

**Request for Qualifications  
Public Art Design Consultant  
John Chavis Memorial Park Phase I  
Raleigh, North Carolina**



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**Summary:**

The City of Raleigh invites artists or artist teams experienced with the integration of art elements into a public space to submit qualifications to work as a public art consulting member of the project design team for the design and implementation of renovation to John Chavis Memorial Park. Artists must be United States citizens or permanent residents. Up to three finalists will be selected for interviews and paid a \$1,000 stipend.

Qualifications must be submitted by 5pm EDT on Friday, May 13, 2016. There is no fee to submit qualifications.

**Budget:**

The artist or artist team will receive \$20,000 to collaborate with the project design team and develop conceptual designs and related budget. The design fee is inclusive of expenses including travel, hotel, transportation, mileage, etc.

There are multiple phases for Chavis Park's renovation. The artist or artist team will begin consulting work as a part of Phase I of the renovation project, with the potential for public art concepts to be integrated as a part of multiple phases of the renovation.

Phase I will include working with the design team to develop and finalize concept designs and budget for the public art's integration into the design team's schematic design. Pending final approval by the Public Art and Design Board of the public art concept designs, the artist or artist team will then work with the design team to determine what components will be fabricated and installed by the artist or the construction contractor. The artist or artist team will be under a separate subsequent contract for elements fabricated and installed by the artist or artist team.

**Artist/Artist Team Consideration**

The artist or artist team will collaborate closely with the design team to develop integrated art elements that emphasize a goal of honoring the park's rich cultural history.

The artist or artist team should be able to demonstrate experience comprehending master plans and developing concepts that holistically integrate public art that may help guide a visitor's experience and access to this unique park.

The ability to collaborate with community input and work well with the design team throughout the design process is imperative to the success of the project. Artists from Raleigh as well as North Carolina are strongly encouraged to apply.

**John Chavis Memorial Park Phase I Overview:**

In the late 1930s, the City of Raleigh created John Chavis Memorial Park in southeast Raleigh. In order to honor his life and legacy, the park was named after John Chavis, a free African-American Revolutionary War patriot, minister and educator, whose school for free black and white children was located near the park grounds. Created during the period of racial segregation

known as Jim Crow, this park was meant to serve the recreational needs of African-Americans. The Federal Works Progress Administration (WPA) constructed several prominent, still-standing features near the park's original entrance at Worth Street and Chavis Way. John Chavis Memorial Park ultimately included a large swimming pool, bathhouse, playgrounds, football field with seating, baseball diamond, picnic shelters and a carousel.

Because of the harsh realities of racial segregation, John Chavis Memorial Park immediately took on a regional significance, with its range of amenities open to blacks. During World War II, colored soldiers were stationed in temporary facilities on the park. Civil Rights activists met and trained at the park, in part due to the close proximity to Shaw University, where the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee was founded in 1960. Desegregation of the park system ironically witnessed lower resources here, including removal of destination-like features as the park transitioned into more of a neighborhood park.

With the last Park Master Plan Update completed in 1994, community leaders advocated for a park update that would commit to a community vision for the park. In January 2012, the City of Raleigh initiated a community conversation and planning process to develop a revised master plan for John Chavis Memorial Park. It resulted in a community consensus-based master plan update adopted unanimously by the Raleigh City Council on May 20, 2014. The master planning process was guided by a 16-member Public Leadership Group (PLG). The PLG members were selected to include the diversity of residents and users within the park's two-mile service radius and broader, regional historical focus.

The PLG developed the following vision statement:

*The John Chavis Memorial Park is a vibrant community center, downtown attraction and regional destination. The park celebrates the rich history, culture and arts of the surrounding neighborhoods and the City of Raleigh, and offers wonderful public recreation opportunities, event spaces and programs that foster community life. A place of pride and profound remembrance, the park celebrates the life and work of educator John Chavis and recognizes the community's park's history to the African-American community during and following segregation.*

*John Chavis Memorial Park will always offer a safe and welcoming gathering space where family and friends of all cultures come to play, relax, learn and celebrate the big events and small, meaningful moments of life. The park grounds provide a beautiful, clean and refreshing refuge, with access to nature and an expansive view of the downtown Raleigh skyline. Park features and programs promote activities for people of all ages and abilities. Just a few steps from downtown, the park is always full of activity, inspired by innovative programming that is interactive, fun and dynamic.*

On December 2, 2014, Raleigh City Council approved Clearscapes, a Raleigh Architecture and Art firm, to study the Park Master Plan in order to recommend park development strategies. The effort included historic interpretation, phased development considerations, operation and financial analysis, and cost estimates. Throughout the study, public meetings were held to ensure that the recommendations aligned with the Park Master Plan Vision, presented by the

community and adopted by Raleigh City Council in May 2014. Phase 1 construction is expected to begin in late 2017.

The creative developments envisioned in the John Chavis Memorial Park Master Plan are the result of community input, Public Leadership Group meetings, and the original intent of the park as established in 1937. The design for John Chavis Memorial Park includes fluid connections between activities in the park while honoring the original landscape of the park. Some of the park plan renovations include: replacing the neighborhood pool and community center with larger structures and diverse aquatic features, developing respectful adaptive reuse of the original historic Carousel House, establishing a new Heritage Plaza to serve and support the SouthPark Heritage Walk, and developing elements that honor the park's historic gathering places and features, such as the train ride, playground plane, and "bandstand" area associated with the Teenage Frolic dance parties.

**Possible Public Art Goals and Opportunities:**

Public art in the John Chavis Memorial Park could involve a historic site interpretation of the cultural landscape, including the "separate but equal" origins of the park as an African-American civic space. There is also potential for the public art to coordinate with the community-based initiatives and historical research represented in the South Park Heritage Walk.

Key to the successful integration of public art into Chavis Park is the desire to address how community members will engage with the multiple historic, cultural and social stories that emanate from the park's rich legacy. The art will ideally contribute to celebrating a historic landscape that requires creative and respectful storytelling.

See the appendix for a list of resources about the John Chavis Memorial Park, the Chavis Park Master Plan and the South Park Heritage Trail.

**Selection Criteria and Process:**

Public art at selected sites is authorized by the Half Percent for Art ordinance established by the Raleigh City Council in 2009 and implemented by Raleigh's Public Art and Design Board and the City of Raleigh Arts Commission.

The Public Art and Design Board has appointed a five-member artist selection panel that includes a member of the board, an artist or arts professional, a community representative, a design professional and a representative from the City of Raleigh's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department.

The selection process will have two stages. During the first stage, the artist selection panel will evaluate artist qualifications based on five criteria: artistic merit, urban park place-making experience, practice in collaborative public art processes that involve municipalities, project management experience and technical expertise.

For the second round, the artist selection panel will identify up to three finalists to invite to Raleigh for interviews. Finalists will receive a \$1,000 stipend to cover travel and related expenses associated with the interview. In addition to reviewing qualifications and previous experience in detail,

panelists will discuss with the finalists their approaches to the project and respond to questions. A specific proposal is not expected at this interview.

The artist selection panel will choose the artist for the project and forward that recommendation to the Public Art and Design Board. Upon approval by the Board, a scope of services and budget will be developed based on the artist's or artist team's approach to the project.

**Project Timeline:**

RFQ Application Deadline:	May 13, 2016
Finalists Notified:	June 2016
Finalists Interviewed:	June 2016
Project Awarded:	July 2016
Chavis Park Phase I Opens:	Summer 2018

**Submission and Deadline:**

All RFQ materials must be received in the office no later than Friday, May 13, 2016 at 5pm EDT.

***Incomplete or late submissions will not be considered. Applicants are encouraged to submit in advance of the deadline so that any unforeseen problems with materials can be addressed.***

**HOW TO APPLY:**

As a part of the City of Raleigh's sustainability initiative, Raleigh encourages the reduction of paper use. To that end, we ask that applications be submitted in one of the following ways:

1. Email your files to Brigitta Mills at [Brigitta.Mills@raleighnc.gov](mailto:Brigitta.Mills@raleighnc.gov) with "Chavis Park Phase I" in the subject line.
2. Upload your files via the City's Sharefile account. Send an email to Brigitta Mills at [Brigitta.Mills@raleighnc.gov](mailto:Brigitta.Mills@raleighnc.gov) for upload instructions. You will receive email confirmation upon successful upload of files.

Artists wishing to be considered must submit the following materials. **For written materials, please maintain at least ½" margins on all sides and font size no smaller than 11.5 pt.:**

**1. Statement of Interest**

A one-page statement outlining your interest in this project and your experience working on comparable projects, including your experience working with architectural and engineering project teams. Include how your work and experience will complement this project.

*File titled Lastname Firstname\_statement.*

**2. Professional Résumé**

A résumé of no more than two pages that includes information regarding public art commissions, exhibitions and installations, awards, grants and education, with an emphasis on public art projects of similar size and scope in the past ten years. If applying as a team, submit a separate résumé for each team member. *File titled Lastname Firstname\_résumé*

**3. Three Professional References**

Contact information for three references should be submitted, including name, title and affiliation, phone number and email address. References should be able to speak to your ability to provide services for a public art project of similar size and scope.

*File titled Lastname Firstname\_references*

**4. Previous Work, Digital Images**

Ten digital images of recent previous work (created within the past ten years) in JPG format (150 dpi at minimum size 5.5" x 7"; maximum size 11 x 14"). All images must be saved using a file name and number that corresponds to the image identification list.

*Image titled Lastname Firstname\_image #*

**5. Image Identification List**

An image identification list corresponding to the submitted digital images. Each image should include: image number, artist's name, title, year, media, location and project budget, dimensions, commissioning agency, collaborators or design professionals (if applicable). *File titled Lastname Firstname\_list*

**Additional Information**

For additional information, contact Brigitta Mills, public art assistant for the Office of Raleigh Arts, at 919-996-4689 or [Brigitta.Mills@raleighnc.gov](mailto:Brigitta.Mills@raleighnc.gov). For information regarding the project, visit the Office of Raleigh Arts website at [raleighnc.gov](http://raleighnc.gov) (search for Artist Calls or Half-Percent for Art).

**Suggested Reading, Chavis Park:**

[South Park Heritage Walk Concept Plan](#)

[John Chavis Memorial Park history and past planning documents](#)

[John Chavis Memorial Park Community Conversation website](#)

[John Chavis Memorial Park Master Plan](#)

