

Gritty to Pretty 'Raymond Taavel Park' Open Project Opportunity

Project Description

The Downtown Halifax Business Commission (DHBC) in partnership with the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) is requesting an artist(s) to design a creative 3D installation in Raymond Taavel Park (see photo below). Located at 1004 Barrington Street (where Inglis Street turns left into Barrington Street) in the south end of Halifax, the pocket park is 8,600 ft² with a paved walkway, as well as seasonal decorations including picnic tables in the spring and summer. Raymond Taavel Park stands as a tribute to the late Raymond Taavel, a dedicated 2SLGBTQ+ activist and former chair of Halifax Pride. In 2019, the park was officially dedicated during a Halifax Pride candlelight vigil, serving as a lasting memorial to Taavel's contributions to the community. For more information on the history of the park, check out these resources:

- https://www.thestar.com/halifax/how-a-halifax-park-came-to-be-renamed-for-raymond-taavel/article_052b2732-8721-5322-bdba-f691dc41cf49.html
- <https://globalnews.ca/news/4825678/raymond-taavel-park/>

Although the theme for the project is open to the artist(s), designs must incorporate imagery that recognizes the history of the park and/or current displays that connect with the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. With the installation aimed at being a permanent placemaking installation, artists are encouraged to utilize materials that can withstand both extreme summer and winter conditions. Artist(s) are encouraged to utilize preferred artistic styles and techniques that will allow this sculpture to be visually compelling and mentally stimulating for Downtown viewers. The aim of the installation is to be a year-round piece of art that is visibly remarkable and accompanied with a positive and wholesome message that resonates with the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. Kindly note that

this installation is not aimed at being an advertising tool for HRM or any of the neighbouring establishments. Instead, this structure will serve as a form of public art that shares an empowering message and display that touches residents and visitors of Downtown Halifax.

Park Specifications



Figure 1: Image of Raymond Taavel Park.



Figure 2: Image of Raymond Taavel Park from across the street.



Figure 3: : Image of Raymond Taavel Park from Inglis Street.



Figure 4: Image of bench in Raymond Taavel Park.

Location: 1004 Barrington Street (where Inglis Street turns left into Barrington Street)

Area: 0.08 ha or 8,600 ft².

Amenities: park benches and seasonal picnic tables.

Special Considerations:

- The sidewalk must be clear of elements by at least 1 ft.
- Trees in the park are not included in the scope of this project, and thus all design proposals must refrain from utilizing these trees.
- With HRM Parks maintaining the pathway during the winter, artists are encouraged to keep any proposed structures away from the path.
- Artist(s) must be open to working in space with moderate pedestrian volume, while avoiding disruptions to pedestrian traffic.

- Artist(s) must comply with HRM policies and regulations.
- Artist(s) are strongly encouraged to reach out to Adrianna Afford (gallery@argylefa.com), Member of the Friends of Raymond Taavel Park, to learn more about the history of the park and initiatives associated with this public space.
- The selected artist will need to work with HRM on municipal approvals as this project will be permitted through a municipal license agreement.

Artist Background

While artist(s) of varying experience levels are encouraged to apply, the ideal candidate(s) will have at least 3 years' experience and/or completed at least 3 large scale projects. We welcome artist(s) from all backgrounds to apply. In an effort to expand the diversity of Downtown public art, we kindly ask artist(s) from diverse communities to self-identify in your application. This includes but is not limited to 2SLGBTQ+ persons, African Nova Scotians and other racially visible persons, women, Indigenous/Aboriginal People and persons with disabilities.

Timelines & Budget

June 15: Completed application proposal and supporting materials submission to DHBC by email:

jonathan@downtownhalifax.ca or by mail: Jonathan Goldson, Placemaking Manager,

Downtown Halifax Business Commission, 1546 Barrington Street, Suite 104, Halifax, Nova

Scotia B3J 3X7.

June 25: DHBC notification to applicant of acceptance or decline.

July 3 - 15: Connect with HRM staff on planning and implementation of design proposal.

August 4: Finalize license agreement with HRM.

August 11: Commence the implementation of the proposal

September 29: Install the design within the park.

Please note that this timeline may be adjusted to accommodate internal municipal reviews and processes. DHBC will award the selected artist(s) up to **\$20,000.00** in funding (based on actual expenditures and excluding HST).

Application Process

To be considered for this open project opportunity, applicants are asked to submit either a completed Gritty to Pretty Open Grant or a completed Gritty to Pretty BIPOC Open Grant application form, depending on your eligibility. Both forms can be found on our website at www.downtownhalifax.ca/grittytopretty. Furthermore, projects will only be considered if they have been reviewed by or are in discussions with the following HRM staff members:

- Lindsay Ann Cory (Public Art Community Developer with Parks & Recreation)
 - Email: Lindsay.Cory@halifax.ca
- Adam Cornick (Superintendent of Parks West with Parks & Recreation)
 - Email: cornica@halifax.ca

Applications must include a pdf of email correspondence(s) with Lindsay or Adam proving that some consultation has occurred prior to submitting an application. Projects without consideration from these HRM staff members will **NOT** be reviewed. Additional documents that describe and support funding requests are encouraged. The deadline to apply for this open project opportunity is **Sunday, June 15, 2025, at 11:59pm.**