



FOR FREEDOM AND EQUITY

REQUESTS FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Harriet Tubman and The Battle against Erasure: The Slavery and Freedom Project

Deadline for applications: 11/01/2022

Harriet Tubman Center for Freedom and Equity
PO Box 6000
Binghamton, NY 13902-6000
htc@binghamton.edu

I: About Binghamton University

Binghamton University is a top ranked public university in the state of New York. It has grown from a quality liberal arts college to a Nobel Prize winning premier public university with a strong commitment to diversity and inclusion. As a public university, we are dedicated to enriching the lives of people in the region, state, nation and the world through discovery and education. We are also enriched by partnerships with these communities.

At Binghamton, we believe that a 21st century college education requires a deep engagement with the world. We value curiosity and exploration in art and culture as well as in science and engineering. Students from more than 100 countries choose Binghamton because it is a university that emphasizes meaningful cultural and intellectual exchange.

II: Project Background

The Harriet Tubman Center for Freedom and Equity at Binghamton University conducts interdisciplinary research with leading academics and grassroots organizations on the legacy of slavery and freedom to solve contemporary problems in the areas of racial equity and civil rights. In what we are calling a new civil rights movement, the Tubman Center sees the preservation of historical spaces, events and people as a civil right.

Historical erasure affects our everyday thinking about racial issues. Our Slavery and Freedom Project is essential to fill the gaps left by incomplete educational programming on every level – from kindergarten to college. Inspired by the powerful work done establishing memorials of the Holocaust as well as the Tubman Center's successful creation of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 2021, we propose to develop memorials and accompanying educational programming based on the 1960's freedom school model in locations in the United States deeply impacted by slavery, starting first with the city of Binghamton.

III: Project Overview: The Call

The Harriet Tubman Center for Freedom and Equity is accepting qualifications from creative individuals including sculptors, landscape architects and engineers to create a commemorative memorial intertwining history, art and landscape.

The selected finalist will be asked to create a permanent commemorative statue and memorial garden on the Downtown Center campus of Binghamton University in the heart of the city of Binghamton. The location in question overlooks the Chenango River.

The statue must be constructed of durable materials capable of withstanding the elements in upstate New York. The completed project will be a space of reflection, education and memorialization of the work that abolitionist Harriet Tubman accomplished in her lifetime.

Our vision for the statue is a figurative rendering; otherwise, artists are free to share their interpretation of Tubman given her biography, the mission of the Tubman Center, the project background and the location on Binghamton University's campus. Artists could choose to feature Tubman's tenure as a conductor on the Underground Railroad network but they could also choose to feature Tubman's environmental orientation (she was known for using medicinal herbs and flowers to treat fevers and other conditions of those in her care) or to emphasize her tenure as a civil war nurse, scout and battalion leader. We leave the interpretation up to each artist who submits a proposal.

The word that captures what we hope to see embodied in this statue is the word **INSPIRE**. We hope all who view it will be inspired to continue her brave work in the present day.

An art jury, selected by the PI's of the project, will select a pool of three potential artists who will move forward with development of models using appropriate materials.

IV: Project Goals

The goal is to create a figurative rendering of Harriet Tubman as the first stop on a Downtown Binghamton Freedom Trail. There are 12 spots identified in Binghamton which are associated with the Underground Railroad network and/or anti-slavery sites.

V. Project Budget

The proposed budget range for this project is currently \$100,000.00 to \$400,000.00.

VI: Artist Eligibility

This is an open call to sculptors or other artists based in the United States. Proposals by artists who have demonstrated abilities in executing creative, durable public art exhibits will be considered.

VII: Selection Process and Timeline *

November 1, 2022	Submission package due 11/01/22 by 11:59pm.
November 2022	The Art Jury, appointed by the Director and sub-committee, will review all submissions for completion. Three (3) finalists will be selected.
December 2022	Each finalist will be informed of the jury's decision and next steps.
January 2023	Each finalist will receive a \$5,000 honorarium. This honorarium is to be utilized for proposal and budget development, research and creation of a model sculpture. Engagement with stakeholders is required as part of the development, including Binghamton University affiliates and the community.
April 2023	Finalists will present their research and reveal their model sculpture to the Art Jury and subcommittee.
May 2023	Art Jury will evaluate model submissions for accuracy, deviations from parameters and make a final decision.
May 2023	Art subcommittee will meet with the finalist to review sculpture parameters, proposal deadlines, milestones and budget.
July 2023	First milestone check-in with artist presentation on sculpture progress to the subcommittee
September 2023	Site preparation
October 2023	Final product is due. The artist will present their final creation to the subcommittee. The final piece will be reviewed for accuracy and completion.
October 2023	Preparation for sculpture installation at site and unveiling ceremony
November 2023	Unveiling ceremony

*Dates subject to change

VIII: Site Details

The plan at present is to locate the artwork on the Chenango riverfront located on Binghamton University's downtown campus. The dimensions of the proposed site are approximately 14ft x 10ft.







IX: Inquiries

Please address questions by email or phone to:
Harriet Tubman Center for Freedom and Equity
Attn: Anne Bailey or Shauna Asson
htc@binghamton.edu
PO Box 6000
Binghamton, NY 13902-6000
607 777-2668

X: How to Apply

Completed applications must be submitted via this [form](#).
Application packages must be received no later than 11:59 pm on 11/01/2022 EST.
All submissions will be evaluated on the completeness and quality of the content. Only those proposals that provide complete information, as listed below, will be considered for evaluation.

The following items must be included in your application:

- Resume or Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Cover Letter summarizing the main elements of the proposal
- Statement of interest: a statement expressing your interest in the project and how your experience relates to the scope of work
- Minimum ten (10) high quality portfolio images of completed recent installations. Include the specific project name and location, client name/organization and contact person together with title, organization, address, telephone number, email, artist(s) name, artwork title, dimensions, media, year of completion and a brief description of each image