

## Northline Circle Public Art | Call for Artists

**Budget:** \$200,000

**Artist Information Webinar:** <https://public-city.org/northline>

**NEW Application Deadline:** **Friday, March 25; 5:00 pm**

**Application Portal:** [www.public-city.org/calls-initiatives](http://www.public-city.org/calls-initiatives)

Call for Artists issued and managed by Public City, LLC on behalf of Northline Leander Development Company (NLDC).

### Project Summary

Northline, a 116-acre development in Leander, Texas seeks to commission an artist or artist team for an integrated design, fabrication and installation of a public artwork for Northline Circle. Northline Circle, located near the south entrance of the new development, will serve as a parklet and civic space for event gatherings and individual respite, as well as a welcoming and inclusive space for everyone. During the design process, the selected artist or artist team will work with the design team and stakeholders to design an integrated work of art that physically engages the public, enhances the aesthetic quality of public space, and creates a welcoming space through an exceptional work of art.

NLDC seeks a professional visual artist or artist team, who can articulate their lived experience in Central Texas, demonstrate evidence of broad thinking and execution with conceptual clarity within their artistic body of work, and express genuine interest in collaboration with other design professionals to create a unique civic space. A letter of interest, qualifications, and a list of references are sought from professional visual artists, or artist teams.

The total budget available for this project is \$200,000. The **NEW** application deadline is **5:00 pm, Friday, March 25, 2022**. A project information webinar was held on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 and the recording of the presentations can be viewed at <https://public-city.org/northline>.

## Project Background

Northline, located in Leander, Texas, 26 miles north of downtown Austin in Williamson County, will be Leander's new downtown district - a 116-acre mixed use development and destination where contemporary design meets the character and charm of Texas Hill Country tradition.

From restaurants, retail and residential, to offices, hotels and public gathering spaces, this urban mixed-use community will become the heart and soul of Leander and transform Williamson County. Specific amenities will include a town square, signature parks and civic spaces with water features, playscapes, and trails. Northline will serve as a family-friendly destination for festivals, events, farmers markets, concerts, movies in the park and cultural activities. Northline is part of the Transit-Oriented Development Center (TOD) and will be connected by recreational and nature trails.



Public art is sought as a central amenity for the Northline Circle located near the southwest entrance to the development. The circle will be a prominent civic space that is surrounded primarily by residential uses with commercial retail and office spaces within walking distance to the northeast. It is envisioned that the artwork will serve as a welcoming pedestrian-friendly amenity as well as an engaging and iconic marker.

Northline is being developed by Northline Leander Development Company in partnership with the City of Leander. For more information about Northline, visit [www.northlineleander.com](http://www.northlineleander.com).

## Public Art Intent & Goals

Northline Leander Development Company (NLDC) seeks to commission an integrated work of art that enhances the aesthetic quality of the civic space, physically engages the public, and creates a welcoming space through an exceptional work of art for the southern gateway of the development district through the selection of a qualified artist who can innovatively and thoughtfully design within the context of this project. NLDC seeks a professional visual artist or artist team, who can articulate their lived experience in Central Texas, demonstrate evidence of broad thinking and execution with conceptual clarity within their artistic body of work, and express genuine interest in collaboration with other design professionals to create a unique civic space.

The overall public art theme for Northline is **CONNECTION + IDENTITY**, which reflect the public art vision, values, and priorities for Northline as informed by Northline stakeholders and partners and for the benefit of future users of Northline. The goals of this public art project, as outlined by the Northline Public Art Strategy, are to:

- **Serve** as a significant and iconic sculpture that reinforces Leander geographical position as the gateway to the Hill Country and its connection to the region;
- **Reflect** the unique character, people, and/or place of Leander;
- **Cultivate** a meaningful and family-friendly arts experience for the public, and that is accessible, inclusive, and welcoming to all to enjoy; and
- **Bring** innovation in the public art approach and outcome which engenders stewardship and a shared sense of pride in the broader community.

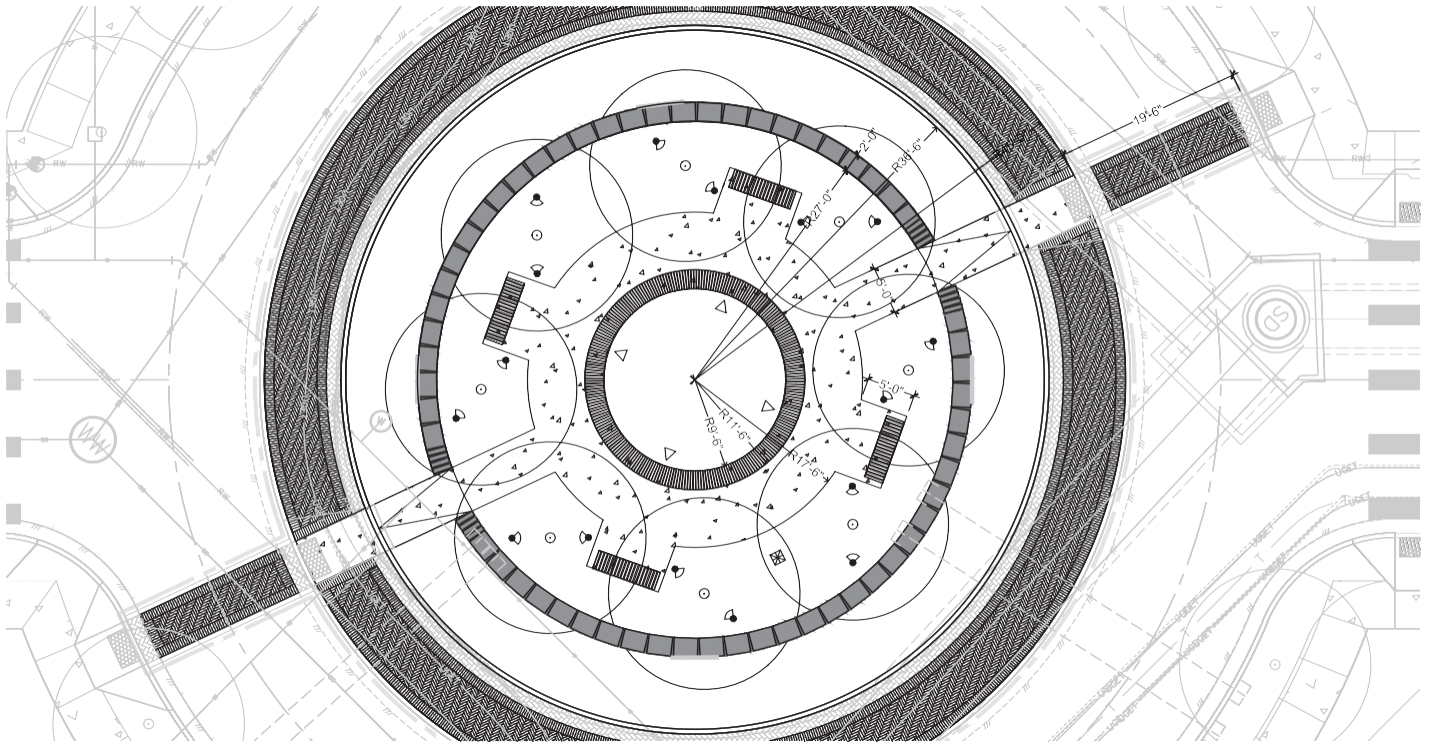
To view the public art strategy in its entirety, visit [Northline Public Art Strategy](#).

## Budget

The commission budget for this project is **\$200,000**. The selected artist(s) will be responsible for development of a budget to include all necessary aspects of design, fabrication, and installation, including structural engineering, technical consultation, travel expenses and insurance. The artist will have an opportunity to work with the design team and to possibly leverage the public art budget with the construction infrastructure budget for the foundation and lighting enhancements, dependent upon the construction schedule, and have input on elements within Northline Circle.



## Artwork Opportunity

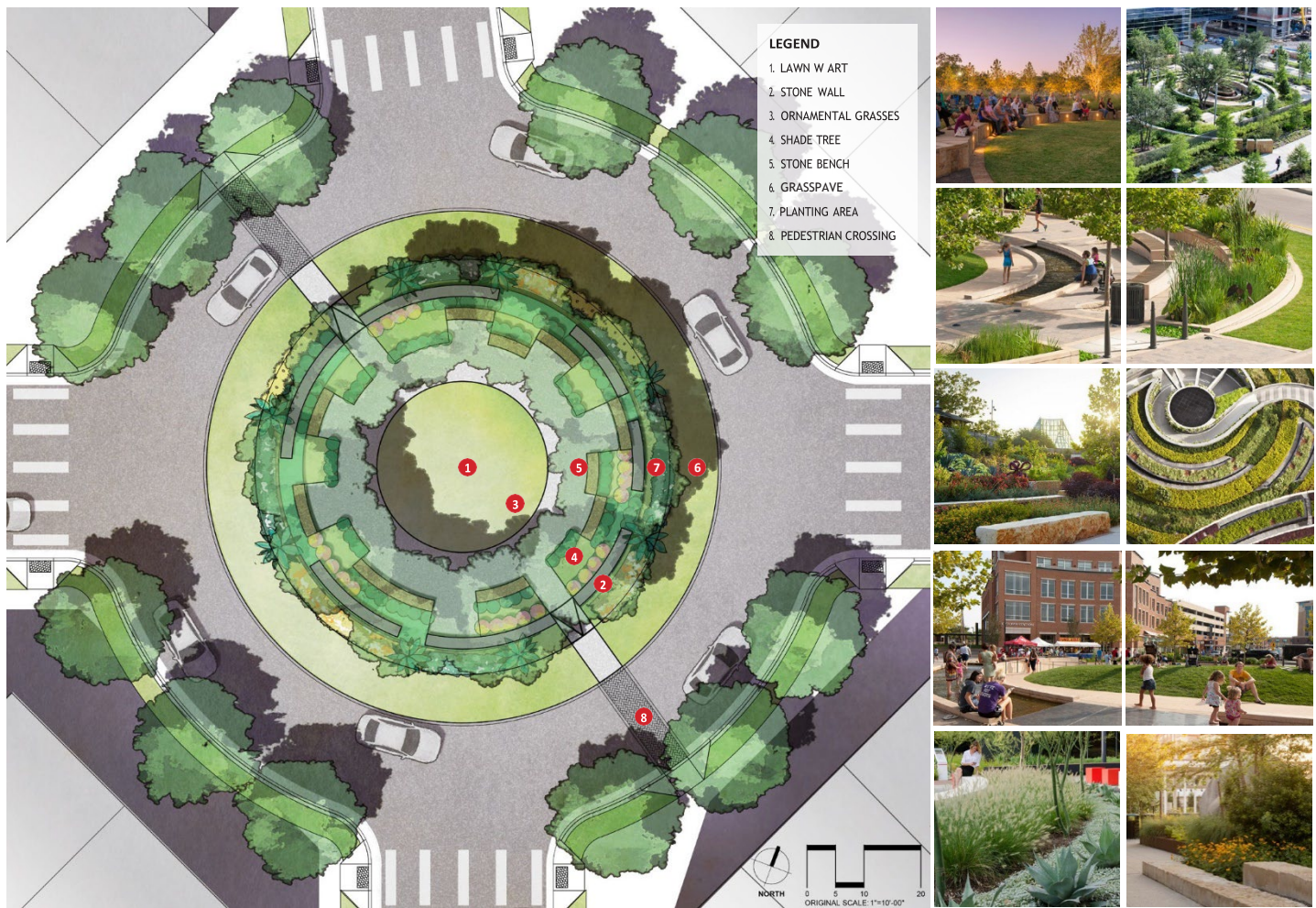


The selected artist(s) will design and implement a public artwork, working closely with the project design team and stakeholders to create an artwork within the inner circle parameter (9'-6" radius) with opportunities for collaboration and artistic elements within the broader circle (36'-6" radius).





A priority for Northline Circle public art project is to attract and physically engage the public with an installation that is interactive and be welcoming to a broad public of all ages, accessible to all abilities, while contributing a unique visual element(s) to the civic space. The artwork may serve a function such as shade structure or seating as part of an innovative artistic expression and iconic structure for the space.



**NORTHLINE | NORTHLINE CIRCLE (BLOCK S)**  
LEANDER, TEXAS

DESIGNWORKSHOP

The Northline Circle will require art and design integration and technical requirements within the whole site, and so the artist will have the opportunity to collaborate with the relevant NLDC design team. Any artistic elements fabricated by the selected artist(s) should be made of durable and sustainable materials. There may be an opportunity for the artist/artist team to contribute input to the design team on the selection of adjacent materials such as benches and landscaping to ensure a visually cohesive site with minimal maintenance requirements.

## Artist Eligibility

Professional visual artists, or artist teams, at least 18 years of age, who can articulate their lived experience in Central Texas, demonstrate evidence of broad thinking and execution with conceptual clarity within in their artistic body of work, and express genuine interest in collaboration with other design professionals to create a unique civic space are eligible to apply. Artists may apply in a team that may include architects, engineers, or other art or design professionals. Demonstrated experience in working and collaborating with diverse community stakeholders is preferred.

Full-time, permanent employees of the City of Leander, Northline project consultants and their employees, and sub-consultants are ineligible to apply.

## Application Requirements

- Letter of interest and summary of qualifications related to the project (1 page maximum)
- Resume or CV (10 pages maximum)
- Work samples: Sculpture must show two viewpoints (10 images minimum; 20 images maximum). Artists applying as a team may split the allotted number of work samples between the team members.
- List of 3 – 5 professional references that can speak to the candidate’s work as related to the evaluation criteria.

## Credit and Copyright

- The artist/artist team who work on the project will be credited as authors of the work and will own copyright in the work.
- The artist/artist team will be asked to provide reproduction rights to NLDC, the Northline Property Owners’ Master Association, Inc., its collaborators and its resource team, and The City of Leander for non-commercial purposes.
- The artist/artist team will be asked to agree not to transfer their copyright or use it for commercial purposes without approval from NLDC, Northline Property Owners’ Master Association, Inc., and the City of Leander.

## Selection Process

### Application Process

Artists/Artist teams must submit an application through the Submittable platform. Public City staff are available to provide assistance to interested applicants who have questions or need help with their application. Artists can contact the Public City team by calling **(512) 967-4222** or by emailing [create@public-city.org](mailto:create@public-city.org). The team will be available to answer any questions by email or phone every day between 1:00 - 5:00 pm from Wednesday, March 16 – Friday, March 25, details of which will be posted on the [Public City Calls + Initiatives website](#).

### Review Process

A selection panel and project advisors will be convened to evaluate the submissions based on the evaluation criteria detailed below. Please refer to these criteria when completing the application. The selection panel will review qualifications (images of work, resume, letter of interest, references) and select up to three finalists for interview. The finalists may be asked to develop a concept proposal and estimated budget for compensation.

The selection panel with guidance from project advisors will select one artist or artist team and an alternate artist/artist team. Please mark your calendars for an interview with the Selection Panel on **Friday, April 22, 2022** should you be selected as a finalist. The selection panel's recommendation will then be presented to the Owner for approval and to the City of Leander prior to execution of a contract with the artist/artist team. The artist/artist team may be asked to be available to meet or make a presentation prior to final contract execution.

## Evaluation Criteria

The selection of an artist, or artist team, shall be based on whose qualifications best meet the following evaluation criteria:

- **Artistic Excellence:** Evidence of a body of work that is original, innovative, and of exceptional and enduring quality.
- **Context-Sensitive:** Interest and ability to design a work of art in a context-sensitive manner that expresses the mission and purpose of the respective project.
- **Collaborative Spirit:** Evidence, interest, and ability to work collectively and inclusively with design team members, owners, stakeholders, and the general public for a shared outcome of success.

- **Technical Expertise:** Exhibit a knowledge of a variety of materials and their compatibility for long-term durability and ability to design and build artwork with adequate provisions for future maintenance. The selected artist will be required to submit detailed maintenance instructions for the ongoing care and conservation of the artwork by the owner.

## Selection Criteria for Artists & Teams

### Review this eligibility checklist:

- Are you a professional artist/artist team with lived experience in Central Texas or the Hill Country?
- Are you 18 years or older?

If you can answer yes to all of these, you are eligible to apply!

### Then, ask yourself these questions:

- Are you able to work with others in a highly collaborative creative process?
- Are you interested in exploring themes of connection and identity of place?
- Are you interested in interacting with the community as part of your creative process?

If you can answer yes to all of these, then you should consider applying!

### Additional considerations:

- Applicants may be asked to discuss past experience or expound on their interest in interacting with the community as part of the creative process (i.e. artist mentoring/teaching/community workshops).
- The artist/artist team that is selected will be required to provide necessary information for tax purposes by providing a W-9 or W-8, as appropriate.



## Tentative Schedule

### January

- **Tuesday, January 18, 2022**  
Request for Qualifications (RFQ) released

### February

- **Tuesday, February 22, 2022**  
Artist Information Meeting Webinar  
*\*Visit [www.public-city.org/northline](http://www.public-city.org/northline) to view the presentation for additional project details.*

### March (**Deadline Extended**)

- **Friday, March 25, 2022; 5:00 pm**  
Deadline for RFQ submissions
- **Week of April 4, 2022**  
Selection Committee to meet to review submissions and select finalists for interview/proposals

### April

- **Friday, April 22, 2022**  
Finalist interviews and selection of artist / artist team  
*\*Applicants, please note this date in your calendar. If you are selected as a finalist, you will be asked to attend an interview on this date.*

- **Week of April 25, 2022**  
Negotiate/execute artist/artist team contract

### May

- **Friday, May 30, 2022**  
Mid-design review

### July

- **Friday, July 1, 2022**  
Final design due for approval

### Ongoing

- **Summer/Fall 2022**  
Fabrication
- **Winter 2022/2023**  
Installation  
*\*Coordination with construction will be the priority*

## Project Contact

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