

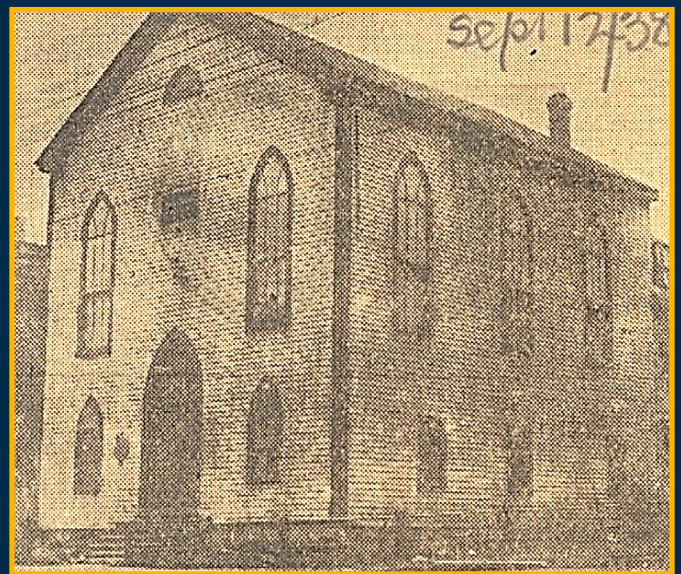
# CALL FOR ARTISTS

## AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH AFRICAN NOVA SCOTIAN ARTWORK

**Application Deadline: July 12, 2021**

**Working Timeline: June 2021 – September 2021**

The Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) is developing an interpretive panel on the corner of Gottingen and Falkland Streets (formerly known as Squiggle Park). The interpretive panel is to reflect on the former use of the site as the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church (AMEZ) and the importance of the church and spirituality in the African Nova Scotian community. HRM would like to include an artistic rendering of the AMEZ Church, based loosely on the 1938 photo of the church to the right.



HRM is looking for an artist who will work with HRM and the Black community to create a design for the interpretive panel that reflects the community.

**HALIFAX**



## BACKGROUND

The AMEZ Interpretive Panel will be located on the pedestrian plaza at the intersection of Gottingen and Falkland Streets. Reinstatement and construction of the plaza is ongoing, with a placeholder stand to be constructed in summer 2021 for the interpretive panel. The panel itself will have a similar layout to the example to the left, with the colours and overall design to be determined based on feedback from the African Nova Scotian community.

The proposed text for the interpretive panel is included below for consideration (subject to change):

## CULTURAL DISTRICT

### AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

The African Nova Scotian community in Halifax found strength, healing, and collective identity in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion (AMEZ) Church, which occupied this lot at the corner of Falkland and Gottingen Streets for over 100 years. The church is a source of resilience and spirituality for the African Nova Scotian community and a coping strategy for dealing with racism and discrimination. This AMEZ Church is significant for its association with the religious and cultural heritage of African Nova Scotians in Halifax.

### THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION (AMEZ) CHURCH IN HALIFAX (1846-1955)

The AMEZ congregation acquired this lot on Gottingen Street in 1846 under the leadership Reverend W. Ross. Construction was completed circa 1850 under Reverend Dempster Kennedy. The church also served as a community hub. The congregation purchased a school building and raised funds for the education of African Nova Scotian children. However, after a decline in congregation numbers and due to the poor condition of the building, the church was demolished in 1955.

### MARCUS GARVEY

Marcus Garvey, Jamaican activist and founder of the Universal Negro Improvement Association and African Communities League (UNIA-ACL), spoke at a community church in Halifax in 1937, which may have been the AMEZ Church. During the same tour, Garvey delivered his famed speech that inspired

Bob Marley's Redemption Song at Menelik Hall in Sydney, Nova Scotia: "We are going to emancipate ourselves from mental slavery because whilst others might free the body, none but ourselves can free the mind". To this day, Garvey is considered one of the most influential leaders in the ongoing struggle for rights and freedom for Black people around the world.

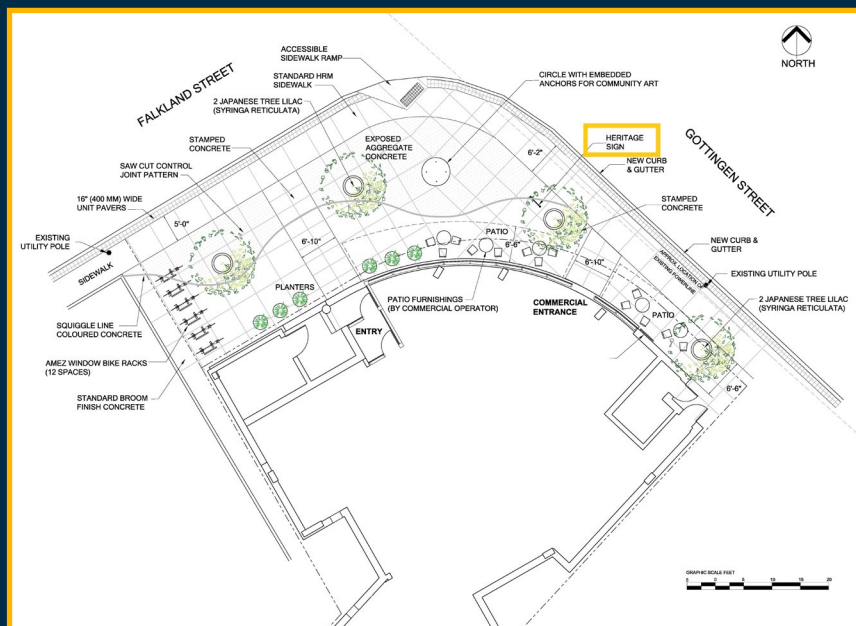
## REVEREND ANNA HUNTER AND THE REESTABLISHMENT OF THE AMEZ CONGREGATION IN HALIFAX (1976-1986)

Reverend Anna Hunter became the pastor for the Highland African Methodist Episcopal Church in Amherst, Nova Scotia, in 1966. Under Reverend Hunter's leadership, the congregation raised funds and constructed a new church in 1972 to replace an older church building. In 1976, Reverend Hunter moved to Halifax to revive the AMEZ church. The congregation met at several different venues near the site of the original AMEZ church. Despite Reverend Hunter's efforts, the AMEZ church again closed its doors in 1986 due to a decline in congregation numbers. Reverend Hunter was heavily involved in the local community. She helped students with learning disabilities, served on various boards and committees, and became a founding member of the Black Cultural Society of Nova Scotia.

### LOCATION

The interpretive panel is planned to be located at a prominent location within the pedestrian plaza, close to the corner of Gottingen and Falkland Streets (identified in yellow).

The panel will be two-sided and parallel to Gottingen Street to ensure maximum visibility. All pavers and plantings are expected to be completed by fall 2021.





## PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

This project seeks to give voice to the African NS community, as such it is limited to artists from the African NS community. The selected artist will receive a package containing the suggestions and requirements decided upon by HRM and local African Nova Scotian representatives during discussions held over the past year. The artist will be required to actively participate in community discussions in July and August, which HRM will organize and facilitate. The purpose of these collaborative gatherings will be to inform, inspire and connect the artist with the community such that the final design will accurately express the voice of the community.

The selected artist will be responsible for the development and submission of a final design. The artist must produce a piece of art that can be photographed (by HRM) and included above the text in the interpretive panel, see above. HRM reserves the right to retain ownership of the final artwork.

## TIMELINE

30 June 2021	Information Session for Interested Applicants
12 July 2021	Submission deadline
26 July 2021	Artist selected
2 August 2021	Start-up meeting with project partners and community members to set engagement schedule
August	Community consultation to answer any questions the artist has about the theme or content of the artistic representation
September	Final design completed and approved by the community by September 10, 2021. Artist oversees interpretive panel layout, unveiling and community celebration.

## INFORMATION SESSION

It is recommended that all interested artists attend an information session, which will be held on Wednesday, June 30, 2021 at 3 p.m. via Microsoft Teams. **Click here** at 3 p.m. on June 30 to participate in the meeting or contact Kate Moon, below, if you require assistance. A recording of this session will be posted online at Halifax.ca after the event.

## ARTIST EVALUATION

Each Artist will be evaluated based on the following three criteria:

- 1. Expertise** (60 pts)  
Demonstrated skills and knowledge in preparing artwork.
- 2. Collaboration** (20 pts)  
Demonstrated ability to consult with others in preparing artwork.
- 3. Community Connection** (20 pts)  
Demonstrated knowledge of the African Nova Scotian community and/or the Black community in north end Halifax, where the artwork will be installed.

## BUDGET

All costs related to community gatherings and interpretive panel installation will be covered by the Halifax Regional Municipality.

Artist fee: \$5,000 (*This fee will cover all associated expenses, including artist materials, consultation time, travel, printing, etc.*)

## SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

### LETTER OF INTEREST (Max. 1 page)

Please include a cover letter expressing why you are interested in participating in this project. Describe your experience consulting with others to prepare artwork and your knowledge of the African NS community.

### SLIDES

10 images of past work as .jpg files, no larger than 4 MB each. Each should be labelled with full name and image number (e.g. JaneSmith1.jpg). References to public art experience is appreciated but not required.

## RESUME

Please include experiences where you have collaborated with a group where possible.

All submission material should be provided digitally via email or 8 ½" x 11" paper. Submissions must be received no later than July 12, 2021 at 10 p.m.

Artists will be selected through a jury comprised of representatives from the African Nova Scotian community and HRM.

**DEADLINE: JULY 12, 2021**

## SEND SUBMISSIONS TO:

Kate Moon, Community Developer  
Parks & Recreation  
Halifax Regional Municipality  
P.O. Box 1749, Halifax, NS  
B3J 3A5  
moonk@halifax.ca

Or in-person to:  
George Dixon Recreation Center  
2502 Brunswick Street, Halifax, NS

# HALIFAX

