



Ad Astra Park and Pool Sculpture Project

Request for Proposal



Figure 1 Rendering of Birdseye view of reconstructed pool.

Introduction

The City of Lenexa, Kansas is investing more than \$10 million to reconstruct an outdoor community pool located at Ad Astra Park. The goal of the project is to improve operations, programming and facility

function, which will result in a greater amenity for the surrounding neighborhood and the entire community. The new pool will feature a large zero-depth entry area with shade, underwater bench seating, three, 25-yard lap lanes for swimming, deep water area with two diving boards, 180-foot current channel, large shade areas, a new bathhouse and concession building.

Recognizing the opportunity to integrate public art into this highly visible and well-loved community destination, the Lenexa Arts Council has designated Ad Astra as a **top-priority location for 2025**.



Figure 2 Rendering of renovated facility showing pool entrance.

Sculpture Project Description

Goals

The proposed public art installation at Ad Astra aims to elevate the site's identity and create an engaging experience for park and pool users. The city intends to commission an artist or artist team to create a site-specific sculpture at the renovated site.

Goals for the project include:

- Install interesting and accessible art to add excitement to the space. We anticipate residents and visitors will show their civic pride by taking pictures and posting to share about their experience.

- Contribute to the city's identity and placemaking of the neighborhood.
- Have a distinct and unique piece that emphasizes the theme for the park and pool.
- Must be family friendly

Theme/Motif

The expected theme/motif is to stay in line with the park's name; Ad Astra which means "to the stars". The abutting school's name is Christa McAuliffe named after a teacher and astronaut who died on the Space Shuttle Challenger, further speaking to the cosmic theme. The architecture of the new buildings is a mix of modern and mid-century modern. The subject matter will be proposed by the sculpture candidates using their own unique lens of creative expression.

Site

Ad Astra Park and pool are located at 83rd Street and Maurer Road within a residential neighborhood. It also sits adjacent to an elementary school.

- The Arts Council prefers to locate the new art piece near the center of the park at the gateway to the pool and park, however, the final location will be determined through conversations with the selected artist.



Figure 3 Rendering showing the proposed site improvements.

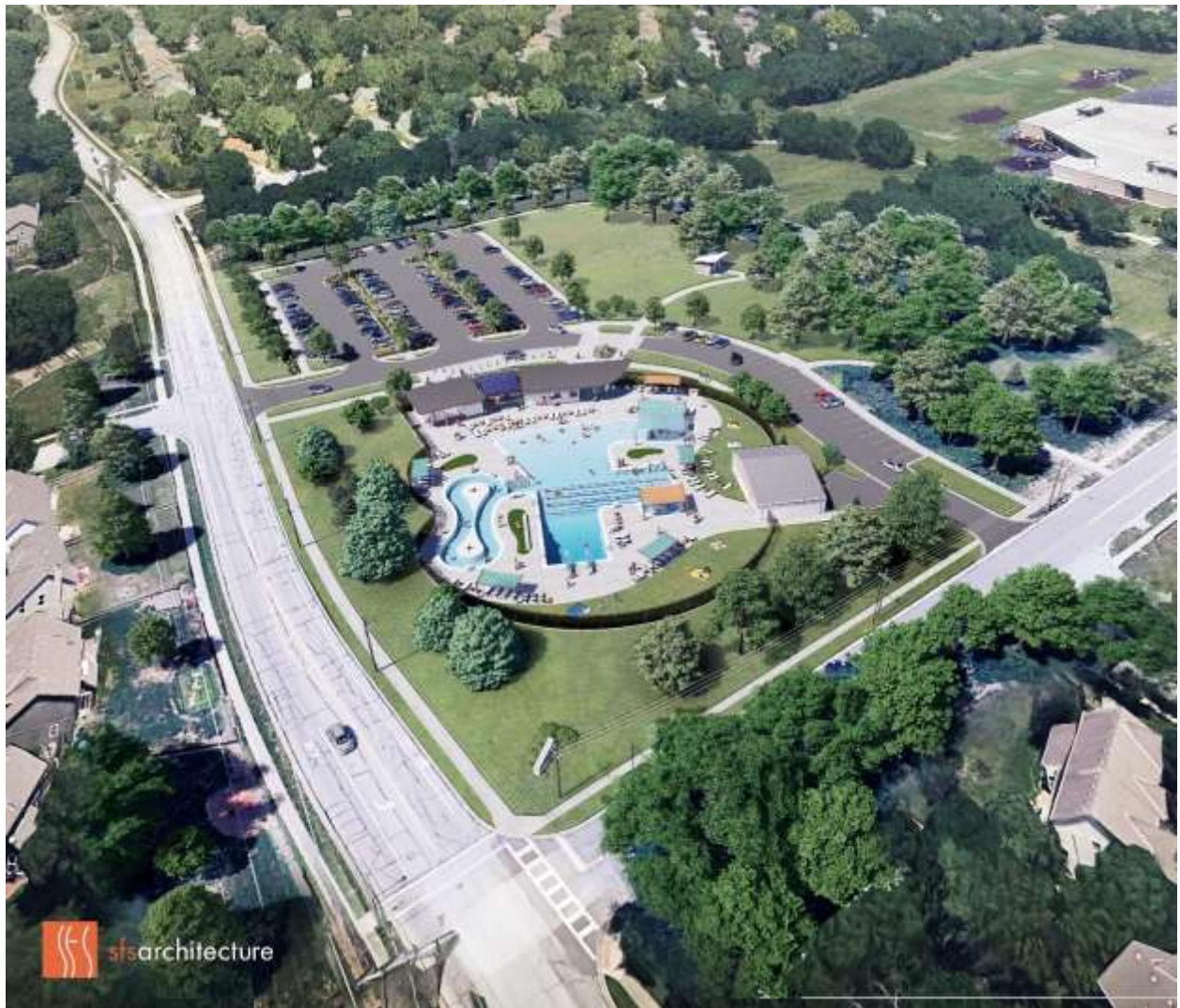


Figure 4 Architect rendering of a Birdseye view from the south



Figure 5 Architect rendering of a Birdseye view from the north



Figure 6 Architect rendering of the zero-depth area of the pool

Anticipated Sculpture Schedule

September 10, 2025	City issues RFP
October 31, 2025 (noon)	Proposals/Concepts due to City
November 18, 2025	Arts Council and Governing Body select preferred artist
November-December, 2025	City and selected artist finalize contract terms and artist begins fabrication
April/May 2026	Proposed installation date of sculpture
TBD	Dedication event

Artist Scope of Work

The selected artist will be responsible for designing, fabricating and installing the artwork, as follows:

- Develop final design documents realistically detailing features of the sculpture and its integration with the site, based on the approved concept proposal.
- Execute the final design on schedule and in a manner that conforms to the approved concept proposal.

- Manage all aspects of the installation of the art piece including any appropriate or necessary weatherproofing coating.
- Provide maintenance and conservation instructions for the completed artwork.
- Work cooperatively and maintain effective communication with all parties involved in the project.
- Collaborate with Lenexa Parks & Recreation staff to develop and lead an educational program related to the sculpture development process or the sculpture itself. Possible examples include:
 - Scheduling an artist talk and/or creating a video for the public to hear about the sculpture.
 - Other idea agreed to by artist and the city.
 - Participating, as requested, in community outreach and attending the dedication event.

Selection Process

- All RFP's submitted will be reviewed by staff to ensure they meet all minimum requirements.
- Staff and the Lenexa Arts Council will shortlist (if necessary).
- The Lenexa Governing Body, Lenexa Arts Council and staff will review shortlisted proposals and score them based on the following criteria:
 - *Excellence & Quality* – Selection should prioritize high-quality pieces that enhance the aesthetic experience and evoke an emotional or narrative response.
 - *Alignment with Vision & Values* – Public art should reflect the city's evolving identity as well as the community's goals and values.
 - *Uniqueness* – Public art should be unique to Lenexa, while complementing the site as well as the existing public art collection.
 - *Durability* - Artworks should be weather-resistant, long-lasting, sustainable, safe, resistant to vandalism and minimally maintainable.
 - *Theme* – Artwork is in line with the motif/theme for this location.
- Optional informal on-site tour/meeting for finalists to ask questions prior to developing the proposal. Thursday, Oct. 9, from 5:30-6:30 p.m., 8265 Maurer Road, Lenexa KS 66219. Please RSVP to Susanne Neely, sneely@lenexa.com by October 6.
- Completed proposals will be submitted by noon on Friday, Oct. 31, 2025.
- November 2025 – The Lenexa Governing Body has final approval of artist and concept.

Submission Requirements and Details

- Proposal materials will include images and narrative. Finalists will be asked to submit the following:
 - Maquette showing detailed rendering of design

- Must be printed on or backed by sturdy display board (for example, gator board or foam core)
 - Display board should be no wider than 24"
 - Digital image showing detailed rendering of design
 - High resolution image showing to-scale design in jpeg format (minimum 300 dpi).
 - Supporting narrative, including:
 - Artist's statement; story/description of design
 - Details about materials to be used, including durability and maintenance expectations
 - Detail about size/dimensions
 - Details about fabrication plans, including any outsourcing plans, schedules, etc.
 - Details about installation requirements, including necessary equipment
 - Details about maintenance requirements
 - Any other information artist deems important to support the proposal
 - Preliminary budget
 - Timeline
 - Artist Resume/CV
 - Artist photo
 - Samples of artist's other installations
 - Name/contact information for 3 professional references
 - If applying as a team:
 - Assign a team leader to respond to the submission questions and any follow up questions from the city
 - Submit one resume, artist statement, artist photo for the team
 - Please include 3 references for projects on which you worked together as a team
- Completed proposals (physical maquette and all other information on a flash/thumb drive) must be submitted by **noon on October 31, 2025** to:

Susanne Neely, Ad Astra Sculpture Project
 Lenexa Recreation Center
 17201 W. 87th Street Parkway
 Lenexa, KS 66219

Budget

The budget for this project is approximately \$30,000. Any proposed design outside of the budget scope will require additional approvals. If the artist's proposed budget exceeds \$30,000, please provide justification in the narrative description. The budget will include all costs of designing, fabricating and installing the artwork, protective coating, including but not limited to all design fees, fabrication, materials and equipment costs, professional fees, travel/lodging during the design, fabrication and installation, insurance, overhead, site work and installation costs. City of Lenexa will provide lighting solutions. The artist will be asked to provide a plan for tools/equipment needed for the installation. A signed waiver of lien will be required at the completion of the project.

Final Agreement

Following approval by the Lenexa Governing Body, the artist will finalize an agreement with the City of Lenexa for final design, fabrication, construction, installation and oversight of the artwork. In addition to the city's standard terms and conditions, the agreement will grant the city the exclusive rights to the artwork including but not limited to all copyright and rights of reproduction.

About Lenexa

Lenexa is located about 12 miles south of Kansas City. Founded in 1869, the 34.3-square-mile city has a resident population of more than 50,000, with a similar number of people who work here. Lenexa enjoys a healthy business base and is considered a city of choice for a variety of high tech and bioscience companies, as well as a number of national and international headquarters. Lenexa is also a fair housing city. Residents are drawn to Lenexa because it is an attractive and safe city, with a rich history and a strong, hometown sense of community spirit. Known as the City of Festivals, Lenexa hosts numerous celebrations and events each year, which draw visitors from the greater metropolitan area and beyond. Citizens and visitors alike enjoy Lenexa's established neighborhoods and commercial developments, beautiful parks and trails, and quality roads and other infrastructure. Lenexa has earned the reputation as a leader in local government initiatives such as public safety, development, festivals, stormwater management, communication and the use of technology.

Other resources

Ad Astra Pool Reconstruction Project – <https://www.lenexa.com/City-Services/Public-Improvement-Projects/Park-Pool-Projects/Ad-Astra-Pool-Reconstruction>

Ad Astra Park– <https://www.lenexa.com/Parks-Places/Parks-Outdoors/Parks/Ad-Astra-Park>

Lenexa Public Art – <https://www.lenexa.com/Events-Activities/Arts-Music/Public-Art>

Questions/Contact

Questions regarding this RFP should be submitted via email by noon on October 29, 2025 to:

Susanne Neely
Recreation Supervisor/Lenexa Arts Council Liaison
Lenexa Parks & Recreation
sneely@lenexa.com