



PADDOCK PARK PUBLIC ART PROJECT OUTLINE



PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND APPROACH

Paddock Park sits at the top of the bluff with its commanding view of the Trinity River and the historic Tarrant County Courthouse. This one-acre park is the primary northern gateway to downtown Fort Worth. Acquired in 1917 as part of landscape architect George Kessler's plan, the park is one-third owned by Tarrant County, and two-thirds owned by the City of Fort Worth.

In 2020, Downtown Fort Worth Initiatives, Inc. (DFWI), guided by a steering committee composed of City staff and community stakeholders, selected design and planning consultant MIG to conduct feasibility studies and prepare design and construction documents for the restoration of Heritage Plaza. MIG has completed 30% design for both Heritage and Paddock Parks and the adjacent streets. Throughout all design phases DFWI and City staff are co-managing the project. Once all approvals have been made and full funding is in place, City staff will manage the construction phase.

To ensure integration of public art into the fabric of park improvements, artist team Legge Lewis Legge (LLL) was selected to create a Heritage Park Public Art Master Plan through a process facilitated by Fort Worth Public Art (FWPA) staff that involved MIG, DFWI, and City representatives. LLL has worked collaboratively with the project design team and done extensive research to identify outdoor locations and thematic approaches for public art. The resulting Heritage Park & Paddock Park Public Art Master Plan was endorsed by the Park & Recreation Advisory Board in January 2023 and was adopted by the FWAC in March 2023. The Master Plan notes that Paddock Park "carries with it the added symbolic context of the courthouse being the center of political and judicial life, and its location up-slope from Heritage Park Plaza places it within the symbolic settlement area that the original fort defended."

As stated in the master plan, Paddock Park's prominent location and its proximity to the Trinity River and historic courthouse make it an ideal location for a permanent, "iconic" public art project sculpture addressing Native American heritage. As such, the public art process will include a Curatorial Panel and a Project Core Team (PCT). The PCT will include members of the Heritage Park Steering committee and other cultural organizations.

ARTIST SELECTION PROCESS

For iconic artworks, the *Fort Worth Public Art Master Plan Update (2017)*, recommends that a curatorial panel be engaged to nominate artists uniquely suited to this project. This pool of artists will be reviewed by the Artist Selection panel, who will select finalists. The artist finalists will then create proposals that will be presented to the Artist Selection Panel, who will recommend a project artist to move forward. This approach was successfully employed for the Pioneer Tower project, and having those curatorial connections enabled FWPA to contract with artists with the required unique skillsets.

CURATORIAL PANEL SELECTION

Public Art staff will reach out to local and national arts professionals for assistance in identifying curators with Native American art expertise. Credentials and a letters of interest from the identified curators will be presented to the Artist Selection Panel, who will recommend 3-5 curators for the Curatorial Panel. The recommendations will be presented to the Fort Worth Art Commission (FWAC) for approval. Approved members of the Curatorial Panel will be offered an honorarium from the project budget.

ARTIST POOL SELECTION

The Curatorial Panel will meet with the PCT to discuss the goals and context of the public art project and collectively identify a pool of artists for consideration. The Curatorial Panel shall select approximately 6-8 artists with suitable experience and craftsmanship who can create artwork addressing Native American heritage.

ARTIST SELECTION MEETING ONE

FWPA staff shall present the pool of 6-10 artists selected by the Curatorial Panel for consideration by the Artist Selection Panel. Artists will be contacted prior to being considered, to ascertain their interest and availability. Advisors and other PCT members will be invited to participate in the meeting. The Artist Selection Panel shall recommend 3 - 5 artist finalists to create conceptual proposals. The recommendations will be presented to the FWAC for approval.

FINALIST ORIENTATION

Artist finalists will enter into a Proposal Agreement and participate in an on-site orientation to the project and meet with the Project Core Team for contextual and cultural input. They will be provided with detailed information about the park and surrounding areas, including the public art masterplan for the area and conceptual designs for improvements.

ARTIST SELECTION PART TWO

The artist finalists shall individually present their conceptual proposals to the Artist Selection Panel. Advisors and other PCT members will be invited to participate in the meeting. After discussion, the panel will recommend one artist and one alternate for the project. Upon the FWAC's approval of the panel's recommendation, a Design Contract will be executed with the selected artist.

CURRENT PUBLIC ART BUDGET

The *Public Art Plan for the 2022 Bond Program*, adopted by City Council on November 29, 2022, set aside \$1,330,500 to incorporate public art in Heritage Park and Paddock Park. The Paddock Park project budget is \$700,000. This project is included in the *FY 2025 Public Art Annual Work Plan*, adopted by City Council on November 12, 2024.