



# Public Art at Tarboro Road Park

*Call for Artists | Request for Qualifications*



*Tarboro Road Park Community Center*

## Summary

- Create Public Artwork at Tarboro Road Park. This project is part of the 2022 Parks Bond.
- Artwork can be integrated into the renovation of the historic building or incorporated into the site.
- **\$129,000** 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: March 30, 2024**
- **Submit online at: <https://raleigharts.slideroom.com/#/permalink/program/77260>**

## 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.
7. Lead Artists who have received a commission or purchase for over \$75,000 from the City of Raleigh cannot be considered for another commission or purchase over \$75,000 for 3 years after the date of a signed contract or letter of agreement. Artists affected by this rule can still apply as a member of an artist team, during the 3 year time frame, as long as they are not applying as lead artist. This rule does not apply to artist invitationals, only to open artist calls.

## Budget

**\$129,000** 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. The arts office will administer these funds 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.



*Site Overview*

## **Project Overview**

Tarboro Road Park, 121 N. Tarboro Road in Raleigh, is an existing 3.2-acre park site approximately half mile east of downtown at the corner of Tarboro Road and East Edenton Street.

The park was established in the 1970's to serve the surrounding historically African American community. Today it is the host to a heavily used community center and the historic Saint Monica Teen Center. Site amenities include a picnic shelter, tennis courts, and a playground constructed in the 1990's.

Since the establishment of the Tarboro Road Park, the community center has been incrementally enlarged over the past several decades to serve recreation and education needs of the expanding neighborhoods. The current room layout along with the age and condition of the facilities are no longer adequate for the needs of the growing and transforming community.

The redevelopment of Tarboro Road Park is funded via the 2022 City of Raleigh Parks Bond in the amount of \$29,300,000 for community engagement, design, permitting, and construction. Redevelopment of the park will center around a new community center and may include a new playground, community gathering areas, court play space, landscaping, parking, and stormwater improvements. The project also includes improvements and upgrades to the historic Saint Monica Teen Center.

**The project timeline for planning, design, and construction of these improvements runs from 2024-2028.**



St. Monica's School, 2009 Image by Michael Zirkle Photography, copyright Raleigh Historic Development Commission.

### **Public Art Goals and Opportunities**

- Artwork can be stand alone or integrated into buildings and site.
- 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 to define storytelling and aesthetic goals for the artwork.
- Help to share the story of the deep history of the College Park Community.



*Saint Agnes Nurses, Photo by Albert Barden*



*Saint Agnes Hospital, current site*

## About the Site and Community

Tarboro Road Park sits within the boundaries of the College Park neighborhood, the historic Saint Agnes Hospital site, and Saint Augustines' University is located within a few blocks of the park.

**The Saint Monica Teen Center** on the site is a designated historic landmark and the former home of the Catholic St. Monica's school and New Bern Avenue Daycare.

The St. Monica's School in Raleigh, operating from 1930 to 1967, was a significant educational institution for African American children during segregation. Established by the Catholic Diocese of Raleigh, it was the only Catholic school for African Americans in the city. The well-preserved building, now housing the Saint Monica Teen Center, serves as a reminder of mission schools' role in African American education during the Jim Crow era. The school, influential in the East Raleigh community, closed in 1967 during the integration period, merging into Sacred Heart School. The site's history reflects a broader context of African American education in Raleigh during the 19th and 20th centuries.

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.

Additional landmarks nearby to the site include:

**The Richard B. Harrison Library:** the library first opened in 1935 to serve as a public library for the African American community in Raleigh. The driving force behind the library was Mollie Huston Lee, who served as the librarian for more than 30 years. Mrs. Lee built outstanding collections of African American literature and local history. The vertical files in the library document individuals, institutions, and events significant to the history of Raleigh through the middle part of the 20th century.

**Saint Agnes Hospital:** The Saint Agnes Hospital was the only hospital serving African Americans in the Jim Crow Era from Washington DC to Atlanta. Built 1896, Saint Agnes Hospital was a training school for Black nurses at Saint Augustine's University, a private historically black college founded in 1867 for the education of freed enslaved people. Saint Agnes is also a vessel to tell the stories of the students, hospital staff and those they cared for. Many prominent Black Raleigh residents were born at the hospital.

**Saint Augustine’s University:** The University was chartered in July 19, 1867, by the Reverend J. Brinton Smith, D.D., secretary of the Freedman’s Commission of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and the Right Reverend Thomas Atkinson, D.D., Bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina. The school opened its doors for instruction on January 13, 1868. The School became a four-year institution in 1927.

Under the direction of Rev. Henry B. Delany, the students quarried the stones for the construction of the Saint Augustine’s Historic Chapel, and laid the cornerstone in 1895. The Chapel is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1896, the College further extended its mission by establishing St. Agnes Hospital and Training School for Nurses to provide medical care for and by African Americans. It was the “first” school of nursing in the state of North Carolina for African-American students and served as the only hospital that served African Americans until 1960. Another “first” Saint Augustine’s University is especially proud of is that the University was the nation’s first historically black university to own an on-campus commercial radio station (WAUG-AM 750) and television station (WAUG-LD).

**Surrounding Neighborhoods:** The site is surrounded by historically Black neighborhoods including areas where the Hungry Neck, Idlewild, Cotton Place, and St. Petersburg freedman’s villages once stood. College Park and Washington Terrace are two historically black neighborhoods that were built to serve faculty, staff, and families connected to the University. Residents recount that during segregation, the neighborhood was self-sustaining and had everything they needed in businesses, hospitals, libraries and schools.

**O’Rorke Catholic Cemetery and City Cemetery:**

<https://raleighnc.gov/parks/services/historic-cemeteries>

**Existing Artwork:**

The Community Center currently hosts a mural by local teens and there is a temporary public art piece planned for the gymnasium created by artist Cianna Jackson in collaboration with participants from the Saint Monica Teen Center. Although both artworks are temporary, there is interest in working with teens on the site to create additional artworks.

## 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           | March 30, 2024 |
| Semi-Finalist Selected & Notified: | April 2024     |

|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Semi-Finalists Interviews | May 2024 |
| Project Awarded           | May 2024 |

## How to Apply

Apply online using this link:

**<https://raleigharts.slideroom.com/#/permalink/program/77260>**

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 **March 30 2024**, 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>**