

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Black Brigade Monument

Description of Cincinnati Riverfront Park

Situated on the Ohio River along the southern edge of downtown, Cincinnati Riverfront Park will be our city's new "front yard." It will reconnect our urban environment to the river and will link to existing parks up river. Bordered by the Great American Ballpark to the east, and Paul Brown Stadium to the west, the park faces the front door of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center and embraces the northern foundations of the John Roebling Suspension Bridge with tree groves and great lawns. It is also the setting for The Banks – a new mixed-use development under construction. The ensemble promises to be a regional attraction.

The Cincinnati Riverfront Park's features include gardens, numerous water features, walking paths, promenades, playgrounds, a bike path, restaurants and cafes, performance lawns, a stage, a bike rental center, tree groves, a labyrinth, a wharf and public artworks. Construction of the first phase of the park started in September 2008; this phase is expected to be complete by the end of 2010. Later phases will be constructed as ongoing public and private fundraising is fulfilled. More information about the park can be found at www.ccrpark.org.

The Black Brigade Monument in the East Tree Grove

This first work of public art for the new park will commemorate the voluntary national service of hundreds of African-American men who erected barricades in Northern Kentucky during the Civil War. Thanks in part to their work in 1862, an imminent invasion of Cincinnati by Confederate raiders was unsuccessful. This historic interpretive artwork will be set in a grove of trees within sight of the Roebling Suspension Bridge near the Ohio River.

A Story of Justice Defended in Times of Civil War

An important passage in Cincinnati's social history prompted significant changes in treatment of our black population. Brutally rounded up by a precipitously appointed corps of rough-neck provost guards, hundreds of black men were forced into hard labor south of the Ohio River on September 2, 1862, to build fortifications against Confederate raiders from the South. Their inhumane treatment fired up protest in the local press which advocated passionately on their behalf. Rapid intervention by Union officers led to a reversal of the unfair conscription and a proper invitation to the African-American male population to volunteer their services. Given the same dignity of choice offered to white males, a total of seven hundred black men reported for service the next day. At Fort Mitchell they felled trees, cleared brush, dug trenches, gathered materials and built barriers that ultimately prevented an invasion by John Morgan and his guerilla raiders. Under the respectful and just command of Colonel William M. Dickson, The Black Brigade was given its own company flag and was declared to

be the most productive of all of the 70,000 men who worked on Defense of Cincinnati fortifications.

Design Approaches to the Monument

A team of designers and artists will cooperate to finalize design and realize this monument. Invited artists are invited to add their thoughts to the current conceptual design direction. The sum of all suggestions will be reviewed by the Cincinnati Riverfront Park Design Team, client and stakeholders who will then establish final direction.

We will seek a team of participating artists who are masters of their materials and techniques, the application of those resulting in a durable and aesthetic public monument. The composition of the final design team must reflect the cultural diversity reflected in the story being told by the artwork.

A successful concept for the monument must:

- clearly tell the story;
- be physically accessible to people of all abilities;
- be designed to appropriately fit and be integrated into its site;
- be fabricated with materials that will endure outdoor conditions for 100 years.

Please see the document **Best Practices for Public Art** for a full range of concerns and advice.

Dimensions: The exact placement and footprint of the monument has not yet been determined though it will be located in the East Tree Grove of Cincinnati Riverfront Park. The monument design concept, site parameters and best methods for monument development will be determined in consultation with the Cincinnati Riverfront Park Design Team, who will help to determine the final location, configuration and footprint of the installation.

The Budget for the Monument is \$450,000. This represents the total cost for all phases of project realization, including the following:

- Artist/Designer Fees
- Consultant/Contractor/Subcontractor Fees
- Materials
- Fabrication
- Delivery
- Site Preparation
- Installation
- Construction and Supervision Costs
- Permits (such as Building Permit)
- Bonding/Insurance
- Printing & Postage (such as printing of design plans & construction documents)
- Presentation materials, models, photography

- Site and Structural Engineering
- Testing (such as soil compaction & concrete strength tests)

Proposal Guidelines

Guidelines to invited artists for successful submittal of additions or amendments to the prevailing conceptual design, as well as information about interviews, assignments and presentations will be made available as they are developed.

Project Schedule

Artist Invitations, Assignments and Design Direction: May 2009

Anticipated Date of Installation of Monument: Spring 2011

For further information, questions or clarification, please contact:

Art Administrator - Jan Brown Checco at jan@brownchecco.com

or call the Cincinnati Park Board administration building at (513) 352-4079.