

2024 Texas Biennial Open Call Guidelines

General Information

The Texas Biennial is a geographically-led, independent survey of contemporary art in Texas. The program was founded in 2005 by Austin nonprofit Big Medium to provide an exhibition opportunity open to all artists living and working in the state. The eighth edition of this program will take place in 2024, making the Texas Biennial the longest-running state biennial in the country. Since its inception, the program has brought the work of over 300 artists to new audiences, springboarding many artists' careers and underscoring the diversity of contemporary practice in Texas.

Works selected through the Open call could be presented alongside projects in upcoming exhibitions, *River on Fire* and *Makeshift Memorials*, *Small Revolutions* as part of programming or exhibitions in partner spaces such as Holy Family, Silos Gallery, North Gallery, Sabine Street, Spring Street, Tank Space, Spring Street Corridors, The Journey, Lawndale, Aurora Picture Show, Big Medium, K Space Contemporary, Throughline Collective, Anderson Center for the Arts, Houston Climate Justice Museum, South Texas Center for Human Rights, and Arts + Culture Lab.

Curatorial Criteria

Erika Mei Chua Holum, Ashley Dehoyos Sauder, and Coka Treviño will Co-Curate the 2024 Texas Biennial through a collaborative and non-hierarchical approach. Selected through invitations and an open call, artist projects, works, and programming will be featured at the Blaffer Art Museum and host venues in Houston and the Texas Coast.

The curators consider proposals situating Texas as a fluid, ever-changing site of knowledge, producing cultural participation and cross-pollination, transmuting borders, regional identity, and marginalized histories.

Faced with economic, cultural, and environmental shifts in the last few years, many creative practitioners have evaluated basic needs from food, shelter, medicine, music, and art, as well as relationships with each other and our environment, reminding us of the value of what we already have...or what we might solely need to flourish. As the organizers survey various practices, including dinners, performances, and artist projects, they view this year's event as an opportunity to explore sustainable models for presenting and producing work in Texas.

“Texas is a constructed territory. The inflows and outflows of changing borders, occupations, and boundaries shape the formation of communities and their participants. The 2024 Texas Biennial explores the overlapping and amorphous forms of cultural production and cross-pollination through the rising and falling of systems and structures drawn across people, land, and water. With particular attention to artistic process, practice, and participation, the biennial centers on performance, gathering, poetry, cultural preservation, and visual art shaped by collectives and community involvement. We look to artists to articulate a means of liberation.”

Eligibility

The Texas Biennial is open to all artists living and/or working in Texas, artists native to Texas and Texas expats working anywhere in the world, and artists who have produced or exhibited significant work in Texas in the last three years. Artists attending Texas-based residency or fellowship programs are eligible if the work submitted for consideration was produced or conceptualized while in Texas. Invitations to participate in the Texas Biennial are at the sole discretion of the curators. Artists will be selected on the basis of work entered. Artists are invited to submit projects, proposals, and work created between 2020-2024 that haven't been shown more than twice in Texas since 2020.

Artists may submit work for consideration in any medium and at any scale, understanding that the exhibition venue and format may not accommodate all work. In the case of performance, installation, or some other element that may have not been physically realized at the time you apply, you must provide adequate written documentation describing the work. If you have a question about whether your work can be accommodated, please contact info@texasbiennial.org.

How To Apply

Applications will be accepted online from **February 15 – March 31, 2024** at texasbiennial.org

Applications not submitted by 11:59 pm CST on March 31, 2024, will not be reviewed.

All entries must be completed using the online form. Please read these guidelines carefully before beginning your application. You may print these guidelines for future reference. You may also access these guidelines at any time during the application process via the "Guidelines" link at the top of the application.

Once you start the online application process, you can leave the application by either logging out or closing your browser. You can return to edit your application at any time before you complete your entry. Once you have completed your application, it is no longer accessible and cannot be edited. Do not click the "Apply" button until your application is complete and fully satisfied with its contents. Be sure to click "Apply" when you have finalized your application. Applications in Spanish are welcome.

To begin the application process, you will be required to create a user account. There is a \$20 USD application fee for each entry. Application fees will not be refunded for entries deemed ineligible.

If you work individually and collaboratively, you may enter both as an individual and as part of your team(s). You may submit as many applications as you wish; however, you must create a new user account for each application.

Uploading Your Information

Within the application, you will see two areas for uploading your information, “Artist Information” and “Artworks.” Below is detailed information for each section.

Artist Information

You may upload up to three (3) documents to provide background information, such as a CV (not to exceed three pages) and/or an Artist Statement (not to exceed more than 500 words) and/or recent press. Acceptable formats are: .doc, .pdf, .rtf, .txt.

Artworks

Each entry can include up to seven (7) works, and each work may be represented by up to three (3) files. Files may include still images, video files, as well as written documentation. Acceptable file formats are: .jpg, .tiff, .gif, .mp3, .wav, .mp4, .avi, .mov, .doc, .pdf, .rtf, .txt

- Image resolution should be large enough for the curator to view the work clearly on a computer.
- Name image files accordingly: lastname_image#
- URLs for videos hosted online or for web-based works may be used *instead* of uploading files. However, please include a video still with the artwork information detailed below. Links must include http:// or https:// at the beginning of the URL.

Artwork Information

- Title
- Dimensions: Height, Width, Depth — Please use inches in decimal format. (Example: 20.25”)
- Medium
- Year Completed

Equipment

You should be prepared to provide all equipment necessary to present your art, although please disclose your needs in advance in case the Texas Biennial can provide the necessary equipment locally.

Authorship and Ownership

By entering a work, you represent that you are its author and that you either own the work or have the owner’s permission to enter it for consideration.

Selected Artists

Final notification of the curator's selections will be sent to all artists by the end of **June 2024**. Notifications will be sent to the email address entered in the application. All artworks are subject to in-person curatorial review before final acceptance. The exhibition will take place in Houston in the fall of 2024; ensure your work will be available from September 2024 to January 2025.

Installation

Selected work must be received and ready to install. Unless other arrangements are made in advance, the Texas Biennial will handle the installation. Artists who will be completing site-specific installations will need to work within a specific timeline to be disclosed at a later date.

Publication-Quality Documentation

In order to promote the exhibition in a timely fashion, publication-quality documentation of all work must be received by the Texas Biennial before acceptance is final and artist selections are announced. The artist must provide all documentation for completed works by the agreed due date to be considered for acceptance. Installations, performances, and site-specific works will be handled accordingly in a case-by-case scenario.

Loan Agreements

Artists will be required to complete a loan agreement, including the specification of insurance value before acceptance of a work is final.

Artist Stipend

All artists selected from the Open Call will be awarded a stipend. Artist stipends may vary depending on individual projects. However, honoraria will be distributed evenly.

Handling and Shipping of Work

Work accepted for the exhibition may be hand-delivered or shipped pre-paid to the exhibition venue; artists are also responsible for return shipping. The Texas Biennial does not pay shipping costs but will work with you to make the most cost-effective arrangements. All work must be packed appropriately to ensure safety during shipping and storage awaiting exhibition installation. The Texas Biennial will use the same or similar packing to prepare work for return shipping. The Texas Biennial is not responsible for improper packing or shipping damage.

Insurance

The Texas Biennial will insure all work included in the exhibition from the moment the work is accepted at the exhibition venue until the artist, designated recipient, or shipper picks up the work. All work included in the exhibition must have a value for insurance purposes.

Reproductions and Publicity

By entering your work and providing images and other documentation, you agree that any images and other materials you provide may be reproduced and published in the Texas Biennial catalog and promotional and press materials and distributed via the websites and social media channels of Big Medium, the Texas Biennial, and the project's partners. You also agree that images of your work may be reproduced in the context of the exhibition and its promotion by third parties such as journalists and media outlets.

Questions?

Please carefully read the above guidelines before contacting us with an inquiry. We're happy to answer your questions if you don't find your answer there at info@texasbiennial.org

About Big Medium

Big Medium is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that supports artists through equitable and inclusive platforms to explore their practice and advance their careers.

Big Medium brings artists and audiences together through city and statewide art experiences with the **Austin Studio Tour** and the **Texas Biennial**. We are deeply committed to advancing artists' careers and offer the **Tito's Prize**, a \$15,000 annual award and exhibition to Austin artists. Our team fosters creativity and encourages experimentation by providing exhibition space year-round for artists through the **Big Medium Gallery**. We work with local partners to provide artists unique creative spaces and opportunities through **The LINE Residency**.