



Buffalo Bayou  
Partnership

**RFQ:**  
**Public Art**  
**Installation**

FOR TONY MARRON PARK  
PAVILION



**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ):**  
**PUBLIC ART INSTALLATION FOR TONY MARRON PARK PAVILION**  
**ENTRY DEADLINE: July 11, 2025**

**OVERVIEW**

Entry Deadline: Monday, July 11, 2025

Location: Tony Marron Park, 808 N. York St., East End, Houston, TX 77003

Call Type: Public Art

Eligibility: Local and regional in Houston and Harris County

State: Texas

Budget: \$110,000

Contact: [publicart@buffalobayou.org](mailto:publicart@buffalobayou.org)

**ABOUT BUFFALO BAYOU PARTNERSHIP**

Established in 1986, Buffalo Bayou Partnership (BBP) is the nonprofit organization creating and stewarding welcoming parks, trails, and unique spaces, connecting Houstonians with the city's most significant natural waterway. BBP focuses on a 10-mile stretch of Buffalo Bayou, from Shepherd Drive through downtown, into the East End, and on to the Port of Houston Turning Basin. In addition to spearheading and maintaining award-winning green spaces such as Buffalo Bayou Park, BBP also removes trash from the waterway, restores and preserves natural habitats, and engages tens of thousands of visitors each year through dynamic programming, public art, volunteer events, and recreational opportunities.

By 2032, BBP and its partners will realize the Buffalo Bayou East 10-Year Plan, bringing parks, trails, bayou-crossing bridges, affordable housing, cultural destinations, and infrastructure improvements to the Greater East End and Fifth Ward. BBP's temporary and permanent public art program plays a key role in illuminating these spaces, celebrating nature, and engaging diverse communities.

To learn more, please visit <https://buffalobayou.org/public-art/>

## **ABOUT TONY MARRON PARK**

Tony Marron Park is located along Buffalo Bayou in Houston's East End neighborhood and serves as the green space hub of Buffalo Bayou Partnership's plans for Buffalo Bayou East. BBP is currently making major improvements to the park which are scheduled for completion in 2027. When finished, the park will encompass 40 acres and feature additional gathering spaces, several children's play areas, a community barbeque plaza, improved soccer fields, an event shed, and public art.

The park is named after the late Antonio "Tony" Marron, a community activist and longtime resident of the East End. Marron is known for his involvement with the Political Association of Spanish Speaking Organizations (PASO) and his activism in the political and union scenes. An oral history with Marron can be accessed [here](#).

## **ABOUT THE PAVILION**

The Pavilion was added to Tony Marron Park in 2006 thanks to a renovation funded by Harris County and spearheaded by a community-public-private partnership. It is named in honor of the late renowned Houston restaurateur and community leader, Ninfa Lorenzo

## **THE OPPORTUNITY**

Buffalo Bayou Partnership and PUBLIC CANVAS, a Houston-based public art and cultural strategy firm, invite visual artists and artist teams to submit their qualifications for a semi-permanent (10-year lifespan) public art opportunity at Tony Marron Park, located in Houston's historic East End.

This commission will transform the park's prominent stucco pavilion into a visually dynamic and community-centered landmark. The selected work will be integrated into the broader improvements underway at this park, which will serve as the green space hub of Buffalo Bayou East, expanding from 19 to 40 acres. **The goal of this artwork is to enhance the visual identity of the site, but also to invite reflection, celebration, and engagement with the natural and cultural landscape of Buffalo Bayou.**

Artists who live in Houston or the surrounding region and who are committed to creating art that resonates with the cultural and ecological richness of the Greater East End and Fifth Ward communities should apply. Emerging, mid-career, and established artists or teams are invited to share their vision and join a growing legacy of public artworks along the bayou. Whether an artist's/team's practice involves large-scale painting, architectural interventions, sculptural

forms, or other durable media, we encourage thoughtful proposals that reflect a deep understanding of place and community. Through this submission, we aim to learn more about the applicants' artistic voice, technical capacity, and potential contribution to this transformative space.

**Budget:** \$110,000 (must cover all costs including design, artist fee, materials, labor, installation, travel, insurance, and contingency). Basic lighting will be provided separately, but any art-specific lighting should be included in the proposed budget.

### **Artistic Goals & Themes**

Artworks along Buffalo Bayou must reflect at least one of the following themes:

- **Celebrate nature** – Relate to the natural environment, water, and/or environmental resiliency.
- **Illuminate unique sites** – Respond to the distinctive architectural and environmental characteristics of the pavilion and its surroundings.
- **Engage diverse communities** – Reflect the people, culture, and history of the Greater East End and/or Fifth Ward.

In addition, all projects must:

- Be inclusive and family-friendly
- Be free of safety hazards
- Require minimal maintenance and include a maintenance plan
- Be constructed using durable, weather-appropriate materials

Proposed designs should consider the full surface and form of the pavilion structure (see attached illustrations). Acceptable media include, but are not limited to, painting, sculpture, and other durable materials suitable for long-term outdoor installation (10 years+). Lighting, roofing, and other elements may be included in the proposals.

### **Eligibility**

Open to artists or artist teams residing in Harris County. Preference will be given to those with demonstrated connections to Greater East End and/or Fifth Ward neighborhoods.

**Note to Art Galleries:** Galleries representing artists who reside in Harris County are welcome to submit one application per artist or artist team. Prior written consent from the artist or team is required to apply on their behalf. If an artist/team also submits their own application

independently, their individual submission will take precedence over the gallery's. Please note that a separate application must be submitted for each artist or team represented.

### **Application Instructions**

Please submit the following to **publicart@buffalobayou.org** by Friday, July 11, 2025:

- Artist biography (1–2 paragraphs for each artist/team member, PDF format preferred)
- Statement of interest and conceptual description if one is already envisioned (up to 500 words)
- 5–10 images of prior work with titles, materials, dimensions, and brief context descriptions (JPEG format preferred). Each image should be clearly labeled with the **title, dimensions, year, and medium**
- Optional: Links to video, social media, or artist website
- Optional: conceptual renderings, sketches, video links, or artist website for additional context

**Important:** Do not submit materials via external file-sharing links (e.g., Dropbox, Google Drive). All files must be directly attached to the email in the requested formats. Incomplete submissions or those not submitted by email may not be considered.

### **Selection Process**

**Proposals will be accepted until 5:00 pm on Friday, July 11, 2025.** All submissions will be reviewed by a panel composed of Buffalo Bayou Partnership staff, arts professionals, community stakeholders, and civic leaders. Proposals will be evaluated based on a combination of artistic merit, technical feasibility, and community relevance. Specifically, the selection panel will consider:

- The artist/team's demonstrated ability to deliver high-quality projects on time and within budget.
- Relevant experience with site-specific public art, particularly in outdoor or semi-permanent settings.
- The conceptual strength and artistic clarity of the proposal, including the proposed relationship to the site's form and function.
- The work's connection to the cultural, social, or physical context of Tony Marron Park, the Greater East End, and/or the Fifth Ward.
- The artist or team's personal or professional ties to these neighborhoods or plans to meaningfully engage them through the project.

- The feasibility of executing the proposed design within the established timeline and budget.
- The durability of materials and the anticipated ease of maintenance over the project's ten-year lifespan.
- Cultural sensitivity, inclusivity, and the ability to create a work that is welcoming to diverse audiences.

Finalists will be invited to submit a full proposal including:

- Visual renderings and narrative explanation
- Fabrication and installation plan
- Maintenance plan and materials overview
- Itemized project budget

## **TIMELINE**

- **Call to Artists Opens:** June 6, 2025
- Information Session: **Tuesday, June 24, 2025 | 6:00–7:00 PM (registration link below)**
- **Questions may be submitted via email until:** Thursday, July 3, 2025 (email: [publicart@buffalobayou.org](mailto:publicart@buffalobayou.org))
- **RFQ Submission Deadline:** Friday, July 11, 2025
- **Finalists Notified:** Friday, July 25, 2025
- **Proposals from Finalists Due:** Tuesday, September 2, 2025
- **Final Selected Artist/Team Informed:** Friday, September 19, 2025 (followed by engagement letter)
- **Artist Orientation:** TBD
- **Design Coordination Begins:** Immediately upon engagement
- **Artist Begins Work with Project Team:** Immediately upon engagement
- **Installation and Unveiling:** Q1 2027

### **Artist Info Session (via Zoom):**

- **Tuesday, June 24, 2025 | 6:00–7:00 PM**  
Register link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/fqUSSTmCQmaB7nLpMoH3FA>

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- BBP will support permitting and site logistics in coordination with the planning and construction teams
- Please direct all questions to: **publicart@buffalobayou.org** using subject line: *Tony Marron Park Pavilion RFQ*

We welcome artists of all disciplines and encourage applications from BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, disabled, and emerging artists whose work aligns with the spirit and legacy of community-based artmaking.

## PUBLIC ART INSTALLATION FOR TONY MARRON PARK PAVILION

### SITE SPECIFICATIONS

Pavilion is 21' at highest point of roof

Pavilion is 64' long and 28'4" wide

Architectural drawings available

**Please Note:** site is under construction and currently inaccessible to the public. Site visits will be arranged for all finalists.



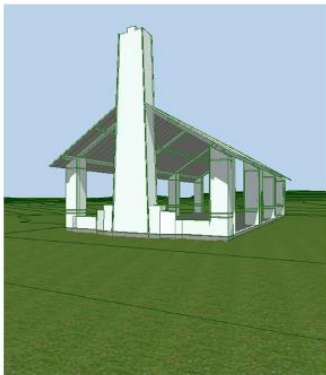
Existing Building View



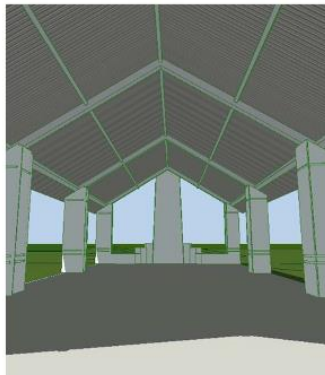
Existing Interior View Looking West



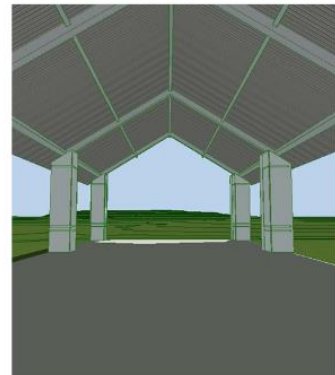
Existing Interior View Looking East



Reenvisioned 3D View



Reenvisioned Interior View Looking West



Reenvisioned Interior View Looking East



## Pavilion Location

Tony Marron Park



MVVA

TONY MARRON PARK

15 FEBRUARY 2024

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## Park Location

