

ARTIST REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Christ Church of Alexandria
Inclusive Memorialization Project
August 25, 2025



I. INTRODUCTION

Christ Church (Church), an Episcopal parish in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia, was built in 1773 using the resources and wealth of the Parish, its Vestry members, and the Rector. The Church believes that enslaved people contributed to the wealth of the congregation at the time, as well as the local economy generally, and likely provided physical labor to construct the Church.

As part of its celebration of the 250th anniversary of its founding, the Church has determined to create a monument to memorialize the manifold contributions of enslaved people to the Church's founding and early years.

The intent of the monument is to provide the following:

- An acknowledgement of the Church's early history;
- An expression of regret and/or apology for the forced servitude of enslaved persons in the Church's early history; and
- A lesson and vision for all moving forward.

The purpose of this request is to invite select artists to submit a proposal to collaborate with the Church's Inclusive Memorialization Working Group (Working Group) to conceptualize and realize the memorial. To that end, the Working Group invites you to submit the following materials:

- A narrative describing your approach to developing such a memorial
- A conceptual approach to the memorial, including sketches and a narrative
- Materials related to your experience with similar projects
- A timeline of key milestones from concept to final installation

The Working Group will give special consideration to entries from African American artists and/or artists with strong ties to our region.

II. BACKGROUND

The Church recently celebrated its 250th year—a church where George Washington worshipped. Christ Church was built to be a parish church to meet the spiritual needs of its parishioners and the community, a tradition that continues today. Originally built in a quiet, wooded location, Christ Church now has more than 1200 members and is in the heart of the City of Alexandria. All are welcome. To learn more about the Church and its history, visit its website at <https://www.historichristchurch.org/history>.

The Church building was designed by James Wren. Over the years the Parish House and Fowler House buildings were added to the Church campus, and an iron fence with brick piers was built around the Churchyard. The Churchyard contains several historic gravestones and monuments that cannot be moved. In 1970, Christ Church was designated a National Historic Landmark.

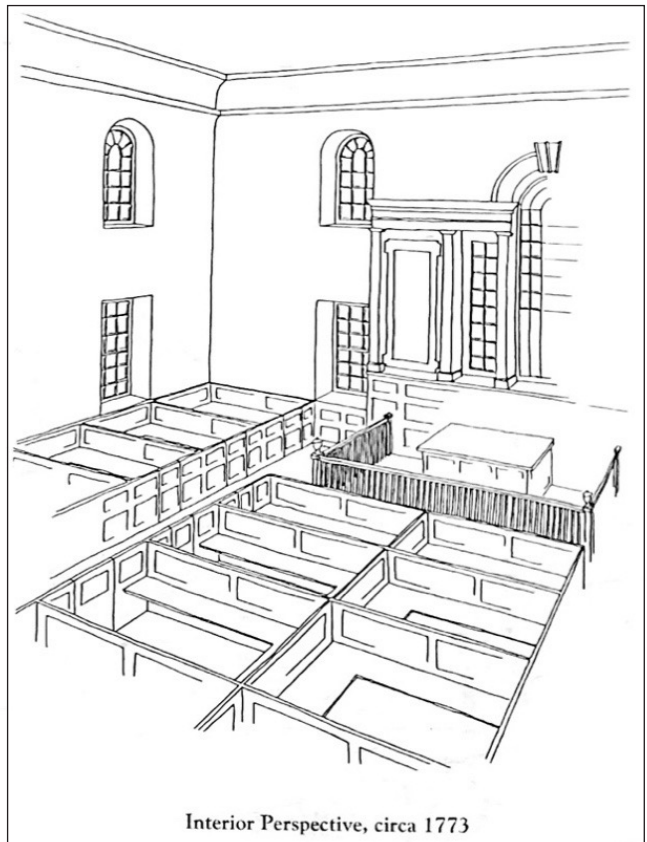


Views of the Churchyard



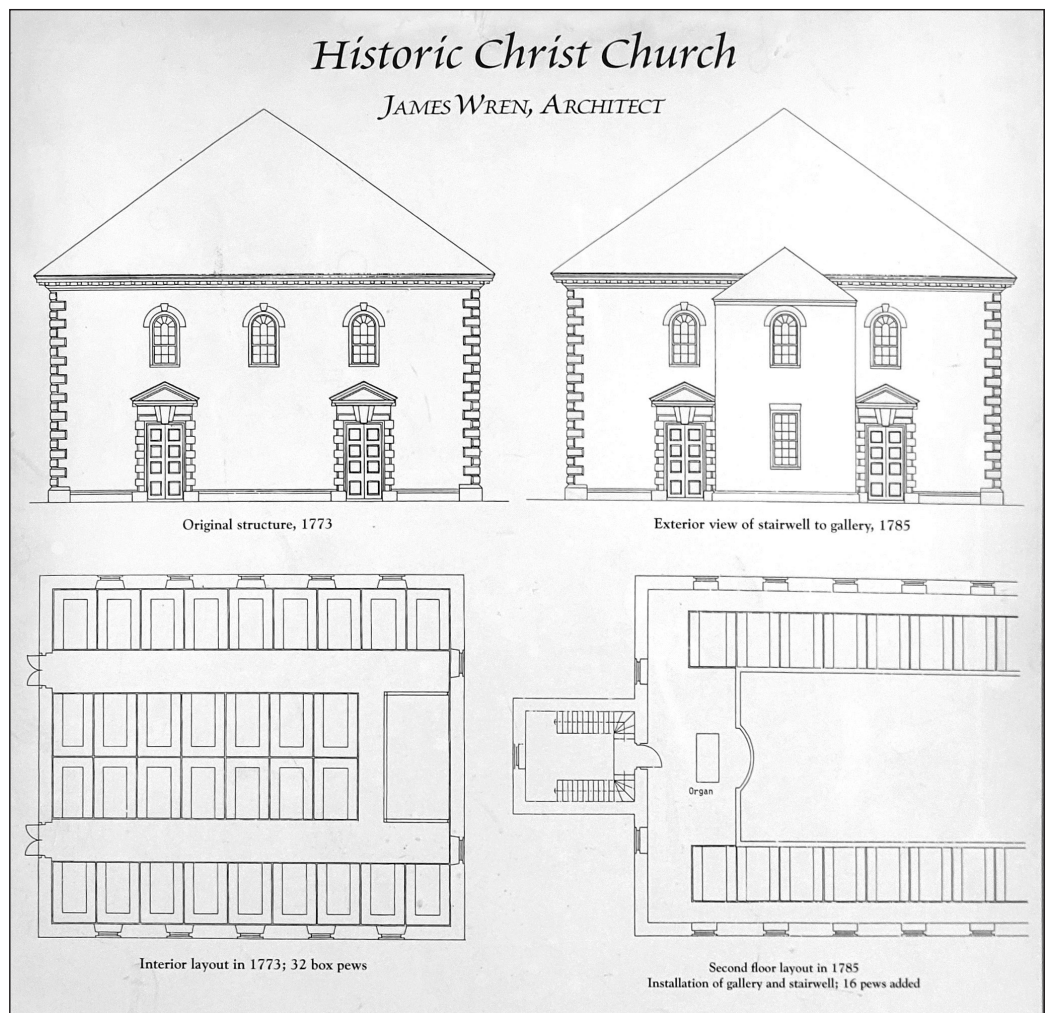
Christ Church's Mission Statement

Christ Church embodies God's unbounded love by embracing, liberating, and empowering people, whoever you are and wherever you find yourself on your journey of faith.



Illustrations of the Church

Interior Perspective, circa 1773



III. THE MEMORIAL

The Church and the Working Group were inspired to create this memorial by a biblical passage.

Scriptural Inspiration: Isaiah 58:6-12

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

Memorial Language

The Working Group has prepared text that must accompany the memorial, in some fashion. The following text is a draft and subject to change.

Memorial to the Enslaved

This memorial honors the enslaved persons whose forced labor helped construct and support this Church. Christ Church apologizes for the injustices done.

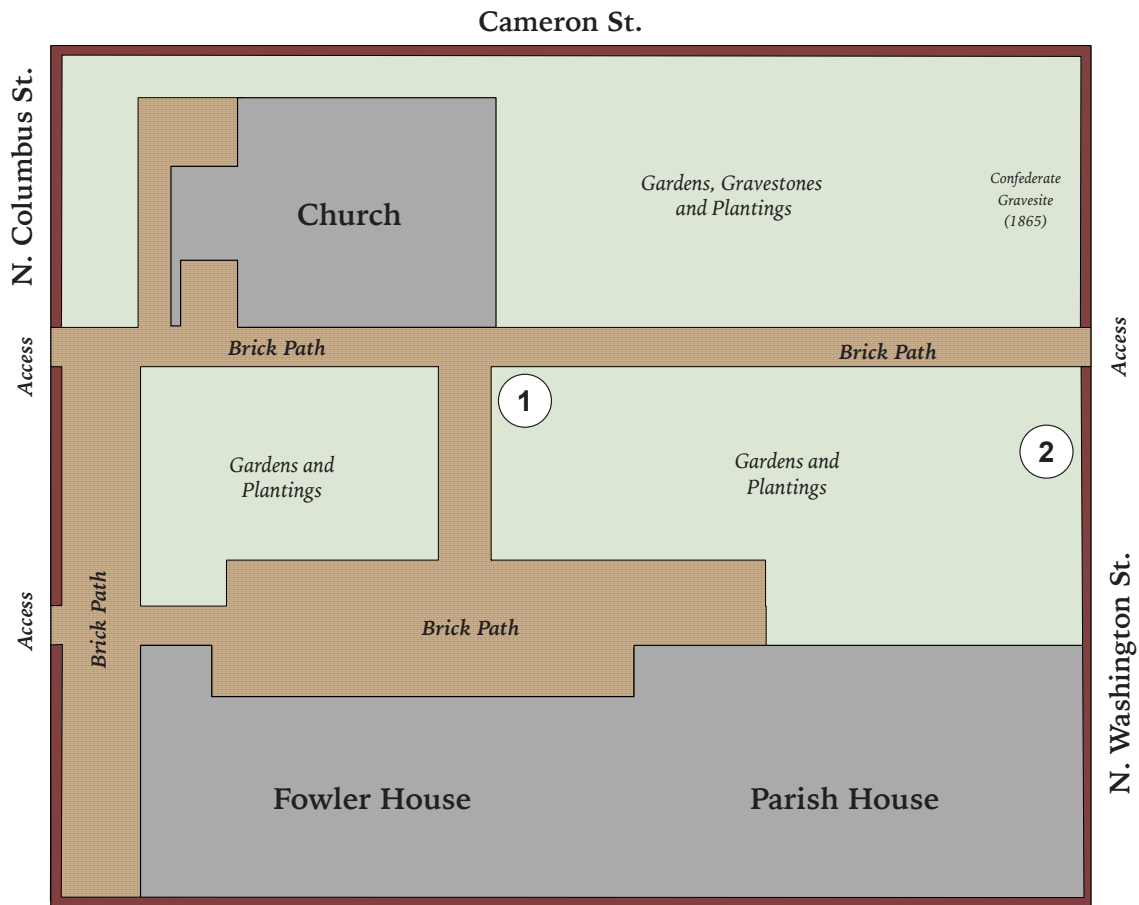
May their perpetual memory reinforce our baptismal pledge to seek justice and remind us that we are commanded to love every person fully and equally, as all are loved by God.

Location

The Working Group has identified two possible locations for the memorial. Each is located within the Churchyard along the brick path that connects North Columbus and North Washington Streets (see diagram on next page). If you wish to visit the churchyard, it is open to the public every day. There are tours of the Church at select days and times listed on the website.

Location 1 sits at the intersection of two main brick paths, and is across from the Church itself. Location 2 is at the east end of the Churchyard, and is adjacent to the iron fence along North Washington Street. This site is opposite an existing feature of the garden from 1865: a marble panel recognizing Confederate soldiers.

The memorial is to be located outside, year round, and must be designed to withstand the elements for the next century. Some revised landscaping and planting, relocation of signage, and electrical work may be possible in the final design.



Christ Church
Churchyard Plan

North ↑



Location 2: Churchyard
along N. Washington St.

Location 1: Churchyard
Brick Path Junction

Budget

The Working Group anticipates a budget of between \$30,000 and \$40,000 for the memorial's design, fabrication and installation, all labor and fees inclusive.

Process

Proposals shall consist of drawings, images, photographs, and written materials combined into a single PDF, sized 8.5" x 11" and limited to 25 pages.

No hardcopies or in-person deliveries shall be accepted. Proposals shall be labeled "Inclusive Memorial" and sent to the following email address: parishlife@ccalex.org

Proposals are due by midnight, EST, on October 25, 2025.

Late entries shall not be accepted. Up to three proposals shall be chosen as finalists by the Working Group. Each finalist team will be awarded a \$2,500 flat fee to further develop the proposed concept; this fee will not be considered part of the final budget for the project. The Working Group may request meetings, offer comments and suggestions, and/or request additional information in response to the finalists' proposals before the finalists are notified by the Working Group to proceed to further develop their proposals.

Developed proposals shall be due eight weeks after the date of notification of the finalists to proceed from the Working Group. Each finalist shall create a design package including further developed plans and drawings, budget and proposed schedule for completion.

Approximately one week later after submitting his or her final design package to the Working Group, each finalist shall make a presentation of their developed design to the Working Group via Zoom or other platform. The meeting agenda will also include a comment and question/answer period.

Shortly thereafter, the Working Group shall endeavor to choose a winning entry and move forward with a design. Budget and schedule will be confirmed before any work begins. The Working Group reserves the right to reject any developed design, and gives no guarantee of its ultimate fabrication and installation.

Any materials shared with the Working Group become its property, but the rights to the ideas, images, drawings and artwork are retained by the proposing teams. However, the Church retains the right to reproduce images of the winning entry, the constructed memorial, and any associated text or artwork for educational purposes, merchandizing and publicity.

After a final design is chosen, a scope of work, tailored to the design, and a contract including a final budget and schedule, shall be developed between the Artist and the Church.

The Working Group expects that the winning entry will, among other attributes, clearly express the intent and purpose of the memorial as set forth in this request; harmonize with the scale and landscape of the existing Churchyard, and structures and other artifacts located there while attracting public attention and approval; appropriately incorporate the required text; and foster the expectation of long-term durability and reasonable overall cost.

Please submit any questions related to this request in writing, captioned "Inclusive Memorial," to parishlife@ccalex.org