The Trail Foundation (TTF) is looking for artists, designers, and other creatives who are interested in writing a new chapter for public art along the Butler Hike-Bike Trail.

We are launching a project that will explore the intersection of creativity, community, and the special natural qualities of the Trail: the design and installation of three floating wetlands on Lady Bird Lake in spring, 2022. Three creatives will be paid to collaborate on the project, with the support of TTF, environmental artist Stacy Levy, and Austin-based curators Public City.

Applications are open to artists, designers, and creatives who live in Austin or have lived experience in the city, and we are specifically seeking participation from people who identify as traditionally non-white (Black, Chicano, Hispanic, Latino, Asian American, Indigenous).

This call is for (but not limited to) visual, literary, spoken word, music, sound design, performance, dance, textile, and environmental arts backgrounds; designers in the fields of environmental, fashion, graphic, industrial, and similar design fields; as well as people who practice creative cultural traditions.

Concept:
The project is envisioned as a set of “floating wetlands” that will not only be ecological installations but also incorporate artistic components. They will be designed by the collaborative artist team, built by community volunteers, and floated into the Lake from various shore access points.

Compensation: (different from material costs)
$5,000 per artist/designers/creative.

To Apply Online: tinyurl.com/2p8drtve

Applications Deadline
February 4, 2022.
Introduction
This is an open call to all artists, designers, and/or creatives who are interested in the intersection of art, community, and the environment, and who would be interested in collaborating on a multi-disciplinary installation and event planning for the Ann and Roy Butler Hike-Bike Trail and Lady Bird Lake in spring, 2022.

The project is being funded by The Trail Foundation (TTF) as part of TTF’s ongoing process of creating a plan for Arts and Culture activities along the Trail.

The selected artists/designers/creatives will be collaborating with TTF and its arts and culture planning team, which includes environmental artist Stacy Levy, the Austin curatorial team of Public City, and arts and culture consultants Todd W. Bressi and Ellen Ryan. The artists will work with this group, as well as the broader community, to develop a temporary installation.

The key goals of the project are to explore the intersection of art, ecology, climate change, and community; engage the public in the overall Arts and Culture Plan; and test processes of developing art projects in the area of the Trail and Lady Bird Lake. Another important goal of the project is to diversify the team that is developing the Arts and Culture Plan.

This project was conceived through consultations with an independent Community Brain Trust that is advising on the community outreach for this plan, as well as The Trail Foundation’s Arts and Culture Committee; Ecological Restoration Committee; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee; and Projects Committee.

The call is open to artists, designers, and creatives who live in Austin now or have lived experience in the city. We are specifically seeking participation from people who identify as non-white (as described above) and we are open to applications from people with a variety of creative backgrounds (including visual, performance, dance, literary, spoken word, music, sound design, textile, environmental and similar arts backgrounds; designers in the fields of environmental, fashion, graphic, industrial and similar design fields) as well as people who practice creative cultural traditions.

To Apply Online:
tinyurl.com/2p8drtve

Applications Deadline
February 4, 2022.
TTF is an organization that believes free, equitable, and inclusive access to the Trail experience is vital to the health and well-being of our community.

For the Arts and Culture Plan, TTF believes that input from community members of diverse backgrounds, experiences, and identities is necessary for the Trail to be a welcoming place and for arts and culture on the trail to represent the communities we serve. This especially means seeking to understand the diversity of creative voices in the broader community and centering diverse perspectives/voices and discussions about arts and culture in the area.

To address this, Public City has created an independent Community Brain Trust to provide guidance on how community participation in this plan can be as inclusive as possible.

Also, for this project, TTF is prioritizing the selection of traditionally non-white (Black, Chicano, Hispanic, Latino, Asian American, Indigenous) artists, designers, and creatives as a way of centering equity in the current project leadership.

To Apply Online:
tinyurl.com/2p8drtve

Application Deadline
February 4, 2022.
COMMON WATERS
A DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FOR THE BUTLER TRAIL AND LADY BIRD LAKE

TIMELINE + GOALS

- **EARLY JANUARY**
  - Creative Call released

- **JANUARY 21**
  - Deadline for application questions or assistance

- **JANUARY 26**
  - Answers posted and circulated

- **FEBRUARY 4**
  - Submission deadline (11:59 pm)

- **LATE FEBRUARY**
  - Artist Selection Announced

- **MARCH 6TH**
  - Workshop: Virtual

- **TBD**
  - Open Studio: Dependent on Creative's Schedules

- **MAY 14 AND/OR 15**
  - Community Celebration + Creation

**Goals of the Project**

- Learn about Butler Trail's history, ecology, etc.
- Offer people new ways of interacting with the Trail and the Lake, through public art that is presented sensitively and thoughtfully in this natural ecologically unique environment.
- Provide creatives with an opportunity to learn about and contribute to art and environment, art and history, art and climate change, and collaborative, community-engaged public art practices.
- Select artists, designers, and creatives from traditionally non-white identifying communities for this opportunity in order to center equity in the current project leadership and to lay the groundwork for their involvement in future public art opportunities.
- Engage people in the process of creating the Arts and Culture Plan, particularly people who might not ordinarily visit the Trail or take part in a planning process.
- Provide youth with an opportunity to explore their creative and civic voices by participating in the community-based aspects of this project and contributing to the Arts and Culture Plan process.
- Test and model practices that can be incorporated into recommendations in the Arts and Culture Plan.

**Artistic Themes**

- Environmental activism/justice
- Cultural and historic preservation
- Climate change / impact
- Regenerative/restorative ecosystems
- Collaboration among different communities
- Collaboration among creatives who work in different media

**For More Information:**
TheTrailFoundation.org/portfolio/arts-culture-on-the-trail/

**To Apply Online:**
tinyurl.com/2p8drtve

Application Deadline
February 4, 2022.
We are seeking up to three Austin artists, designers, and/or creatives who will work with environmental artist Stacy Levy on this project.

The project will be organized as a collaboration, so we invite applications from people with experience in literary, spoken word, music, sound design, performance, dance, and textile and environmental arts; designers in the fields of environmental, fashion, graphic, industrial and similar design fields; as well as people who practice creative cultural traditions.

The project will include a workshop for creatives who are selected to work on the project. The workshop will provide background about how artists and other creatives are working in areas of cultural preservation, environmental activism, and climate change.

Stacy Levy, an accomplished environmental artist, will provide technical direction for the project, while the selected artists/designers/creatives will have the lead creative role, and TTF will provide technical support.

TTF is collaborating with City departments, such as PARD, AIPP, and Watershed Protection, to coordinate approvals for the project.

To Apply Online:
tinyurl.com/2p8drtve

Application Deadline
February 4, 2022.

For More Information:
TheTrailFoundation.org/portfolio/arts-culture-on-the-trail/
**Workshop**

We are inviting the community along with the selected creatives to participate in a workshop that will inspire direction on the project. The Workshop will offer an immersion into three prevalent themes surrounding community, ecology, art, and culture: Cultural Preservation, Environmental Activism, and Climate Change. Each theme will be explored in a session guided by local and national experts in these fields, including Levy.

**Cultural Preservation Session**

- Creating a foundation of site-specific understanding of the past and present cultural history as a resource to stimulate thinking about how to ground the project in the communities impacted by the Trail.
- Learning ways to fold the past into how we think about the future.

**Environmental Activism Session**

- Meshing of the Environmental and Community history of the Trail.
- Understanding the site and how our histories weave together.

**Climate Change Session**

- Healing the current and future environmental impact of people on the trail and the river. • Learning how art, culture, community, and ecology can join to create a new kind of healing.

To Apply Online:

tinyurl.com/2p8drtye

Application Deadline
February 4, 2022.
**Scope of Activities**

The artists/designers/creatives will have lead responsibility for:

- Developing design concepts and presenting them for review through the use of images and/or models. The artists/designers/creatives will collaborate with the TTF team on:
- Developing a plan for engaging with the community in the research/design phase and installation/celebration phase
- Researching and testing materials for the installation
- Developing a community build, installation, and de-installation plan

The artists/designers/creatives will be expected to:

- Enter into a professional services contract with TTF
- Work in a collaborative creative process with each other and with the TTF team
- Work in a collaborative process to manage the installation within the pre-set budget
- Participate in the community-build, installation, and de-installation phases
- Participate in documentation processes (photo, video, interview)

**TTF or its consultants will be responsible for:**

- Obtaining funding
- Contracting with artists and paying creatives
- Securing permissions
- Coordinating community meetings
- Obtaining and storing materials and supplies
- Organizing the launch, installation, and de-installation processes
- Marketing and documentation

Please contact Create@Public-City.org with any questions or with your submissions, if you aren't submitting online. (Please put "Common Waters" in the subject).

To Apply Online:

[ tinyurl.com/2p8drtve ]

Application Deadline
February 4, 2022.
Project Budget
In addition to the fee for each artist/designer/creative, TTF has established a budget of $10,000 for supplies, materials, and installation. The collaborating artist/designer/creative team will be expected to develop projects that can be accomplished within this budget.

Credit and Copyright
• The artists/designers/creatives who work on the project will be credited as authors of the work and will own/share copyright in the work.
• TTF and the rest of its team will be credited as resources and collaborators to the project.
• The artists/designers/creatives will be asked to provide reproduction rights to TTF, its collaborators, and its resource team for non-commercial purposes.
• The artists/designers/creatives will be asked to agree not to transfer their copyright or use it for commercial purposes without approval from TTF.

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To Apply Online:
tinyurl.com/2p8drtve

Application Deadline
February 4, 2022.
Application Process

• Artists/designers/creatives will be recruited for this project through an open, public call.
• Artists/designers/creatives must submit an application through the Submittable platform or by emailing Public City. Instructions can be found below.

• The Trail Foundation’s Arts and Culture Plan team will provide assistance to creatives who have questions or need help with applications. Creatives can contact the team by calling 512.967.4222 or by emailing create@Public-City.org. The team will also hold regular “virtual” office hours, which will be posted on the project website: thetrailfoundation.org/portfolio/arts-culture-on-the-trail/

Review Process

TTF is creating a Selection Committee that will assess applications, interview applicants if necessary, and make recommendations about which applicants to select.

Selection Committee members will include community leaders, arts leaders, and Trail stakeholders. The Committee members will be nominated by the Trail Foundation’s Arts + Culture Committee and by the independent Community Brain Trust that has been set up for the overall planning project.

Selection Committee members will review applications using the criteria outlined below. The Selection Committee can base its recommendations on the application materials and reference checks, and may also ask to interview any of the applicants.

The Selection Committee’s recommendations will be reviewed by the Technical Advisory Group, before the selections are announced.

To Apply Online:
tinyurl.com/2p8drtve

Application Deadline
February 4, 2022.
Review this eligibility checklist:
• Are you an artist, designer, or creative?
• Do you identify as Black, Chicano, Hispanic, Latino, Asian-American, or Indigenous / Non-White?
• Do you live in Austin, or elsewhere in Travis County, or have lived experience in Austin?
• Are you 18 years old or older?

If you can answer yes to all of these questions, then 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 water and nature in your creative work?
• Are you interested in interacting with the community as part of your creative process?

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

The Selection Committee will review your application using the following criteria:
• Expressed interest in this project, and/or indication of experience that relates to this project
• Expressed interest and/or indication of experience in the community outreach and collaborative aspects of this project
• Your track record of creative activity and project completion
• The way that your creative activity and outlook align with the goals of this project.
• Your attendance at the pre-submission workshop (in person or virtual)

A few other considerations:
• You don’t need to have previous experience with public art to apply.
• Everyone who is selected will be required to provide necessary information for tax purposes by providing a W-9 or W-8 as appropriate.

To Apply Online:
tinyurl.com/2p8drtve

Application Deadline
February 4, 2022.
Application Materials: if you are submitting via email or alternative means or apply here: tinyurl.com/2p8drtve

Anyone interested in applying for this project should submit the following materials.
1. An application cover sheet (see the following page)

2. A letter that addresses the following questions
   Please provide an answer for each question that is no more than a paragraph long
   • What aspects of this project interest you most?
   • What skills, experience, and/or perspectives would you bring to this project?
   • Describe any connection you have to the Trail or the Lake.
   • Tell us anything else about yourself that you think is important for us to know.
   Please note that we are not asking you to propose ideas for your project at this time.

3. Samples of your work.
   • Between five and ten digital images/files of previous work, that helps us see the creative inspiration and technical skills you would bring to this project. (Labeled with: a number, your name)
   • Submit image files as .pdf or .jpg files
   • Submit video files as .mov files
   • Submit audio files as .mp4 files
   • Submit text files as Word documents (.doc files)
   Digital images must be no more than 300dpi and no larger than 1024 x 768-pixel resolution.

4. References.
   • Contact information for at least two people who can speak to your creative abilities, collaborative style, capabilities, and potential for success in a project like this.

Please contact Create@Public-City.org with any questions or with your submissions, if you aren't submitting online. (Please put "Common Waters" in the subject).

To Apply Online:
tinyurl.com/2p8drtve

Application Deadline
February 4, 2022.
Application Cover Sheet

Please submit this as the cover sheet of your application. Information about you:

Full Name: __________________________
City/Zip Code: __________________________
Phone and/or email: __________________________
Website and/or Instagram: __________________________
(if you have one)

How do you identify yourself?
(Check as many as applicable)
- African American/Black
- Asian/Pacific Islander
- Caucasian / White
- Hispanic/Latino/Chicano
- Native American/Indigenous
- Multiracial or Biracial
- Female
- Male
- Non-Binary
- Prefer not to answer
- Other: Please specify _____________________________

Application checklist:
- A short written response that addresses the questions outlined above.
- Between five and ten digital images/files of previous projects
  (Labeled with: a number, your name)
- A list of images, including the following information:
  • Image name, Artist’s name, the title of the artwork, Location, Date of Completion,
  Budget Medium, and Dimensions
- Brief description
- References

Please contact Create@Public-City.org with any questions or with your submissions.
(Please put "Common Waters" in the subject).

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February 4, 2022.
About the Ann and Roy Butler Hike-Bike Trail and Lady Bird Lake
The 10-mile-long Ann and Roy Butler Hike-and-Bike Trail at Lady Bird Lake are in the heart of downtown Austin; it touches on a variety of communities and connects to trails and public spaces that extend far into the City and serve the entire region. Because of its natural character, proximity to the lake in an urban setting, and what it offers the community, the Trail is both an extremely vital and special place to Austin as well as a highly personal and beloved space to its users.

About The Trail Foundation (TTF)
TTF is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to protecting, enhancing, and connecting people to the Trail for the benefit of all. TTF’s work includes capital improvements, ecological restoration projects, programming, and maintenance along the Trail.

About the Arts and Culture Plan
This project is part of a larger process to create an Arts and Culture Plan for the Butler Trail that is being led by TTF.
The goal of this plan is to provide a common vision for arts and culture along the Trail that TTF, Austin Parks and Recreation (PARD), Austin Art in Public Places (AIPP) can work towards, in collaboration with the community at large. The plan will explain why arts and culture activities are important to consider along the Trail, what the best opportunities are for programs and projects, and what type of tools will need to be in place to take advantage of those opportunities. The plan will seek to enhance the space and elevate the user experience, while not overwhelming, distracting, or complicating the environment.

This installation project will help test ideas about how arts and cultural activities can be integrated along the Trail, considering both the natural and environmental character of the Trail setting as well as the cultural resources and histories of the communities along the Trail. It will help inform the public about the Arts and Culture Plan and help the planning team collect information that will help shape the plan.

You can learn more about those activities here and read about the overall community engagement strategy here.

To Apply Online:
tinyurl.com/2p8drtve

Application Deadline
February 4, 2022.
About the Planning Team
The Arts and Culture Plan is being led by arts planner Todd Bressi, collaborating with arts planner Ellen Ryan, and environmental artist Stacy Levy, all of whom are based in Pennsylvania. Austin-based Public City is leading the community engagement process.

About the Project Advisory Groups
The Arts and Culture Plan, as well as this demonstration project, are being advised by three groups:

Arts and Culture Committee
TTF has created a standing Arts and Culture Committee, comprised of artists, designers, and cultural practitioners, who advise TTF board and staff on arts and culture matters, including the Arts and Culture Plan.

Technical Advisory Group
TTF has created a Technical Advisory Group for the Arts and Culture Plan. It consists of TTF staff, TTF board members, and staff from city agencies (PARD and AIPP) who have the most direct liaison with arts and culture activities.

Community Brain Trust
Public City has convened an independent Community Brain Trust, especially for the Arts and Culture Plan. The Brain Trust is helping to shape the community engagement aspects of the planning process. The Brain Trust is a committed mix of neighbors, Trail users, equity advocates, cultural anchors, business and community leaders from districts along the Trail and beyond. The purpose of the Brain Trust is to help shape the engagement strategy in a way that resonates with the Trail’s communities, and to educate us all on our beloved Trail’s cultural, social, and environmental context from a diversity of perspectives.

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