



# Public Art at John Chavis Memorial Park Aquatics Facility and Heritage Plaza

*Call for Artists | Request for Qualifications*



*John Chavis Memorial Park: Past to Present is an outdoor exhibit at the Heritage Plaza, interpreting events that impacted the park's development while highlighting community stories.*

## Summary

- Create Public Artwork at John Chavis Memorial Park Phase III. This project is part of the John Chavis Park Improvements in the 2022 Parks Bond.
- Artwork can be integrated into the planned Aquatics Center and/or upgraded Heritage Plaza, or artwork can be stand-alone in the park.
- **\$86,000** budget to design and fabricate. Additional funds are held for engagement and accessibility.
- Up to three semi-finalists will be selected to interview and paid a **\$100** honorarium.
- **Deadline to apply: September 30, 2023**
- **Submit online at:** <https://raleigharts.slideroom.com/#/permalink/program/73761>

## Eligibility

1. This opportunity is open to individuals and teams **who live or work in the United States.**
2. Applicants must be legally authorized to work in the United States and have unexpired documents that establish employment eligibility.
3. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age.
4. Applicants must have at least a three-year history of professional practice.
5. Applicants must have demonstrated experience in design through the creation of high-quality work.
6. Lead applicant cannot be enrolled in an undergraduate course of study in the visual arts as of January 1, 2023.

## Budget

**\$86,000** budget inclusive of design, artwork fabrication, community presentations, taxes, travel and fees.

Raleigh Arts will hold separate funding to cover community engagement expenses and accessibility accommodations for the project. These funds will be administered by the arts office and can cover things like public meetings, creative input gathering events, working with local community historians, and hiring local artists to help with outreach. The Artist will work with Raleigh Arts to create an engagement plan.



*Aerial view of the John Chavis Park, circa 2022. The current park includes a historic carousel, splashpad, playground, heritage plaza, track, and community center.*

## Project Overview

The City of Raleigh seeks to hire an artist to create public art for inclusion in the aquatic facility and or heritage plaza included in Phase 2 Improvements. As a continuation of ongoing planned improvement at John Chavis Park, the city plans to build:

- A new **aquatic center** for all ages with indoor and outdoor facilities for recreation, competition, and wellness opportunities
- **Heritage Plaza improvement** as an anchor point along the South Park Heritage Walk. Additional historic interpretive display.

**The project timeline for planning, design and construction of these improvements runs from 2023-2029.**

The Chavis Park improvements project coincides with a similar planned improvement project at the John P. “Top” Greene Community Center and South Park Heritage Walk. The City and the selected public artists for these projects will have opportunities to collaborate on community engagement and siting of artwork.



*Image from 2014 Master Plan for Chavis Park, which includes a potential location for the proposed aquatic center.*

## Public Art Goals and Opportunities

- Artwork can be stand alone or integrated into the Aquatic Center or Heritage Plaza.
- Selected artist will have the opportunity to work with the architectural and design teams to integrate artwork into the landscape and/or buildings.
- Work with community stakeholders and elders to continue telling the story of the park and surrounding neighborhoods.
- Follow the guidelines of the [The John Chavis Memorial Park Cultural Heritage Interpretive Plan](#).

- The key message of the Cultural Heritage Interpretive Plan is that the park stands as a symbol of African American agency and identity and remains a place of power and civic engagement for the local, regional, and even national Black community.
- The plan organizes interpretive stories into a series of key messages including John Chavis, A Legacy of Service, A Place to Gather and Celebrate, Athletics and Athletes, Nature in my Neighborhood, and finally, Past to Present.



*Existing Public Art at Chavis Park. Chavis Reclaimed. Chavis Memorial Art Glass Curtain by artist David Wilson.*

## **Previous Plans: 2014 Master Plan and Cultural Heritage Interpretive Plan**

[The 2014 John Chavis Master Plan](#) continues to guide development in the park. It is a helpful resource for artists as they acquaint themselves with the goals of the community.

[The John Chavis Memorial Park Cultural Heritage Interpretive Plan](#) creates a framework that will guide future investments and efforts related to interpretation at John Chavis Memorial Park.



*The park circa 1938. Image courtesy of Esther Delaney.*

## History Of John Chavis Memorial Park

The John Chavis Memorial Park opened to the public in 1937. The park was named in honor of John Chavis (1763-1838), an African American minister, educator, and Revolutionary War veteran who lived and worked in Raleigh in the early 19th century.

Created during the Jim Crow era of racial segregation, John Chavis Memorial Park was initially intended to serve the recreational needs of the local African American community. The park took on regional significance as it was the only recreational facility of its size, and with its range of amenities that African Americans could use between Washington, DC, and Atlanta, GA. During World War II, African American soldiers were stationed in the park, and the Works Progress Administration constructed several prominent features in the park around this time. In April 2016 John Chavis Memorial Park was added to the National Register of Historic Places highlighting numerous contributing structures still in use. In 2021, the Park and Community Center re-opened after Phase 1 improvements were completed.

## Selection Criteria and Process

Applications submitted in response to this RFQ will be reviewed by the City of Raleigh Public Art Director, who will then forward all complete and eligible applications received by the deadline to the Artist Selection Panel. The Panel may include a member of the City of Raleigh Arts Commission, community artists, arts professionals, design professionals, and other stakeholders.

The Artist Selection Panel will evaluate the qualifications of artists based on four criteria: artistic merit; appropriateness for the project; community engagement; and social/cultural relevance of work.

## Project Timeline

RFQ Application Deadline	September 30, 2023
Semi-Finalist Selected & Notified:	October 2023
Semi-Finalists Interviews	November 2023
Project Awarded	November 2023



*Existing Public Art at Chavis Park. Glimpses of the Promised Land. Mike Roig*

## How to Apply

Apply online using this link:

<https://raleigharts.slideroom.com/#/permalink/program/73761>

Those wishing to be considered must submit the following materials:

**1. Statement of Interest**

A statement outlining your interest in this residency and your experience working on public art projects or relevant art experience. Include how your work and experience will complement this residency.

You can submit this as:

- A written statement of 500 words or less
- Or a two minute or less audio or video clip. We will only play the first two minutes of audio for the panel.

**2. Biography**

A biography of no more than one page that includes information regarding your practice, experience, and education. If applying as a team, submit a single file containing separate biographies for each team member.

**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 or artwork of a similar scope.

**4. Previous Work, Digital Images**

Eight digital images of recent previous work (created within the past ten years) Each image should include: image number, artist's name, title, year, media, location, project budget, dimensions, commissioning agency, and collaborators or design professionals (if applicable).

## Submission and Deadline

All RFQ materials must be received no later than **September 30, 2023**, at 11:59 p.m. Incomplete or late submittals will not be considered.

## Non Discrimination Policy

The policy of the City of Raleigh is, and shall be, to oppose any discrimination based on actual or perceived age, mental or physical disability, sex, religion, race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, familial or marital status, economic status, veteran status or national origin in any aspect of modern life. The City of Raleigh Arts Commission strives for a diverse representation of voices, life experiences, views, and interests to reflect the collaborative community we have and wish to serve.

## **Additional Information**

For questions, contact Jenn Hales, Public Art Coordinator for Raleigh Arts, [Jenn.Hales@raleighnc.gov](mailto:Jenn.Hales@raleighnc.gov).

For relevant information regarding the project, visit the Raleigh Arts website at:

<https://raleighnc.gov/services/arts/artist-calls>