

Greg Poole, Jr. All Faiths Chapel Mural Guide



The Mural, painted by North Carolina artist, Christopher Holt in 2021, was informed by the land's legacy with a concept that speaks to themes of meditation, unity, and recognition.

Silver Leaf was selected by the artist to elevate the viewers' perception and heighten the importance of the space. 1,400 individual leaves of silver create the mural's metallic background, with each individual leaf applied by hand.

Bird of Humanity

Inspired by historical photographs and sculpture, this captivating image above evokes strength and welcome, a soul looking back at us, carrying us into a hopeful future together.



Medicine Wheel, Clovis Point & Atlatl

Honoring the Indigenous People of this land– the atlatl, a spear throwing tool – discovered near the Spring Hill House, a Clovis point as the oldest invention of this continent, and the medicine wheel.



John Hunter

John Hunter lived to be 112 years old, most of his life as an enslaved person on this land. He witnessed America's independence from England, the creation of the City of Raleigh, and Emancipation. A remarkable family tree now links John Hunter to his living descendants.



People Enslaved

For more than 150 years, land that is now Dix Park was part of a plantation owned by the Hunter family and worked by enslaved African Americans.



Ox Cart

An old cart path cut through the hospital property connecting what is now Lake Wheeler Road to the former Spring Hill plantation. In the distance a dairy barn, which still stands beyond the park property.



Crossroad Path of 'Pleasant Influences & Small Embellishments'

Great intention was put into well-maintained hospital grounds for the benefit of patient well-being.



Portrait of a Nurse

The hospital opened a nursing school for women in 1913. Nurses were central to the mental health hospital as caregivers, students and members of the community who lived on Dix Hill.



Land Blessing

A land acknowledgment and blessing ceremony was at held Dix Park in partnership with the Triangle Native American Society in 2020.



Architectural Drawing

Representing the architectural drawing by A. J. Davis for the design of North Carolina's first mental health hospital, which opened in 1856.



Raleigh Past, Raleigh Future

Union troops camped on the hospital grounds in the final days of the Civil War. Union General John Logan famously halted a mob of these soldiers saving the capital city from destruction.



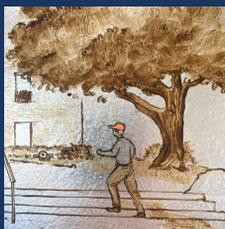
Frog Playing a Banjo

An ode to North Carolina songwriter and musician Graham Sharp of the Steep Canyon Rangers, who created the original score for this space to accompany the mural.



Patients at Work on the Farm

For many years the hospital was self-sustaining including growing all the food needed the patients and staff. Until the 1970's, farming and working outdoors was considered therapy for some patients.



Greg Poole, Jr.

Greg Poole, Jr. was a steadfast advocate for the park. His tireless efforts, along with many others, secured the 308-acres of Dix Park.



Rehabilitation of the Dix Chapel

In the center is a toolbox with the initials, S.E., in honor of African American carpenter and statesman, Stewart Ellison, who was once enslaved and worked on the construction of the original hospital building.