



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL:

ART FOR THE PEOPLE

Budget:	15k for the artist or team; 5k for the artist apprentice; 10k for materials
RFP Official Release:	January 2021
Zoom Information Session:	February 15, 2021
Deadline for Submissions:	March 1, 2021
Finalists notified:	TBD
Commission Awarded:	TBD
Contact Info:	Fonta High, Beacon Hill Black Alliance for Human Rights Phone: 770-377-8197 Email: transformation88.3@gmail.com

Overview

The **Beacon Hill Black Alliance for Human Rights**, in conjunction with the **Decatur Arts Alliance** and **Decatur Makers**, invite professional artists or artist teams to submit a proposal to design and fabricate an installation to be placed on public land in the community of Beacon Hill in Decatur, Georgia. This piece will be an addition to the City of Decatur's public art collection.

Budget Description

The budget covers an artist commission/design fee and coverage of project-related costs, including labor, fabrication, materials, tools, delivery of artwork to site, and installation. The commissioners will be involved in the fabrication and installation of this artwork, to a degree that shall be determined upon the grant of this commission, and the artist's proposal may include any of the capabilities the commissioning organizations, which include student volunteer labor, welding, woodworking, CNC/laser cutting, and an electronics shop. Any expense that exceeds the contracted amount will be the artist's responsibility.

Artist In Residence Award

The artist will also be named Artist(s) In Residence at Decatur Makers for one year, including unlimited access to the makerspace that includes a woodshop, metal shop, digital fabrication tools, and electronics shop.

Project Description

This commission shall facilitate the design and fabrication of a piece of public art to serve as a public form of cultural education and a catalyst for dialogue about human rights issues in the community. This work will encourage audience interaction and will acknowledge the history of colonialism and white supremacy in Georgia while teaching residents about how to be an anti-racist community member for the future. In light of Beacon Hill's successful movement to remove the Lost Cause Confederate Monument that stood outside the Dekalb Courthouse since 1908, this work should stand as a new monument - one that properly reflects the goals and values of the Decatur Community and its residents of color.

The following are the motivating principles for the design:

- This work should draw from themes of **Afrofuturism** through an interactive design that uses technology to constitute a powerful act of Black speculative imagination that embodies the most progressive and forward-looking aspects of Beacon Hill's vision for a more just future for the African diaspora in America and Dekalb County, *keeping in mind the cultural colonialism that often dominates mass culture*. As such, the work should generate an immersive quality, using tools such as augmented reality (AR), projected or sonic art, or another technology that allows for additional powerful layers of experience and interaction with the artwork, while being conscious of issues of equity and not worsening the digital divide within our community.
- The work should draw inspiration from Dekalb County's legacy of **heroism and bravery by ordinary people** to protest against racial injustice, as exemplified by former Decatur Mayor Elizabeth Wilson, who as a child confronted the Ku Klux Klan in the Decatur Square, became one of the first Black residents of Dekalb County to demand a library card, led the fight to desegregate the Decatur schools, and then became the first Black and first woman Mayor of Decatur.
- Embody the theme of **erasure**, primarily the Beacon Hill Community's erasure from the story of City of Decatur through gentrification, and additionally the erasure of dark-

skinned women omitted from media conceptions of beauty, and the erasure of Mvskoke (“Creek”), Cherokee, and other displaced Sovereign Indigenous Nations from this region.

Eligible Artists

We seek to commission a professional Black and/or Indigenous artists from the greater Atlanta area who is excited to engage in dialogue with our community of activists and makers as the design and vision evolves and is finalized. Less-established or conceptual artists will also be eligible even if they do not have the resources to fabricate the artwork or sculpture themselves, so long as they can demonstrate an original body of work, as Decatur Makers will help with sourcing of materials and will leverage their community network of expertise to assist with making the artist’s vision a reality. The finalist will be selected using a juried process that will include Black artistic voices with particular focus on the inclusion of a Black female artist for the artist chosen.

Application Preferences:

- Resume/CV
- Work Examples: 3-5
- References: 3
- Submit a one-page proposal explaining your concept for this artwork. One additional page may be attached for sketches, renderings, or drawings. Please include web links to any interactive examples you wish us to consider.

Selection Criteria

Artists may apply in teams. Artists applying as a team must split the allotted number of work examples between themselves. The proposals will be narrowed to three artists or artist teams who will be asked to submit a detailed concept, budget, and proposal.

The artist will be selected based on the following criteria:

1. Innovation of concept demonstrating creative thought about using art as a tool for advocacy of justice and social change.
2. Artist merit and technical expertise
3. Demonstrated successful prior experience in executing public art projects of a similar scope.

There will be an information session to allow Q&A and lower the barriers to entry and broaden the application pool in addition to an apprentice budget to encourage mentorship of younger artists starting at age 16.

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