of cross disciplinary connections creating and fostering innovation. Creative expression and ideation are an essential part of Ion's bigger picture and mission. For recent press on Ion District's recent artwork commissions, visit: [Houston Chronicle](#), [Community Impact](#), [Glasstire](#), and [Houston CityBook](#).

For more information on Ion District and Ion, visit:  
<https://www.iondistrict.com>

### Scope of Work

We are seeking the creation of a site-specific temporary art installation in Ion's outdoor plaza area for six months, from March through September 2024. The artwork should be interactive, engaging, playful and contain a lighting element. It should also have a presence during daylight hours.

The full plaza measures approximately 250' long x 40' wide. The trellis is approximately 134'2" long x 33'7" wide. Elements within the trellis area and extending throughout the plaza will be considered, however; artists are not required to use the trellis. If the proposal does utilize the trellis, it should be lightweight and is subject to structural review. Artwork must not block retail partners' signage.

Maintenance and safety are key considerations as the plaza is fully accessible to the public 24/7. Artists should also consider the relationship to Ion's restaurants and their patrons on the patio, as well as views of the artwork from the interiors.

Interdisciplinary teams, innovative partnerships, new media, digital art, and interactive installation concepts are all encouraged and welcome. The art installation must be site-specific and created or repurposed for the context of Ion District.

Elevations, dimensions, electrical plans, and site images can be found [here](#).



### **Budget**

Commission budget is \$60,000.00 inclusive of all work including, but not limited to, artists' fees, final design, engineering, insurance costs for the project, lighting, software, studio and project administration, travel, fabrication, all materials, installation, de-installation, maintenance and required documentation, as applicable.

### **Criteria**

- Artworks should invite visitors to interact, play and engage in unexpected and innovative ways.
- Artwork should contain lighting elements.
- Artwork should consider Ion and Ion District's vision and mission of accelerating innovation, connecting communities, and facilitating partnerships to create growth and opportunity in Houston.
- Artworks should be sensitive and/or responsive to the diverse history, culture, and identity of the surrounding community.
- Artworks must be family friendly, suitable for public display, and free of safety hazards.
- Artworks should be resistant to graffiti and vandalism and require minimal maintenance.

### **Eligibility**

Open to all artists and artist-teams over 18 years of age residing and working in Texas.

Ion District is committed to providing opportunities that advance Houston's economy by not only seeking to involve local businesses, but also for those who are racially and ethnically underrepresented. Creatives and artists are a vital part of a complete community, and it is our goal to foster inclusivity and diversity with all our partners. We encourage non-local applicants to team with local partners whenever possible.



## Application Requirements

Please submit the following to <http://publicartist.org> by **Monday, June 26, 2023, 11:59pm:**

1. Resume or CV (2 pages max)
2. Up to 10 digital images of past work demonstrating ability to complete the project.
3. A brief artist statement highlighting your practice (300 words max).
4. A letter of intent describing a method of approach, which may include a narrative, suggested materials, installation details and any other relevant information. This should include up to 5 sketches, mock-ups, illustrations, or other reference images demonstrating your preliminary design concept (PDF upload).
5. Two (2) academic or professional references

## Selection Process

- Ion District, Piper Faust Public Art and Ion District Art Advisory Council consisting of art experts, community members and stakeholders will review the applications.
- One artist/artist team will be awarded the commission.

## Contracting

The final commissions for this project will be a professional services contract with Ion Houston, LLC. The selected artist must be able and willing to sign the contract for design and commission and will be provided the draft for review.

## Timeline

All dates are subject to change.

RFP release: Friday, May 12, 2023

**RFP deadline: Monday, June 26, 2023, 11:59pm**

Selection Panel: Week of July 10, 2023

Selected artists notified: on/by Wednesday, July 19, 2023

Contract finalized: Friday, July 28, 2023

Project design, fabrication: August 2023 – February 2024

Artwork Installation: February – March 2024

Final Completion: Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Plaza Installation Opening: Thursday, March 7, 2024

Exhibition Ends: Sunday, September 8, 2024

Artwork De-installation: Monday, September 9 – Friday, September 20, 2024

## Contact

For questions and/or more information, please contact:

Piper Faust

[piper@piperfaustpublicart.com](mailto:piper@piperfaustpublicart.com)