

## Board Members and Advisors

**Goldie Frinks Wells** Co-Chair, Greensboro City Council Member

**David Warren** Co-Chair, Professor Emeritus, Duke University

**Victoria Gallagher** Secretary and Chair Communication Committee  
Professor of Communication and Director of MLK Digital Humanities  
Project, North Carolina State University

**Ruth Proctor** Treasurer and Financial Officer, CPA

**Brian Kubis** Assistant Treasurer, Director of Financial Planning &  
Analysis, PrecisionHawk

**Betsy Bennett** Campaign Advisor, Fundraising Consultant

**Christina Coffey** Co-Chair Friends of the Park, Vice President, Lee  
& Associates, Commercial Real Estate Services, Raleigh-Durham and  
Member of Leadership Raleigh

**Stephen Dahlem** Co-Chair Friends of the Park, Principal and Property  
Manager, Steele Property Management, Raleigh

**Reginald Hildebrand** Chair History Research Committee, Retired  
African American History Professor, University of North Carolina and  
Durham Technical Community College

**Reginald Hodges** Chair Construction Liaison Committee, Former  
Director of Durham Literacy Center

**Reginald Holley** Political Advisor, The Longleaf Group

**Tracy Lovett** Liaison, Director of Public Engagement and Inclusion,  
Office of the Governor

**John Mabe** Construction Legal Advisor, Attorney, Nexen Pruet PLLC

**Adrienne Nirdé** Ex Officio Member, Director, NC African American  
Heritage Commission

**Freddie Parker** History Research Committee, Professor Emeritus of  
History, NCCU

**Allen Pratt** Architect Advisor, Perkins + Will Architects

**Juanita Shearer-Swink** Landscape Architect Liaison, PLA, FASLA;  
Chair of the ASLA Council of Fellows and the Landscape Architectural  
Accreditation Board

**Michael Stevenson** Architect Liaison, Principal at Perkins Eastman  
Architects

**Chuck Watts** Campaign Committee, General Counsel, City of  
Greensboro

**Rebecca Quinn Wolf** Event Planning, Vice President and Director of  
Client and Community Relations, PNC Bank



NORTH CAROLINA  
**FREEDOM  
PARK**

## Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Wednesday, August 23, 2023

10 a.m.

218 N. Wilmington St.,  
Raleigh, NC 27601

Visit us online for more information on  
this exciting addition to our community!



SCAN ME



The North Carolina

African American

Heritage

Commission

## Program

### Welcome and Recognition of Special Guests

**Ms. Adrienne Nirdé**

Director, North Carolina African American Heritage Commission

### Moment of Reflection and Meditation

**Dr. Goldie Frinks Wells**

Co-Chair, North Carolina Freedom Park Board of Directors

### Poem

**Ms. Jaki Shelton Green**

North Carolina Poet Laureate

### Remarks and North Carolina Freedom Park History and Overview

**Dr. Goldie Frinks Wells**

Co-Chair, North Carolina Freedom Park Board of Directors

**Mr. David Warren**

Co-Chair, North Carolina Freedom Park Board of Directors

**Dr. Reginald Hildebrand**

North Carolina Freedom Park Board of Directors

### Remarks

**Dr. Valerie Ann Johnson**

Chair, North Carolina African American Heritage Commission

**Mr. D. Reid Wilson**

Secretary, North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

**The Honorable Roy Cooper**

Governor, State of North Carolina

### Ribbon Cutting

### Closing Remarks

### Entertainment Provided By

**The Materials Band, Madison Jay, Dasan Ahanu,  
Ms. Carlitta Durand, Pierce Freelon & Band and DJ Complex**

## About North Carolina Freedom Park

**Welcome to Freedom Park, a historic and moving green space nestled in the heart of downtown Raleigh, N.C. With deep reverence for the indomitable spirit of the African American struggle for freedom, this park stands as a timeless tribute to the universal ideals of liberty, resilience, and equality.**

Anchored by the Beacon of Freedom, the one-acre park features 20 “Voices of Freedom” inscribed along its walkways – powerful words of African Americans throughout North Carolina history. As the first park in North Carolina dedicated to honoring the African American struggle for freedom, it stands as a beacon of hope and a reminder that the ideals of perseverance, equality, and freedom are universal aspirations that unite us all.

### History

The seed for Freedom Park began in 2000 with a group of North Carolinians who gathered to ask the question, “What are we doing in North Carolina to celebrate emancipation and freedom?” With early support from the Paul Green Foundation, a non-profit organization was formed to plan and build a commemorative park in downtown Raleigh. A team of dedicated supporters raised over \$7 million for the park’s construction, including funds from foundations, businesses, individuals and the North Carolina General Assembly.

### Design and Construction

The late Phil Freelon of architecture firm Perkins + Will was chosen to create a meaningful design for the park. His dramatic plan features five walkways leading to a 45-foot-tall Beacon of Freedom at the park’s center. The beacon will be lit at dusk each evening. Holt Brothers Construction Company in Raleigh was the lead contractor, working with Perkins + Will, the State Construction Office, the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources and other state advisors.

### Opening

North Carolina Freedom Park officially opens to the public Aug. 23, 2023, and will be open daily from dawn to dusk. Managed by the North Carolina African American Heritage Commission, the park is open to all. Especially welcome are the thousands of school children who annually visit downtown Raleigh historic sites and museums as part of their study of North Carolina history.

**“Remember, we are not fighting for the freedom of the Negro alone, but for the freedom of the human spirit, a larger freedom that encompasses all mankind.”**

**- Ella Baker**

Learn More: <https://aahc.nc.gov/north-carolina-freedom-park>