BE A PART OF HISTORY

They Fought for Their Freedom

Join us in creating the first United States Colored Troops Park in our nation and in preserving the legacy of the USCT on our region.

Fight for Freedom Sponsorship $5,000
- Name recognition on a chair (15 available)
- Recognition in all media, website, and 20,000+ digital impressions, newsletters, and social media exposures
- VIP seating for CAM USCT programming

Forks Road Sponsorship $15,000
- Name recognition on interpretive center steel sign (space available for 8 names)
- Recognition in all media, website, and 20,000+ digital impressions, newsletters, and social media exposures
- VIP seating for CAM USCT programming

Boundless Sponsorship $25,000
- Name recognition on a bench (2 available)
- Supporting New Hanover County 8th grade students to tour, receiving historical education
- Recognition in all media, website, and 20,000+ digital impressions, newsletters, and social media exposures
- VIP seating for CAM USCT programming

For sponsorship purchases, please click here

Photographs by Alan Cradick, 2022
USCT Park

A New Community Park Commemorating the Story of the United States Colored Troops, the First in the Nation

Public Ribbon Cutting: November 13, 2022

The park will be located on the site of the Battle of Forks Road on the ground of Cameron Art Museum, Wilmington, NC, where Stephen Hayes’ new sculpture, Boundless, now stands. Illuminated chairs and benches and an interpretative center provide a place for contemplation, community dialogue, live music, and educational programming.

CAM stands on the site of the Battle of Forks Road, a Civil War battle whose victory was won by the USCT and led to the fall of Wilmington, the Confederacy’s last seaport. Many of the African American soldiers who fought here were native to the area, and after the way, many stayed to build community. These 1820 USCT fought for their freedom and the freedom of those they loved. Their impact is significant, yet their story is virtually unknown.

The USCT Project is timely and necessary, as our nation looks closely at issues of race and systemic racism. The project’s goal, to engage the community and address race and racism through contextualizing Hayes’s USCT sculpture with local history, will benefit a city struggling to reconcile a tragic past of white supremacy.

Durham-born artist Stephen Hayes is the recipient of the 1858 Prize for Contemporary South Art and teaches at Duke University. He is known for his figurative work, specifically depicting the African American experience. Hayes’s work has been featured at the National Cathedral, Winston Salem State University, Duke University, CAM Raleigh, Rosa Parks Museum, African American Museum of Philadelphia, and Harvey B. Gantt Center, among others.

For more information, visit our website and contact Heather Wilson, Deputy Director, at hwilson@cameronartmuseum.org or (910) 395-5999 ext. 1003 or Elizabeth Overton, Director of Development, at eoverton@cameronartmuseum.org or (910) 395-5999 ext. 1008.

Stephen Hayes

Artist Stephen Hayes says, “As a black man in America, you see the imagery of a Black person in chains, being whipped, begging, kneeling and helpless. This project is important to me because, as a creator, I get to change that narrative—by giving Black soldiers a sense of honor and pride.”

Read about the project in The New York Times