



# RECLAIMING THE HALL:

*Empowering Community Voices at the Hall of Fame*

## Open Call for Artists: Juried Exhibition

Statues removed, buildings renamed, famous names recast as ignominious—these recent actions have presented us with opportunity. We are at a critical juncture. In these ever more divisive times, we need to acknowledge erasures and call for more inclusivity in how we commemorate as we seek out ways to be more culturally responsive to our communities. The present climate opens up spaces for alternative narratives and brings us new perspectives on our past. We are asking to hear from artists working in every medium—visual, aural, performance—any means by which they might engage with public art to shift the frameworks of representation.

Our site is the Hall of Fame for Great Americans in the Bronx, the first hall of fame ever established in the United States. It includes authors, educators, architects, inventors, military leaders, judges, theologians, philanthropists, humanitarians, scientists, statesmen, artists, musicians, actors, and explorers. For years, there have been various attempts by historians, faculty, students, and the Archives at the Bronx Community College campus to re-envision the historic Hall of Fame so that it may resonate with its surroundings. Reflecting on last year's Unite the Right rally, the tragic public protest in response to the removal of the Robert E. Lee statue in Charlottesville, VA, and the removal of our own Lee and Stonewall Jackson busts at the Hall of Fame, there is a greater urgency for us to pause at the tensions in American life that have been left unaddressed. We are asking artists to use this moment of inquiry as a point of departure to devise alternative approaches to commemoration for a public event that celebrates our diverse community.

*For more information on this topic visit the Archives online exhibit:*

*"Visions of Greatness, Rethinking Racial Disparities at the Hall of Fame"*

<https://bcchalloffame.commons.gc.cuny.edu/>

This program is funded in part by Humanities New York  
with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

**OPEN NOW**

**through**

**April 19, 2019**

**There is no fee to enter**

Open to all media: visual arts, dance, performance art, installation, film and music.

Artists submissions must include a paragraph (100-200 words) explaining how they will draw inspiration from the Hall of Fame archival collection and how their work relates to the theme of memorializing in the post-memorial age.

Themes could include, but are not limited to:

- Inclusivity and memorializing
- What defines a Great American?
- Challenging prejudice and stigmatization through public art
- New conceptual monuments that engage with histories of oppression and prejudice, and/or commemorate victims.

Entries will be judged on the basis of their originality, quality, and relevance by a panel of faculty jurors.

**First, second, and third prizes, plus honorable mention will be awarded.**

Selected artists will be notified by June 15, 2019. Instructions on delivery and installation of artworks will be given at that time.

The works will be exhibited/presented on site at the Hall of Fame on the Bronx Community College campus in a day-long event open to the public on **Saturday, September 21, 2019**, followed by an exhibition in the college's Hall of Fame Art Gallery (Monday, Sept 30, 2019 – Thursday, Oct 24, 2019).

Please fill out the online form and email with your entry paragraph by **April 19, 2019**.

**There is no fee to enter.** Online form available at [www.bcc.cuny.edu/reclaiming-the-hall/](http://www.bcc.cuny.edu/reclaiming-the-hall/)

- Email your entries to: [hof.show@bcc.cuny.edu](mailto:hof.show@bcc.cuny.edu)
- Title email: hof\_bcc\_your name
- Accompanying materials should be in either PDF, JPG, or PNG format
- For videos please send URL using Vimeo or YouTube. Do not submit private files with passwords.
- Print a copy of the entry form for your records. If selected the form must accompany artwork.

We will make every effort to ensure equal access for all applicants.

If you require accommodations, please contact us.