



Raleigh  
Arts

# Public Art at John P "Top" Greene Cultural Center and the South Park Heritage Walk

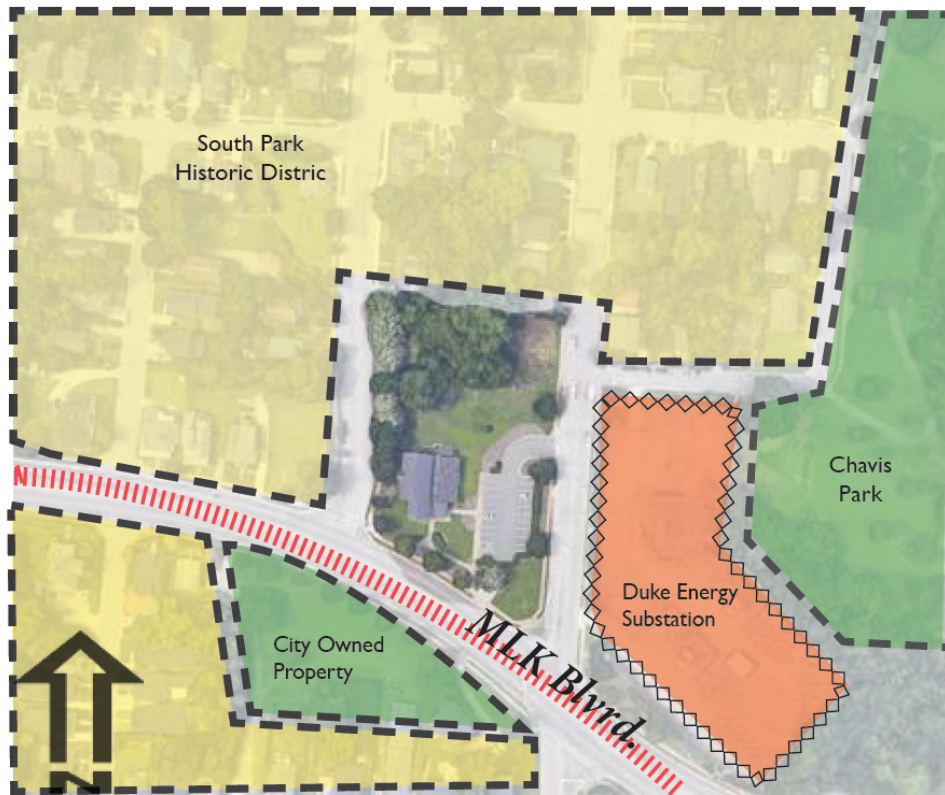
*Call for Artists | Request for Qualifications*



*John P "Top" Greene Community Center*

## Summary

- Create Public Artwork at John P. "Top" Greene park and the South Park Heritage Walk as part of the 2022 Parks Bond project.
- Artwork can be integrated and/or stand-alone
- **\$86,000** budget to design and fabricate. Additional funds are held for engagement.
- Up to three semi-finalists will be selected to interview (virtual) and paid a **\$100** honorarium.
- **Deadline to apply: September 30, 2023**
- **Submit online at: <https://raleigharts.slideroom.com/#/permalink/program/73758>**



*Conceptual map of Park and surroundings from Top Greene Center proposed Master plan by Paul Hesselblad*

## 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.



*Proposed Approach to Top Greene Center from conceptual Master plan by Paul Hesselblad*

## Project Overview

As part of the 2022 Parks bond, the city plans:

- Renovation and expansion of John P "Top" Greene Cultural Center with the associated site and stormwater enhancements.
- Implementation of South Park Heritage Walk to highlight the history of the South Park-East Raleigh neighborhood. The walk will utilize existing sidewalks and may include updated signage, and integrated landscape features along the trail. These details will be worked out with the design team.
- Another artist team Edwin Harris and Stacey Utley will also be creating work along the South Park Heritage Walk. The corridor is long, and art will likely be situated at different points. This could be an opportunity for collaboration on artwork and/or locations.
- The John P. "Top" Greene Community Center and South Park Heritage Walk improvements project coincides with a similar planned improvement project at the John Chavis Memorial Park. The City and the selected public artists for these

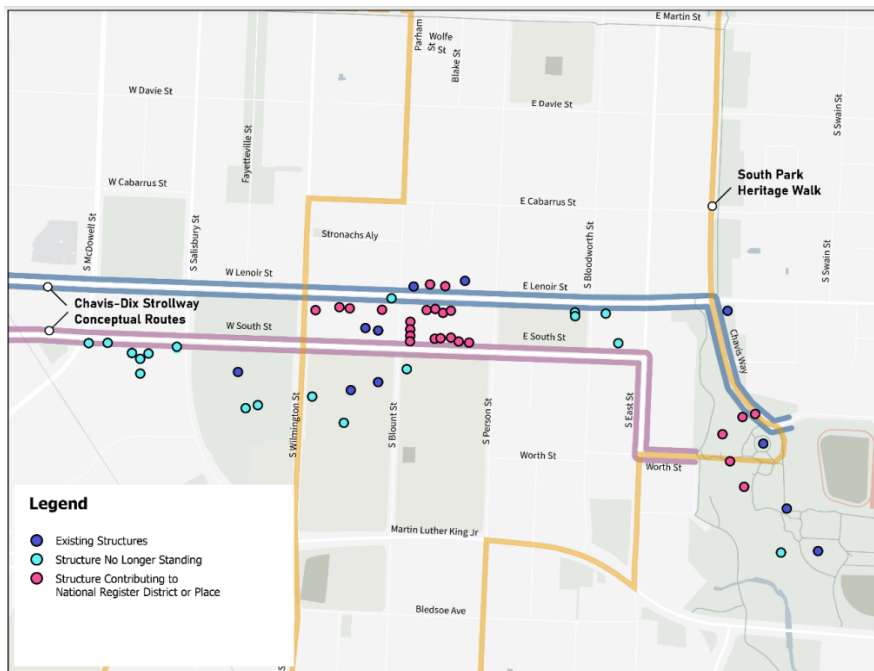
projects will have opportunities to collaborate on community engagement and siting of artwork.

The proposed South Park Heritage Walk, for the first time, will comprehensively tell the story of an important historically Black neighborhood—the South Park neighborhood. The walk route is included in the boundary of the Council-endorsed South Park Cultural District.

Points of cultural significance included in the South Park heritage walk are:

- Shaw University
- City Market
- City Cemetery
- John Chavis Memorial Park
- John P "Top" Greene Community Center
- Moore Square
- Mt. Hope Cemetery
- Washington Elementary School
- Raleigh's former Black Main Street
- Intersection with the Dix to Chavis Strollway

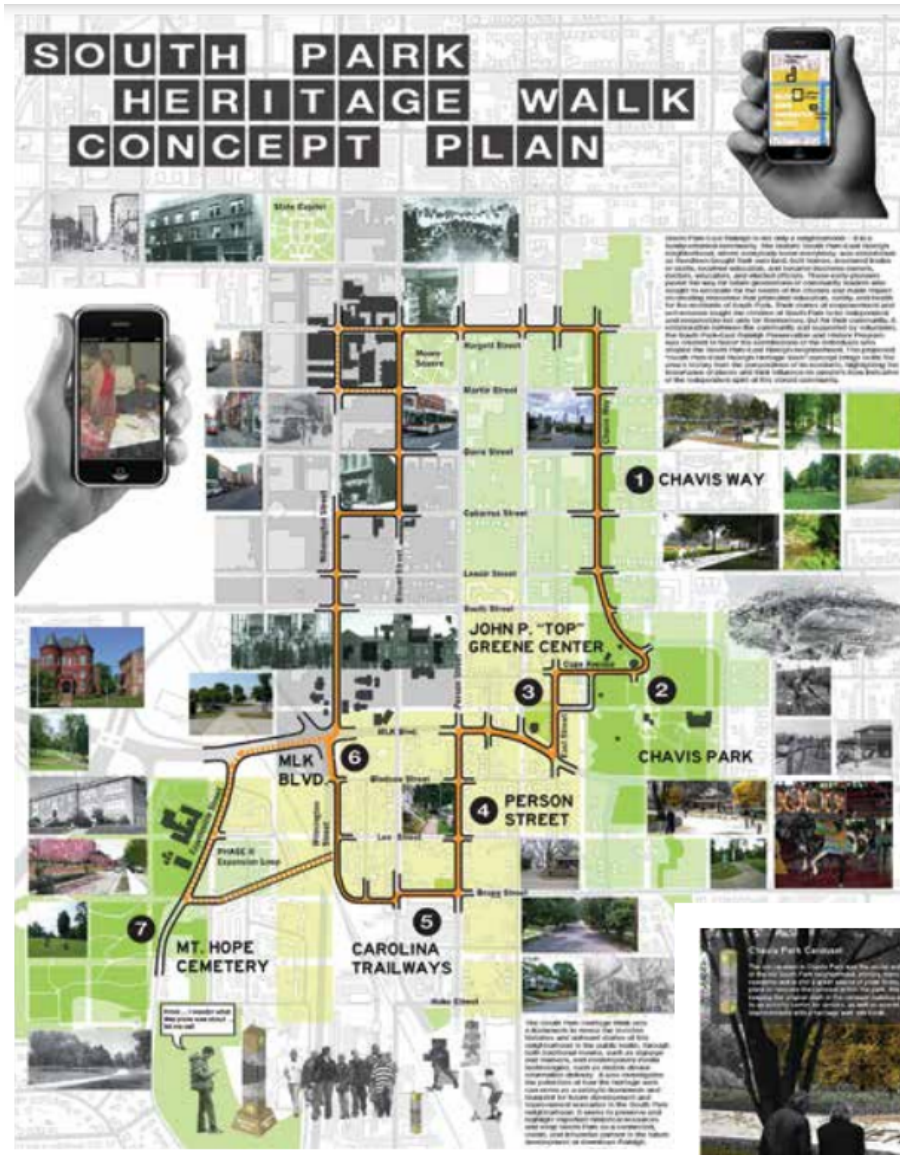
**The project timeline for planning, design and construction of these improvements runs from 2023-2027.**



*Proposed map of the two intersecting cultural trails. South Park Heritage Walk depicted in orange, and conceptual Dix-Chavis Strollway is Blue*



A helpful reference for additional information is the 2023 book written by historian Carmen Cauthen, [Historic Black Neighborhoods of Raleigh](#), which has additional information about the area and its history.



2014 Map created by Professor Kofi Boone and NCSU students content development from the South Park residents. This project was instrumental in designating the overall importance as well as significant sites for the history walk.

## History of the Heritage Walk

The South Park Heritage Walk report developed by SPERNA in collaboration with the NC State University College of Design documented much of the unique cultural history of this neighborhood through extensive community engagement efforts. The resulting report recommended the Heritage Walk to connect the neighborhood's various historical and cultural points of interest. The report also suggested other improvements such as

community design, public spaces, signage, and wayfinding to the overall experience of the walk.



*Top Greene Community Center*

## **Top Greene**

The center is named after Mr. John P. “Top” Greene, a community activist and South Park community resident. The center features historical exhibits and displays that interpret the history and culture of the South Park and East Raleigh neighborhoods. The Center is currently used by community groups who meet in the meeting hall, and is also the site of a neighborhood archive room. As part of the renovations the archive room will be formalized and expanded. The vision for the park is for the expanded “Top” Greene center to act as a cultural and community hub.

## **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      |

## How to Apply

Apply online using this link:

**<https://raleigharts.slideroom.com/#/permalink/program/73758>**

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>**