



city of **CREVE COEUR**

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CALL FOR ARTISTS VENABLE PARK COMMEMORATIVE ARTWORK CREVE COEUR, MISSOURI

The City of Creve Coeur and the Venable Park Task Force is interested in commissioning an artist or artist team to create a site-specific commemorative artwork for Dr. H. Phillip Venable Memorial Park that engages visitors in the Venable family's story. The park rises from the legacy of racial residential segregation. Rededicated in 2021, the park was developed in the late 1950s after the Venable's property was taken by eminent domain when they refused to sell it to their white neighbors, and later the City of Creve Coeur. The commemorative artwork is to reflect on this history and seed deeper commitments to human and civil rights.

The total art budget is \$225,000. Up to three (3) finalists will be selected to develop Concept Proposals. The submission process is described below. The deadline for submission is April 19, 2023.

SITE AND CONTEXT

Creve Coeur, Missouri

Incorporated in 1949, Creve Coeur is a part of the St. Louis metropolitan area. Creve Coeur is a residential community, with approximately 8,000 housing units and a population nearing 19,000. It is also a regional employment center with two hospitals, a growing ag-tech business center, and a daytime population of over 53,000. The city is also home to two private colleges, two public school districts, five private high schools, five private primary schools, and approximately fifteen houses of worship.

Venable Park

Dr. H. Phillip Venable Memorial Park is located at 10630 Country View Drive and is one of Creve Coeur's busiest parks. Spanning seven and a half acres, the park features a half-mile paved trail, three tennis courts, a soccer field, two playgrounds, a picnic pavilion, barbecue grills and seasonal restrooms.

Dr. Venable and the Venable Family

Dr. Howard Phillip Venable (1913-1998), an accomplished physician, was chief of the ophthalmology department at Homer G. Phillips Hospital, which had been the only hospital in St. Louis, Missouri, for African Americans. In the late 1950s, Dr. Venable was the first African American to join the faculty of Washington University School of Medicine, as well as the faculty of St. Louis University School of Medicine. In addition to his numerous medical achievements in

ophthalmology, he mentored and assisted numerous young medical students of color in fulfilling their dreams and aspirations. Dr. Venable is also remembered as an important civil rights advocate and accomplished musician, having played the trumpet professionally for 25 years.

In 1956, along with several other Black families, Dr. Venable and his wife, Katie W. Venable, purchased land in a new development located in Creve Coeur, Missouri, with the desire to build a new home for their family. White residents and officials quickly mobilized to prevent their integration of Creve Coeur. The Venable family persisted, and their home was nearly completed when the property was taken by eminent domain after the Venables refused to sell it first to their white neighbors and later to the City. The Venables fought a three-year battle in the Missouri courts, all to no avail. Both city and court records showed that the people leading the effort to obtain Dr. Venable's land were motivated by bigotry and racial animus and sought to prevent the Venables from building their home in the City due to their race. Their land and home were used for the creation of a park, Beirne Park, named after the mayor who led the neighbors and the City efforts to take the Venables' property.

The Venable Park Task Force

In December 2019, the City of Creve Coeur passed a resolution to rename the park the Dr. H. Phillip Venable Memorial Park.

Soon after, the Venable Park Task Force was formed to make recommendations for honoring Dr. Venable and his family with a rededication ceremony and promoting further understanding of the park's history. The new park name was formally celebrated during a rededication event held in 2021.

This coalition of concerned citizens is working with Dr. Venable's family to continue to keep his contributions to medicine and civic achievements alive and cherished, and the wrongdoing to him rectified with honor and tribute.

The Venable Park Master Plan (2022)

In 2022, the city initiated a planning process for Venable Park to guide future park improvements, building on the 2019 Parks Master Plan. Led by the consulting team of HDR and Design for Others (D4O), the planning process has included a public meeting and a community survey. The initial analysis by the consulting team is attached. The final design will be completed once an artist has been selected.

Additional information about Dr. Venable and Venable Park can be found [here](#).

COMMEMORATIVE ARTWORK OPPORTUNITY

Commemorative Artwork Site

The artwork will be in Venable Park. A specific site or sites for the artwork has not been identified. Finalists will have an opportunity to visit the park, meet with the Master Plan design team, and recommend an option or options for siting the artwork.

Commemorative Artwork Goals

- Honor the Venable family and inspire the community through a visually compelling, engaging, and unique work of art.

- Educate the public about the Venables and other families and their struggle with Creve Coeur.
- Create a lasting memory of the legacy of Dr. Venable in all aspects of his life.
- Inspire contemplation and dialogue about the past and current struggles for justice and civil rights.
- Complement other park uses and the overall park design in terms of siting and scale.

Selected Artist Scope of Work

The selected artist will be responsible for designing, fabricating, and installing the artwork, including:

- Based on the approved Concept Proposal, developing final design documents detailing every physical feature of the construction, the artwork and its integration with the site.
- Executing the final design on schedule and in a manner that conforms to the approved Concept Proposal.
- Managing all aspects of the installation of the artwork.
- Providing maintenance and conservation instructions for the completed artwork.
- Work cooperatively and maintain effective communication with all parties involved in the project.
- Participating, as requested, in community outreach and attending dedication event.

The commemorative artwork will be designed in concert with additional park improvements. The selected artist will have an opportunity to work with the design team to ensure that the artwork is integrated into overall park design, and to consider how the Venable’s story could be told through other elements of the park design.

In addition, the City and the Task Force will be working with a designer and writer to develop signage in the park that tells the Venable’s story. The artist will be engaged in conversations around the siting of this signage and its overall design.

The City and Task Force also will be developing programming and educational materials that are inspired by Dr. and Mrs. Venable’s life and accomplishments and their pursuit of justice. The selected artist may be engaged in conversations regarding how the commemorative artwork can be a catalyst for programming and learning.

SELECTION PROCESS

The *Venable Park Commemorative Artwork Jury*, comprised of members of the Venable family, Venable Park Task Force, Arts Committee, Parks and Historic Preservation Committee, plus a regional educator, artist and sociologist, will advise the City on artist selection and approval of the Concept Proposal.

Eligibility

The opportunity is open to artists and artist teams residing in the United States with an interest in and/or previous work relating to civil rights, social justice, or racial discrimination. The selected

artist will also have experience executing ideas from concept to completion and meeting a specified budget and timeline. Previous experience working in the public realm and with a public agency preferred.

Pre-Application Workshop

Prospective applicants will be able to attend a virtual Pre-Application Workshop on **Thursday, March 30 at 4:00 p.m. CDT**. Here City staff and consultants will talk about the opportunity and walk through the application process. The workshop is optional.

Advanced registration for the workshop is required through Zoom: [Registration Link](#)

Qualification Review Process

The Jury will review artist qualifications and select three (3) finalists to create Concept Proposals. Artist qualifications will be reviewed by the Jury based on the following criteria:

- Artistic excellence: What is the quality of the artist’s work and their compatibility with the project?
- Goals: Does the artist’s body of work demonstrate an ability to create an artwork that responds to the goals of the project?
- Approach: How well does the artist communicate his/her understanding of the project?
- Capabilities: Does the artist have sufficient experience to be able to design, fabricate, and install an artwork on time and on budget?

Finalist Review Process

Three finalists will be paid a stipend of \$2,500 (plus an additional travel stipend, if needed) to attend a site visit and orientation, develop a site-specific Concept Proposal (including renderings, a narrative description, budget and timeline), and present it to the Jury. Concept Proposals will also be placed on display for public comment. The Jury will recommend one artist/Concept Proposal to the City. The selected artist will then be placed under contract for final design, fabrication and installation of their approved concept.

BUDGET

The selected artist will receive a design fee of \$25,000. An amount not to exceed \$200,000 has been budgeted for fabrication and installation. This budget will include all costs of creating the artwork, including but not limited to travel, insurance, overhead, design, fabrication, shipping, and installation costs.

TENTATIVE TIMELINE

March 30, 2023.	Pre-application workshop. 4pm CDT.
April 10, 2023.	Deadline for questions.
April 19, 2023.	Submissions Due
May 2023.	Finalists notified, attend site visit, begin design work.
July 2023.	Finalists present Concept Proposals to Jury. Concepts placed on display for comment.

Sept 2023.	Jury reviews comments and recommends artist and Concept Proposal.
Nov 2023.	Artist and Concept Proposal approved by the City Council.
Dec 2023.	Artist submits final design for technical review.
TBD 2024.	Fabrication, installation and dedication.

TO SUBMIT

You will submit your materials through our online portal:

<https://zealous.co/viapartnershiplp/opportunity/Call-for-Artists-Venable-Park-Commemorative-Artwork/>

All materials are due before 11:59 pm CST on April 19, 2023.

You will be asked to submit images, including:

- Between 5-10 sample images of previously completed projects that represent your body of work (jpg, gif, png, tif, mp3, mpeg, mp4, pdf) and/or embedded media (vimeo, youtube).
- Corresponding image information about each work sample. Please use the fields provided, including: title, year, location, commissioning body, medium, brief description, dimensions, weight and project budget/price.

You will also be asked to submit the following on the application form:

- A statement that indicates your interest in the project and how you might approach the commission (no more than 500 words).
- A résumé/CV no longer than 3-pages, including current contact information and email address (pdf, doc or docx).
- Names and contact information for 3-5 professional references.
- Your contact information.

Please do not send specific proposals at this time. Only finalists will be asked to create Concept Proposals for the opportunity.

QUESTIONS

Please submit all questions via email to art@viapartnership.com no later than April 10, 2023.

Responses to all questions will be posted [here](#) by April 12, 2023.

For Technical Questions about the submission process, visit: <https://zealous.co/help/>

ATTACHMENTS


- Venable Park Master Plan: Site Analysis Draft
- Venable Park Master Plan: Site Planning Draft


Venable Park Master Plan

Site Analysis: Issues

1 Broad parking lot entrance creates vehicular conflicts

2 Inaccessible amenities due to steep slopes


 >5% slope (not ADA compliant)

 <5% slope (ADA compliant)

3 Pavilion to be replaced

4 Play area & equipment (ages 2-5) to be replaced

5 Footbridge to be replaced

 500 year (0.2%) flood plain

 0' 80'

DRAFT



Venable Park Master Plan

Site Planning: Opportunities

- 1 Improved Park Entry & Signage
- 2 Venable Home Footprint
- 3 Regraded Accessible Parking /Circulation
- 4 Expanded Parking
- 5 Accessible Entry Plaza & Pavilion
- 6 Exercise Stations
- 7 New 2-5 Year Play Area & Equipment
- 8 New Splash Pad
- 9 New Pickleball Courts
- 10 Expanded Native Plantings
- 11 Green Infrastructure
- 12 Tree Succession/Replacement Program
- 13 Informal Recreation Field
- 14 New Footbridge
- 15 Potential Overflow Parking

■ New Accessible Path Segments

