

Request for Proposals
History of St. John's College
May 26, 2021

I. Background

St. John's College (www.sjc.edu), founded in 1696, is a private liberal arts college. It has two campuses, a 36-acre campus in Annapolis, MD, and 250-acre campus in Santa Fe, NM; the two campuses comprise a single institution. Originally founded in Annapolis as a preparatory school named King William's School in 1696, it was chartered as a college in 1784. In 1937, a radical New Program of study following a Great Books of the Western World curriculum was introduced under the leadership of Stringfellow Barr and Scott Buchanan. The second campus in Santa Fe was opened in 1964. Buildings on the Annapolis campus range in age from McDowell Hall (begun in the 1740s as the mansion of the governor of Maryland) to Gilliam and Spector Halls, built in the 1990s.

The College's Board of Visitors and Governors (BVG) has created the St. John's College History Task Force (CHTF) to research the college's past in order to understand its relationship to indigenous and enslaved people, and to make recommendations to the BVG on how that relationship should be acknowledged. The archives of the Annapolis campus of the College are housed in the Maryland State Archives, and have been inaccessible to

College-Specific Topics (will require access to the Maryland State Archives)

Slavery at King William School/St. John's College for day-to-day operations, 1696-1865

Slavery and the construction of buildings on the Annapolis Campus

Antebellum relationship of St. Philip's Church and SJC Annapolis

Involvement of SJC in 1906 Annapolis lynching

History of academic development of SJC (prep school early college military academy
Great Books School)

(The MSA has recently re-opened following closure to researchers due to COVID. Admission is still limited, and an appointment is required. Research project due dates will be adjusted in the case of significant delays due to difficulty of obtaining admission to the MSA.)

IV. Selection Criteria

The following factors shall be considered in selecting the researcher:

At least a Bachelor's degree in History, American Studies, Historic Preservation, Architectural History, or closely related field; Master's degree preferred.

Proposed approach to conducting the research

Experience with projects of similar subject matter, scale, and context. (Please submit a writing sample from a similar project. This can be a pdf of up to five pages in length or an online link.)

Three references from clients/employers for similar projects

VI. Application

Please send cover letter, references and writing sample to taskforces@sjc.edu.

V. Questions

Please address any questions and/or submit your proposal to Adrian Trevisan, Chair of the CHTF at taskforces@sjc.edu.