



**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS #1
PURCHASING OFFICE
CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS**

Solicitation: RFI 5500 SMW6000

Date: September 8, 2020

The following are questions with responses, which have been received regarding this project:

1. Q: What the timeline for a creative space is, as in, what year is the City of Austin looking to occupy a facility?

A: While the current anticipated procurement process is projected to take a minimum of 13 months, it is possible that the potential occupation of a creative space facility may be earlier than 2022, depending on market conditions and real estate opportunities.

2. Q: How detailed would you like the RFI to be?

- Would you want a specific site?
- Would you want renderings of the potential space?
- Are you looking for one org to use all of the funds or multiple orgs to spread it out?
- What can the funds be used for specifically? Is it for land acquisition as well as construction?
- Can the funds also be used to provide minimal housing for artists in residence?
- Does the city want the funds to also be allocated to spaces open to the public?

A: Please provide as much detail as you see helpful to respond to the questions. More detail will be helpful but please know that responses are subject to any Open Records request. If there is a specific site that you would like for the City process to consider, adding that information would be helpful. Renderings are not needed or necessary at this particular point. The \$12 million in bond funds can only be used for costs related to acquisition, construction and permanent fixtures. The funds can be expended on one or multiple properties. However, the City at this time does not have additional funding. Once expended, the funds will need to result in at least one creative space for public use. The funds can only be used for projects specifically stated in the Bond Ordinance. Affordable housing would not be an eligible expense for this source of bond funding. However, voters approved a separate proposition for affordable housing.

3. Q: In regards to the LEED requirement, can this be revisited to include Austin Energy's Green Building rating?

A: In past development agreements, the City required projects using public funds to achieve energy efficiency ratings from either the City of Austin Energy Green Building program or LEED. During final negotiations of a development agreement with the selected preferred site or sites, the City will consider plans incorporating Austin Energy's Green Building Rating, in lieu of LEED requirements.