

A Long Walk Home, The "Healing Tree" at the Black Girl Takeover, Douglass Park, Chicago, IL, 2018



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ABOUT THE PROJECT

OVERVIEW

A Long Walk Home (ALWH), an arts organization that empowers young people to end violence against girls and women, is building an enduring monument to honor Rekia Boyd and Black Girlhood within Chicago's Douglass Park in the North Lawndale neighborhood. The Rekia Boyd Monument Project follows a decade of public art activations in and around Douglass Park by ALWH's Girl/Friends Leadership Institute. The project poses a central question: How do we build a monument that commemorates Rekia Boyd's legacy and celebrates Black girlhood? The monument will be commissioned through an open call process for artists to collaboratively envision a public artwork that will also engage Black girls and young women as citizenartists in the process of building the monument. The Rekia Boyd Monument Project is led by A Long Walk Home, in partnership with the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE), Chicago Parks District, and Monument Lab, and is a part of the Chicago Monuments Project, which is supported by a grant from the Mellon Foundation.



Rekia Boyd March, A Long Walk Home, Douglass Park, Chicago, 2015, Sarah Ji

ABOUT REKIA BOYD'S LEGACY



Rekia Boyd as a School-Age Child, Courtesy of the Rekia Boyd Family

"Rekia was the one to say I love you, I miss you, come to try to kiss you on the cheek. She was the affectionate one, and she wasn't afraid to show it." —Martinez Sutton, Rekia Boyd's brother

Rekia Boyd's favorite color was yellow, a fitting reflection of the light she brought into every room. Known affectionately as "Kia" or "Strawberry," Rekia was a radiant 22-year-old woman from Chicago who exuded warmth, joy, and deep affection. She was someone everyone wanted to be around: a beloved daughter, sister, friend, and future nurse.

Born on November 5, 1989, Rekia grew up on the South Side of Chicago before her family moved to Dolton, Illinois. A graduate of Hyde Park Academy High School, Rekia was enrolled in a Licensed Practical Nurse program in Bloomingdale at the time of her death. She was actively building a life rooted in care, creativity, and service.

Rekia loved children, comedy, and old-school and contemporary R&B. She had a natural sense of style, often doing her own nails and hair, and carried herself with grace and presence. Every "i" in her name was signed with a heart.

On the night of March 21, 2012, Rekia was with

friends near Douglas Park on Chicago's West Side, listening to music. That night, she was shot in the back of the head by an off-duty Chicago police detective using an unregistered firearm. Rekia and her friends were unarmed. She died a few days later.

In 2015, the judge later ruled that firing into a group of people, as the officer did, constitutes an intentional act that should have been charged as first-degree murder. However, because the officer was not originally charged with that crime, Illinois's double jeopardy statute prevented the case from being retried. The criminal justice system failed Rekia Boyd.

Her murder sparked protests across Chicago and the country and became a catalyst for the national #SayHerName movement. Her brother, Martinez Sutton, has become a prominent anti police brutality activist, founding Rekia's Haven and continuing to fight for justice for Rekia and for Black women whose lives have been stolen. In 2015, he testified before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights about Rekia's case and the excessive use of force against African Americans. Today, he and his family continue to fight for her justice and remembrance. *"He took her life but not her voice."* According to the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, between 1999 and 2015, women made up 20 percent of the unarmed people of color killed by law enforcement. In the wake of the May 2015 verdict that acquitted the officer who killed Rekia Boyd, activists launched the #SayHerName campaign to directly confront this erasure. The campaign emerged as both a response to Rekia's killing and a broader call to recognize the Black women and girls who have faced police violence but whose stories remain largely invisible. #SayHerName insists that justice cannot be partial and that the lives of Black women and girls be recognized, not as footnotes, but as central to any movement seeking real justice. For over a decade, Rekia Boyd's life and legacy have been the guiding force behind a growing coalition of artists, organizers, and community members committed to public memory and justice.

In her name, groups including her family, Black Lives Matter-Chicago chapter, BY100, Assata's Daughters, Breathing Room Collective, Kimberlé Crenshaw, and the African American Policy Forum, Project Nia, It Takes A Village Leadership Academy, GoodKidsMadCity-Englewood, Chicago Public Art Group, Homan Square Foundation, Chicago Alliance Against Racist & Political Repression, The City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program's Monument Lab, Battered Women Network, Love and Protect, and Chicago Torture Justice Memorials, Women's All Points Bulletin have worked to amplify her story, preserve her memory, and demand accountability.

A Long Walk Home has worked in deep collaboration with these partners, hosting events that honor Rekia's life and carry forward her legacy. Rekia remains at the center of this work, not as a

Rekia Boyd March, A Long Walk Home, Douglass Park, Chicago, 2015, Sarah Ji



Wall of Respect, A Long Walk Home, SAIC, Girl/Friends Summer Program, Sebastián Hidalgo, 2016



symbol but as a person whose life continues to shape and inspire a movement. For a list of collaborative events, please see the Appendix.



ABOUT A LONG WALK HOME

A Long Walk Home (ALWH) is a Chicago-based national nonprofit organization that uses art to empower young people to end violence against girls and women. Founded by sisters and artists Salamishah Tillet and Scheherazade Tillet, the organization grew out of their performance project Story of a Rape Survivor (SOARS), which documented Salamishah's healing journey after surviving sexual assault in college. First produced in 1998, long before the rise of the #MeToo movement, SOARS brought visibility to the survivor's experience and laid the foundation for ALWH's mission to harness the power of art for personal and collective transformation. Today, ALWH is one of the nation's leading organizations at the intersection of art, healing, and justice, working toward a world in which girls and young women can live free from gender-based and racial violence.

At the heart of ALWH's programming work is the Girl/Friends Leadership Institute, a year-round program that trains Black girls and young women in photography, performance, advocacy,

and trauma-informed leadership. Founded in 2009 and originally based in North Lawndale, just blocks from where Rekia Boyd was killed by an off-duty police officer, Girl/Friends was created to amplify the voices, visions, and lived experiences of Black girls. That same summer, Girl/Friends led their first public march through Douglass Park after a young girl was raped on her way to school. This act of collective resistance has since evolved into an annual ritual, reclaiming public space and confronting violence through storytelling, protest, and art. Since 2015, ALWH has led a sustained effort to honor the life and legacy of Rekia Boyd through artistic memorials, youth-led protests, healing circles, and public art. These efforts include the launch of the Rekia Boyd Monument Project, and the development of The Black Girlhood Altar, a large-scale multimedia installation at the Chicago Cultural Center for the 2023 Chicago Architecture Biennial. As part of this exhibition, ALWH artists Scheherazade Tillet and Robert Narciso created *Rest and Recess: The Courtyard*, a room designed as both a replica of Douglass Park and a mock-up for the future Rekia Boyd Monument. The installation draws directly from years of ALWH's arts programming, activism, and collaboration with Black girls.

At the center of *Rest and Recess: The Courtyard* stands a sculpted tree by Robert Narciso crafted from branches gathered from Rekia Boyd's family home. Yellow hearts hang from the branches, each bearing prayers and wishes for Black girls. The tree is activated by a sound installation of Black girlhood games, curated by Scheherazade Tillet and inspired by her childhood. Visitors hear laughter and joy while facing a wall-sized Black and white photograph of girls at a water fountain from Tillet's former elementary school—an image untouched by violence. A garden designed by Elizabeth Cronin and woven benches by Kim Hill surround the tree, inviting viewers to rest, reflect, and remember. By reimagining Douglass Park as a sacred site, this installation reclaims the park and honors Rekia Boyd, transforming rest into a form of resistance. It embodies ALWH's vision for a permanent monument that centers Black girlhood as sacred, powerful, and worthy of protection—a living tribute where peace, remembrance, and play can coexist.

For more information about A Long Walk Home, see the <u>A Long Walk Home website</u>.

ABOUT THE CHICAGO MONUMENTS PROJECT



Black Girls Are Monument, Girl/Friends Summer Public Program, Douglass Park, by Kyle-Flubacker, 2022

The Chicago Monuments Project intends to grapple with the often unacknowledged—or forgotten history associated with the City's various municipal art collections and provides a vehicle to address the hard truths of Chicago's racial history, confront the ways in which that history has and has not been memorialized, and develop a framework for marking public space that elevates new ways to memorialize Chicago's history more equitably and accurately.

On June 19, 2023, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation announced a grant of \$6.8 million to The City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) to support the Chicago Monuments Project (CMP) and citywide community-generated commemorative initiatives and installations. These projects will add—permanently and temporarily to the City of Chicago's collection and memorialize events, people, and groups that historically have been excluded or underrepresented.

The Chicago Monuments Project (CMP) was created as a response to the City of Chicago's need for a larger reckoning with monuments that symbolize outdated values and do not tell the story—or the full story—of Chicago's history. A collaboration between DCASE, Chicago Public Schools (CPS), and the Chicago Park District (CPD), CMP's work began in 2020 and was guided by an advisory committee of community leaders, artists, architects, scholars, curators, and City officials.

While significant attention was paid to issues pertaining to the existing collection, CMP agreed that its most important work was in the development of new works that will tell an inclusive story going forward. As part of its engagement process, CMP released a call, "Reimagining Monuments: Request for Ideas," to solicit proposals from individual artists and community groups that rethink the place, purpose, and permanence of monuments in our public spaces. The Rekia Boyd Monument Project is among those supported by this initiative.

For more information about the Chicago Monuments Project, see:

- Chicago city website
- <u>City of Chicago to Receive \$6.8 Million from</u> <u>Mellon Foundation to Fund Creation of New</u> Chicago Monuments, 19 June 2023
- Chicago Monuments Project: <u>Recommendations for the Current & Future</u> <u>Collection</u>

SITE INFORMATION

nt, Girl/Friends Summer Public Program,- Douglass Park by Kyle-Flubacker, 2022

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NORTH LAWNDALE

North Lawndale, on Chicago's West Side, is a neighborhood shaped by migration, labor, and liberation. Once home to the original Sears, Roebuck and Co. headquarters, a sprawling industrial complex that made Chicago a hub of commerce, North Lawndale thrived as a working-class community. By the mid-20th century, it became a destination for Black families during the Great Migration, who brought with them visions of freedom, self-determination, and community care. Despite decades of systemic disinvestment, redlining, and state violence, North Lawndale has always been a place where resistance and imagination meet.

In 1966, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. moved into a Lawndale apartment to draw attention to housing discrimination and urban poverty, launching the Chicago Freedom Movement from the neighborhood. Soon after, North Lawndale became the home of Fred Hampton, the Deputy Chairman of the Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party, whose house remains a landmark of Black revolutionary history. Hampton organized free breakfast programs, community clinics, and youth education initiatives right from North Lawndale, advancing a vision of liberation grounded in mutual aid and political consciousness.

DOUGLASS PARK



Black Girl Takeover, A Long Walk Home, Douglass Park, Sarah Ji, 2018

A Long Walk Home will be placing the Rekia Boyd Monument in Douglass Park, near the intersection of West 15th Street and South Albany Avenue in North Lawndale. This area is adjacent to a tree where Rekia Boyd and others are honored in memory.

Douglass Park is situated in the community of North Lawndale and parts of the Pilsen neighborhood, and sits on 162 acres of land. Douglass Park ranks as the 10th largest park in Chicago. The park was first built in 1879, with renovations taking place in 1905 under the supervision of Jen Jensen, General Superintendent and Chief Landscape Architect at the time.

This park was originally named in dedication to Stephen A. Douglas, a United States Senator who helped bring the Illinois Central Railroad to Chicago. Douglas, who benefited from his wife's cotton plantation in Mississippi, famously debated Abraham Lincoln on the expansion of slavery into the territories in the 1858 Illinois senate race and went on to lose to Lincoln in the 1860 presidential election. Beginning in 2017, Village Leadership Academy students, their teacher Bianca Jones, and residents of North Lawndale petitioned to have the park renamed after abolitionists Frederick and Anna Douglass, which was officially updated in 2020. Douglass Park includes recreational and cultural landmarks for park visitors. The park includes tennis courts, playing fields, basketball courts, a pavilion, and a fieldhouse with meeting spaces. The Park is an important site of joyful activities including cookouts, as well as Chicago Parks-District-led activities including Movies in the Park screenings and other Night Out in the Parks events.

For more information, visit:

https://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/parksfacilities/douglass-anna-and-frederick-park

REKIA'S TREE



Black Girl Takeover, Douglass Park, North Lawndale, Chicago, by Paul Farber 2018

Rekia's Tree is a sacred site of remembrance, resistance, and community gathering. Located in Douglass Park, it marks the last place Rekia Boyd was alive.

Sometime between 2012 and 2015, an activist wrapped a yellow banner—Rekia's favorite color— around the trunk of the tree, marking it as a place of remembrance, an unmarked grave. There is no official plaque, no formal acknowledgment—only the collective memory and continued presence of those who refuse to forget.

Since then, people have continued to gather at the tree to protest, to mourn, and to imagine justice. Many activists, artists, and community members have claimed this space not just for Rekia, but in remembrance of the countless other Black women and girls whose lives have been stolen. Though unofficial, the community has made it sacred—a living monument where grief meets resistance, and where names continue to be spoken.

Over the years, the tree has remained a focal point for artistic and commemorative interventions. In 2018, A Long Walk Home's "Visibility Project: Black Girls Takeover Douglass Park" honored the site with yellow streamers inviting young artists and organizers to claim space in her name. Drawing from this moment, artists Scheherazade Tillet and Robert Narciso incorporated branches from Rekia's family home into a sculptural tree for *Freedom Square: The Black Girlhood Altar* (2023-2024) at the Chicago Cultural Center. That work, and Rekia's Tree itself, assert Black Girlhood as worthy of reverence, protection, and visibility. In returning to this tree again and again—community members have built not just a site of mourning, but a powerful place of presence and advocacy, where collective care becomes a form of resistance.

OPEN CALL AND ARTIST SELECTION PROCESS

OPEN CALL PROCESS

Interested artists are invited to submit short question responses regarding their interest in the project, work samples, a CV, and contact information for two references through an <u>online form</u> by **Thursday, July 31, 2025, 5:00 p.m. EST (4:00 p.m. CST)**.

Monument Lab staff will host an <u>informational webinar</u> during the open call period for interested applicants. A captioned recording of the webinar will be available online for those unable to attend. Additional application support is available throughout the open call period by emailing <u>RBMP@monumentlab.com</u>.



CAB5, A Long Walk Home, Freedom Square/The Black Girlhood Altar, Chicago Cultural Center, Photo by Tom Harris, 2023

TIMELINE

Thursday, June 26th Open Call Launches

Thursday, July 10th Informational Webinar

Thursday July 31st Open Call Closes

Early September Finalists Notified

Thursday, October 30th Finalist Proposals Due

Tuesday, November 4th Finalist Presentation Day (Rekia Boyd's Birthday)

Late 2025 Final Selected Artist Notified and Announced

SHORT RESPONSE APPLICATION QUESTIONS

To help this team assess your fit for this open call, please provide the following via the <u>online submission portal</u>:

- 1. Up to five samples of your past work
- 2. Names and contact information of two references
- 3. Answers to the following short-answer questions in 150 words or less each:

1. WHAT DRAWS YOU TO THIS OPPORTUNITY TO HONOR REKIA BOYD AND CELEBRATE BLACK GIRLHOOD?

2. WHAT CORE VALUES SHAPE YOUR ARTISTIC PRACTICE, AND HOW DO YOU ENVISION CARRYING THEM INTO A COLLABORATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS FOR THIS MEMORIAL?

3. WHAT ELEMENTS OF YOUR ARTISTIC PROCESS AND PAST WORK FEEL MOST ALIGNED WITH THIS PROJECT?

4. WHAT ARE YOUR INITIAL THOUGHTS OR GENERAL IDEAS FOR AN ENDURING ARTWORK HONORING REKIA BOYD AND BLACK GIRLHOOD IN DOUGLASS PARK?

5. IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE WITH US? (OPTIONAL)

FINALIST PROPOSALS

A Long Walk Home, with support from Monument Lab, will invite up to five artists to prepare final proposals. Each artist will participate in a half-day site visit to Douglass Park and will have the opportunity to connect with stakeholders as part of the final proposal development process. Finalists will be compensated \$3,000 each for their work on the proposals. Each submission should include a proposed budget, timeline, renderings, preferred fabricators (if applicable), and an artistic statement. Applications will be reviewed by a Monument Advisory Committee. Artists will be invited to Chicago for in-person presentations, with travel expenses covered by A Long Walk Home. The Committee's review will result in a final recommendation to A Long Walk Home. This phase concludes with the contracting process, followed by the announcement of the selected artist.

The selected project will be supported with a total production budget of \$500,000 for materials, fabrication, and implementation costs. The artist will also receive a fee of \$100,000 in recognition of their creative vision and work. Additional support will be available for programming, signage, interpretive materials and documentation.



Black Girls Are Monument, Girl/Friends Summer Public Program,- Douglass Park, by Kyle-Flubacker, 2022

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Eligibility Requirements:

- Professional visual artists or artist teams, working in any and all media
 - If applying as an artist team or collective, please identify in your application materials the team member who will serve as the project lead and primary point of contact.
- The artist whose original work is represented in the work samples.
- Employees of A Long Walk Home, Monument Lab, the Chicago Monuments Project, the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, the Chicago Parks District, and Artist Advisory Committee members and their family members are not eligible to apply

SELECTION CRITERIA

To be considered for this opportunity, A Long Walk Home will be assessing applicants along the following criteria:

ARTISTIC VISION AND RELEVANCE

The artist's work should demonstrate a deep understanding of the historical, social, and cultural significance of commemorating Rekia Boyd and honoring Black Girlhood.

COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

The artist should demonstrate an ability to work collaboratively with community stakeholders, including a proven track record of meaningful engagement and creating space for public participation in community-based public art processes.

PAST BODY OF WORK

The artist should demonstrate creativity and technical expertise in their practice, as well as the ability to engage diverse publics. Their portfolio should reflect a commitment to storytelling, accessibility, and collaboration. Experience with large-scale public projects is welcome, as is a clear vision for how this opportunity advances the artist's practice.

THE REKIA BOYD MONUMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A Long Walk Home will be advised by a committee of leaders who are activists and experts in public art and municipal programming. All members are knowledgeable of A Long Walk Home and the work they have done to honor the life of Rekia Boyd. The Rekia Boyd Monument Advisory Committee includes:

NAKIESHA S. HOBBS

Co-Founder/ Managing Partner, It Takes a Village Development, North Lawndale resident

CAMILLE MARTIN-THOMSEN

Dean of Faculty and Vice President of Academic Affairs, School of the Art Institute of Chicago

MARTINEZ SUTTON

Rekia Boyd's Brother and Activist

PASTOR PHIL JACKSON

Founder & Chief Executive Officer, The Firehouse Community Arts Center of Chicago

SALAMISHAH TILLET

2022 Pulitzer Prize Winner, Writer, Activist, and Scholar, Board President, A Long Walk Home

DANIELLE NOLEN

Educator, It Takes A Village Leadership Academy, North Lawndale resident, A Long Walk Home's Girl/ Friends Alum

ANDRES LUIS HERNANDEZ

Associate Professor, Department of Art Education, School of the Art Institute of Chicago

ADDITIONAL PARTNERS

March for Rekia, Martin Sutton, 2016

In addition to A Long Walk Home and the Chicago Monuments Project, the following play a key role in the process of realizing The Rekia Boyd Monument Project:

CITY OF CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPECIAL EVENTS The City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) supports artists and cultural organizations, invests in the creative economy, and expands access and participation in the arts throughout Chicago's 77 neighborhoods. As a collaborative cultural presenter, arts funder, and advocate for creative workers, our programs and events serve Chicagoans and visitors of all ages and backgrounds, downtown and in diverse communities across our city—to strengthen and celebrate Chicago. DCASE produces some of the city's most iconic festivals, markets, events, and exhibitions at the Chicago Cultural Center, Millennium Park, and in communities across the city—serving a local and global audience of 25 million people. The Department offers cultural grants and resources, manages public art, supports TV and film production and other creative industries, and permits special events throughout Chicago.

Chicago's park system has evolved significantly since the 1830s, when the city adopted the motto "Urbs in horto" ("City in a Garden"), foreshadowing the growth of green spaces that would become integral to the city's identity. The movement for parks began in the 1850s, led by Dr. John Rauch's successful protest for parkland in Lincoln Park, which spurred the creation of the Lincoln, South, and West Park Commissions. These agencies developed iconic parks such as the Lincoln Park Zoo, Humboldt Park, Garfield Park, and Washington and Jackson Parks, with the South Park Commission also overseeing major developments like Burnham Park and Northerly Island. As Chicago expanded, new park districts were formed, but the Great Depression led to the consolidation of 22 districts into one Chicago Park District in 1934. Since then, the district has expanded, introducing innovative programs, adding thousands of acres of green space, and becoming the largest provider of parks and recreation in Chicago. Today, the Chicago Park District manages over 8,900 acres, including 600+ parks, 31 beaches, and world-class conservatories, continuing its legacy of providing diverse recreational, cultural, and nature-based opportunities.

CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT

MONUMENT LAB

Monument Lab is a nonprofit public art, history, and design studio that is a leading voice in how monuments live with us in public spaces. As a team of artists, curators, and researchers, Monument Lab critically engages our inherited symbols in order to unearth the next generation of monuments that elevate stories and systems of belonging. Monument Lab has been recognized for producing groundbreaking public art exhibitions, participatory research initiatives, media projects, civic and municipal partnerships, and site-specific commissions and workshops. Monument Lab works with artists, students, educators, activists, municipal agencies, and cultural institutions on participatory approaches to public engagement and collective memory. Monument Lab is based in Philadelphia, with team members and collaborators located across the United States, its territories, and beyond.

For more information, visit <u>MonumentLab.com</u>.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Dim sent?

WHAT IS THE TIMELINE FOR THE OPEN CALL, ANNOUNCEMENT, AND CREATION OF THE WORK?

The open call is live through **Thursday, July 31, 2025**. Up to 5 finalists will then be invited in September to craft and submit proposals, due by **October 30, 2025**. The selected submission will be announced in November following review by the Monument Advisory Committee, Monument Lab, and A Long Walk Home.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE NAMES OF REFERENCE?

Each applicant must submit two (2) names and contact information of references. References will be contacted for applicants of final consideration. No letters of reference are needed in this process.

WILL THERE BE AN INTERVIEW STAGE IN THE APPLICATION PROCESS?

No. A committee of leaders in the fields of public art, history, activism, and civic engagement will review applications, attend presentations, and make a recommendation to A Long Walk Home. This review will be based on each applicant's past experience, work samples, and references. Interviews will not be offered to applicants.

ARE ARTIST COLLECTIVES WELCOME?

Yes! Artist collectives are welcome to apply. Please elect one person to apply on behalf of the group. Also, please note that the production and programming amounts and stipends remain the same for individuals and collectives.

I'M HAVING DIFFICULTY WITH THE APPLICATION. WHAT ADDITIONAL RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE FOR APPLICANTS?

Please email Monument Lab at <u>RBMP@monumentlab.com</u> if you have difficulty accessing or filling out the application.

CAB5, A Long Walk Home, Freedom Square_The Black Girlhood Altar, Chicago Cultural Center, Photo by Nathan Keay, 2023

PlayDo

poem by Ntozake Shang

CONTACT

BLACK GIRL, CALL HOME

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WEBINAR

A webinar covering project goals, community engagement strategies, and the selection criteria, and offering the opportunity to ask questions, will be hosted on **Thursday, July 10th, 2025**, at 5:00 p.m. CST (6:00 p.m. EST). Those interested in attending the webinar can sign up <u>here</u>.

QUESTIONS

Please email Monument Lab at <u>RBMP@monumentlab.com</u> if you have difficulty accessing or filling out the application, or with any questions you may have about the project and the application process.



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APPENDIX



To learn more about Rekia Boyd and the work of A Long Walk Home, feel free to check out the following resources:

ABOUT REKIA BOYD

- Colbert, Chris. "<u>Rekia Boyd</u>." Say Their Name. DCP. 2022.
- Stanford University. "Rekia Boyd." Say Their Names Spotlight at Stanford, 5 Aug. 2020.
- Huber, Molly. "<u>Violence Recovery Specialist Draws on Personal Experience to Help</u> Patients and Families Heal after Trauma." UChicago Medicine, 2015.
- "Say Their Name" | <u>Rekia Boyd</u> | DCP Entertainment." DCPEntertainment.

ABOUT THE #sayhername MOVEMENT

- Kelly, Mary Louise, and Heidi Glenn. "Say Her Name: How the Fight for Racial Justice Can Be More Inclusive of Black Women." NPR.org, 7 July 2020
- Tillet, Salamishah. "Female Visibility Matters." Nytimes.com, The New York Times, 7 Aug. 2015
- Savage, Lauren. "<u>Kimberlé Crenshaw on Police Violence against Black Women</u>" Columbia Magazine, 2016.
- Fondren, Precious. "<u>Calls to #SayTheirNames Miss the Point</u>." Teen Vogue, 11 June 2020.
- "Say Her Name" | <u>School of the Art Institute of Chicago</u>." Saic.edu, 2024.
- Button Poetry. "Porsha Olayiwola Rekia Boyd." YouTube, 30 Aug. 2015.

ABOUT DOUGLASS PARK

- Chicago Park District. "Douglass Park."
- Britannica. "Stephen A. Douglas."
- Keating, Deborah. "<u>Douglas, Stephen A</u>." Civil War on the Western Border: The Missouri-Kansas Conflict, 1854-1865. Kansas City Public Library.

CONTEXT ABOUT REKIA BOYD'S MURDER

- Masterson, Matt. "<u>Ex-Chicago Detective Acquitted in Rekia Boyd Killing Wants Court</u> <u>Records Expunged</u>." WTTW News, 14 Nov. 2019.
- McDonough, Katie. "<u>America's Big Criminal Justice Lie: What One Cop's Acquittal</u> <u>Reveals about Police Violence & Rekia Boyd's Death</u>." Salon, Salon.com, 21 Apr. 2015.
- Sanchez , Ray. "<u>Chicago Officer Who Shot Rekia Boyd Resigns</u>." CNN, 2016.
- teamEBONY. "<u>Trial for Officer Charged with Manslaughter in Death of Rekia Boyd</u> <u>Begins</u>." EBONY, EBONY Media Operations, 10 Apr. 2015.

COMMEMORATIVE AND ACTIVIST EFFORTS LED BY A LONG WALK HOME AND PEER ORGANIZATIONS

- A Long Walk Home. "<u>Rekia Boyd #Say Her Name</u>." YouTube, 22 Dec. 2019.
- Jackson, Jenn M. "<u>The Visibility Project: Black Girls Takeover Douglas Park Was the</u> Empowering Party of the Summer." Teen Vogue, 30 July 2018.
- "Laughter Is Best Medicine for Family, Activists Gathering 10 Years after Shooting That Killed Rekia Boyd." CBS News, 22 Mar. 2022.
- Monument Lab, "2019 Youth Fellows: A Long Walk Home | Monument Lab," Dec. 2019.
- Queen Collective, <u>Change the Name</u>.
- <u>Unapologetic</u>. Directed by Ashley O'Shay. 2020.

A TIMELINE OF COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS LED BY A LONG WALK HOME

Since 2015, ALWH has honored the life and legacy of Rekia Boyd through community-based rituals, youth-led public art, healing circles, marches, and exhibitions. This timeline documents ALWH's nearly decade-long commitment to memorializing Rekia Boyd.

2015

March

 ALWH youth launch a photo-documentation project focused on Black women and girls and Chicago's growing racial justice movement, including Black Lives Matter and BYP100. Led by ALWH's teen artist Lorenshay Hamilton, the project lays the foundation for ALWH's ongoing use of protest art and visual storytelling in what will become the Rekia Boyd Monument Project.

October

 ALWH dedicates its annual anti-violence march to Rekia Boyd, held in North Lawndale's Douglass Park—the site where Rekia was fatally shot. This becomes a recurring space of remembrance and resistance in ALWH's work.

2016

March

• On the fourth anniversary of Rekia Boyd's death, ALWH organizes a teachin at North Lawndale College Prep and the Breathing Room, connecting her story to broader patterns of state violence against Black women and girls.

April

• At the inaugural Black Girl Movement Conference in New York City, ALWH leads a "State of Black Girlhood" panel and presents Picturing Black Girlhood, curated by Scheherazade Tillet, a youth-led photo exhibition featuring artwork inspired by Rekia Boyd.

July

• ALWH debuts (In)Visible: Chicago Girls on Race, Gender, and Freedom, a photography exhibition at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago featuring Girl/Friends portraits and the first mock bench for the Rekia Boyd Monument.

November

 On what would have been Rekia Boyd's 27th birthday, ALWH, through the leadership of Scheherazade Tillet in collaboration with the School of the Art Institute of Chicago as part of her Art and Justice Residency, hosts a Unity and Freedom Party at Nichols Tower in North Lawndale, honoring local activists and publicly launching the Rekia Boyd Monument Project.

2017

March

• For the fifth anniversary of Rekia Boyd's death, ALWH partners with Village Leadership Academy's fifth and sixth graders to create a public wheatpasting project near the site of her death in North Lawndale, initiating ALWH's first youth-led public art memorial.

November

• On Rekia's 28th birthday, Girl/Friends youth return to Douglass Park to wheatpaste portraits at the site of her death, followed by a healing circle around the Rekia Boyd Memorial Tree.

2018

May

• Girl/Friends youth speak about Rekia Boyd at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago during Imagine This: A Safe City for Youth, calling for justice through art.

July

 ALWH's Executive Director, Scheherazade Tillet, curated Black Girls Takeover Douglass Park, a public performance and art protest funded by DCASE's Night Out in the Parks, centering Black girl joy and resistance.

2019

May

 Three Girl/Friends youth leaders, Anaya Patrice Frazier, Danielle Nolen, and Aliyah Young, are selected as Monument Lab Youth Fellows. Anaya Patrice Frazier writes and performs Rekia Boyd: #SayHerName in Douglass Park, honoring Rekia through spoken word.

November

- ALWH holds a public remembrance for what would have been Rekia Boyd's 30th birthday with her family and friends in Lawndale, near the apartment building where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stayed during the Chicago Freedom Summer.
- ALWH, with other Chicago-based organizers, supported Rekia Boyd's family in opposing Dante Servin's expungement hearing.

2020

June

 Amid national uprisings, ALWH hosts an online public healing circle led by Rekia's brother, Martinez Sutton, and Dr. Aja Reynolds, offering space for mourning and resistance for Black girls.

November

• ALWH launches a virtual altar for Rekia Boyd, inviting nationwide submissions of offerings, reflections, and memories.

2021

July

 ALWH launches Black Girls Are Monuments, a public art summer program in Douglass Park in collaboration with Monument Lab, SAIC, and 21c Museum Hotel. ALWH youth spend the summer creating public art that centers Rekia Boyd and reimagines monuments through the lens of Black girlhood.

2022

 ALWH artists Scheherazade Tillet and Robert Narciso debut The Black Girlhood Altar, a multimedia installation honoring missing and murdered Black girls, including Rekia Boyd. The altar travels from Chicago neighborhoods to major art institutions across the country, transforming public space into sacred ground for collective memory and healing.

2023

June

• The City of Chicago receives \$6.8 million from the Mellon Foundation to implement new public monuments. ALWH's Rekia Boyd Monument Project is one of eight projects selected as part of the Chicago Monuments Project.

November

 ALWH debuts Freedom Square: The Black Girlhood Altar at the Chicago Cultural Center. As part of a room installation, ALWH's artist reimagines Douglass Park and the Rekia Tree as sacred sites of memory, featuring visual rituals and installation art.

2024

March

 To close Freedom Square, ALWH hosts The Black Girlhood Altar Festival, a two-day event featuring intergenerational panels, wellness workshops, and a conversation between the families of Rekia Boyd, Breonna Taylor, and Marcie Gerald. This gathering continues ALWH's commitment to collective remembrance and Black girl-centered public healing.