



For Immediate Release

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***Downtown Greenway selects artist Radcliffe Bailey
for Freedom Cornerstone commission***

GREENSBORO, NC (February 5, 2020) - The Downtown Greenway is excited to announce that artist Radcliffe Bailey has been selected for the [Freedom Cornerstone commission](#).

[Radcliffe Bailey](#) from Atlanta, Georgia, brings an international reputation to the project and a history of telling stories of African American history and culture. His work is in the collections of many institutions including the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago; Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington DC; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City; Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas; Ford Foundation, New York City; Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art, Philadelphia; Nelson-Adkins Museum of Art, Kansas City; High Museum of Art, Atlanta; Denver Art Museum, Denver Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach; Mint Museum, Charlotte; Nasher Museum at Duke University, Durham; and the Weatherspoon Art Museum at UNCG, Greensboro. Radcliffe's most recent work has been installed at the newly expanded Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and is titled *From the Cabinet*.

Radcliffe comments "It is my honor to celebrate the victory of freedom for this commission". Radcliffe envisions using Core ten steel and concrete for the work and plans to incorporate lighting and music. He notes that "we all will bring our own history the project, but that history will be seen through the lens through which we each perceive our own experiences."

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This fourth and final Cornerstone commission is the Freedom Cornerstone. The theme of “Freedom” is inspired by the City’s role in the Civil Rights Movement, especially the non-violent protests of the pivotal 1960 Greensboro lunch-counter sit-ins that served as a catalyst to the larger movement. Racial justice and equity have played an important role in shaping our city and defining its identity. The selected artist is asked both to explore this history and to consider what Freedom means today as they conceive of a vision for the artwork. The site for this Cornerstone is located in the southeast corner of the Downtown Greenway’s four-mile loop - at the northeast corner of the intersection of Murrow Blvd and East Gate City Boulevard, Greensboro, NC 27401. This highly visible location has been created with the realignment of the intersection in coordination with Downtown Greenway construction.

In addition to the artwork, the Artist will be responsible for the design of the entire site and will oversee its installation, including landscape features, lighting, and walkways and/or paths.

65 artists submitted qualifications for this call to artists. The Downtown Greenway Public Art Selection Panel along with the Freedom Cornerstone Focus Group narrowed the list to 11 semi-finalists who were interviewed by phone. From that group, the selection committees invited four semi-finalists to travel to Greensboro for site visits and the opportunity to present to the public during October and November.

Public Art Consultant Barbara Peck notes, “I am incredibly excited to have Radcliffe Bailey as the selected artist for this artwork, as I know he will create a meaningful and iconic work for Greensboro while exploring the theme of Freedom as it relates to our city, our unique history, and our place in the world. Each step that we take towards the completion of the Downtown Greenway brings us further towards our goal of bringing people together, encouraging dialogue, and creating a more connected city. It seems fitting that this final Cornerstone to be commissioned for the Greenway is the Freedom Cornerstone, an artwork that will serve to remind us of how we as a community value everyone’s right to belong and be heard. “

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About Downtown Greenway

The Downtown Greenway, a collaborative project of the City of Greensboro and Action Greensboro, is a planned 4 mile walking and biking trail that will encourage economic development, increase the tax base for the city, and will improve quality of life for its citizens. This urban loop around the center city of downtown Greensboro will enhance the urban landscape with a green space that will promote fitness, connectedness and well-being for our residents and visitors in an aesthetically pleasing environment. The loop itself provides a unique opportunity for Greensboro to have the only one of its kind in the state and one of the few in the country. With its emphasis on public art, the Greenway will tell stories and engage users of the trail in a unique and authentic way. In addition, with the connections to the extensive existing and planned trails systems in the city and the county, this loop will connect residents from all parts of the community and beyond. With 1 ½ miles built and open to the public, and another 1 ½ miles under construction, the Downtown Greenway is expected to be completed late 2020/early 2021.

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