



# Savannah - Chatham County Historic Site & Monument Commission

Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room  
September 1, 2022 4:00 PM  
MINUTES

## September 1, 2022 Historic Savannah Site and Monument Commission

**Members Present:** Kristopher Monroe, Chair  
Ashley Rainge, Vice Chair  
Lisa Watson, Secretary  
Eileen Baker  
Catherine Kostilnik  
Sean Mannion

**Staff Present:** Leah G. Michalak, Director of Historic Preservation  
Caitlin Chamberlain, Senior Planner  
Bri Morgan, Administrative Assistant  
Julie Yawn, Systems Analyst

### I. Call to Order and Welcome

[1. CONTINUED TO FUTURE MEETING - Petition of City of Savannah, Luciana Spracher | 22-003721-HM | Public Right of Way in front of 1316 Abercorn Street | Historical Marker](#)

Caitlin Chamberlain stated the petitioner will revise the application.

### II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

[2. Approve the August 4, 2022 Minutes](#)

[08.04.22 MEETING MINUTES.pdf](#)

#### Motion

Approve the August 4, 2022 Meeting minutes as presented.

#### Vote Results ( Approved )

Motion: Eileen Baker

Second: Sean Mannion

Kristopher Monroe	- Abstain
Sean Mannion	- Aye
Lisa D. Watson	- Aye
Eileen Baker	- Aye
Ashley Rainge	- Aye
Catherine D. Kostilnik, PhD	- Aye

### III. Regular Agenda

#### [3. Petition of Erin Wessling | 22-003727-PA | 1204 West Gwinnett Street | Waterworks Mural Project Phases 4 & 5](#)

☉ [Waterworks Murals Submittal Packet.pdf](#)

☉ [Staff Recommendation - 22-003727-PA W. Gwinnett St.pdf](#)

**Ms. Caitlin Chamberlain** presented the petitioner's request of approval for Phases 4 and 5 of a pedestrian walkway mural for the city property located at 1204 Gwinnett Street. The Water Works Site Pedestrian Walkway murals will be painted directly onto the asphalt of the Water Works site which is adjacent to the Arena and developing Canal District Trail. This is the final installment of this mural project and includes two murals- one by the Amiri Group and the other by the Savannah Land Group.

Per the applicant:

“With the completion of the first three sections of the pathway by the McGregor Group, Adolfo Group and Hebermel Group in Spring 2022, the continued work of the last two murals will occur throughout Fall 2022. The Amiri and Savannah Land Groups will continue to fuse their designs into the Pedestrian Walkway, installing designs based on the natural environment of the community and the people who have lived throughout it.”

Regarding context, per the applicant:

“The Pedestrian Walkway is a part of the larger Water Works Placemaking Project, which borders the new Enmarket Arena and the developing Canal District Trail. The Water Works Site is now largely inaccessible for public use and sits adjacent to the new City of Savannah Enmarket Arena & Canal District, which began development in 2020. The entire project, including the mural pathway, is a multi-pronged site project that aims to improve mobility, safety, and health of the neighboring community and support the economic growth of an area neglected for several decades. Local artists and community members will become key stakeholders in the design and creation of this walkway which will ensure a sense of ownership and stewardship for the site.”

The content of a mural is protected under the laws of free speech. The Georgia obscenity law standards are met.

Per the applicant:

“These public art projects aim to make a significant impact through art and interconnectivity between the arts, and the community, as key to a thriving city. From shining a light on the bright future that is West Savannah, to highlighting what already makes our city so great, both murals aim to weave both the past, present and future together through shapes, patterns and landmarks. The Amiri Group plans on making its mural interactive in the sense of enabling the youth in the surrounding community through art installation while the Savannah Land Group plans on making its mural interactive through fun, ‘playable’ designs- reminiscent of the game Candyland.”

The murals are not on the Water Works building; however, it is intended to complement the building’s surrounding site and context. The murals will be respectful to the greater context of the neighborhood. They are on a pedestrian trail which will not cause undue distraction to drivers. The murals are located within a mixed-use area.

The public was notified. No response was received. However, per the applicant: *During the RFP submission period an online Webinar was held for the public to answer any questions*

and expand on the concepts of both the mural pathway and the entire Water Works site activation. In addition, the Arena Community Task Force which is comprised of several presidents and active members of several West Wise Neighborhood Associations as well as Alderman Lanier, was presented the mural project concept, and chose the theme of the mural itself "Savannah Pathways." Several of the chosen artist groups will be holding charettes with neighboring communities to present their designs and gain feedback and engagement.

These are the last two murals in a five-part series, which will connect to the other three already in place. Aside from these, staff does not have any knowledge of other murals in the vicinity. Each mural is 120' x 20' which is appropriate as this is a large site. The murals are original designs and are appropriate within the context of the neighborhood. The nearby Carver Village Community is an influence for the Amiri Group's mural. They are consulting with a local resident, Teddy Adams, throughout the creative process to ensure the people of Carver Village are represented. The Amiri group plans to include children from the community in the production segment of the installation.

The proposed materials are:

- Behr Premium Tinted concrete paint with primer
- Behr White concrete base paint and paint tint
- Exterior Water Based House Paint over top of Exterior Primer
- H&C SHIELD-CRETE Acrylic Clear Glaze Coat

The paints are of superior quality for exterior use and the H&C Shield-Crete Acrylic Clear Glaze Coat will serve as a weather and vandalism-proof coating.

There are two artist teams each led by experienced mural artists; The Amiri Group and the Savannah Land Group. Past work was provided for the selected mural artists; these artists were selected through an RFP (Request for Proposals) process; they were selected by a group of community members and public art enthusiasts within Savannah.

Per the applicant:

"Timeframe for Mural 4 will be, upon approval, throughout September 2022, with Mural 5 taking place following the completion of Mural 4 around the beginning of October 2022."

The City is funding the project.

As required in the Master Plan and Guidelines, written notice was sent to all property owners, and the neighborhood association, within 200 feet of the subject property. A sign was posted on the property fifteen days prior to the meeting.

**Mr. Mannion** asked about the mural regarding the railroad museum (Candyland), is this considered advertising for the Railroad Museum. **Ms. Chamberlain** stated it is a local landmark, not the logo. **Ms. Kostilnik** stated there is a church (St. Mark's Baptist Church) on there as well. **Ms. Kostilnik** stated she does not see it as an advertisement. **Ms. Michalak** stated it will be to the Board's discretion.

#### **PETITIONER'S COMMENTS:**

**Ms. Erin Wessling**, petitioner, stated these are the last two murals. Many adjustments to put forth the best representation of the community and the City. They expect to begin toward the end of September. 'Amiris' will be done on concrete and 'Candyland' will be done on asphalt. Select students will assist in the installation. The historic landmarks are desirable

of inclusion to represent the community.

**Ms. Baker** commended the project. **Mr. Mannion** commended the project and its organizational process.

**Mr. Brett Bell** thanked the HSMC and those that helped with presentation to represent the community and its landmarks. **Mr. Monroe** expressed appreciation for acceptance of the feedback that the Board provided. Mr. Bell stated they will notify of the unveiling.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**Ms. Marsha Buford** stated she's worked with the task force for the past three years. She said particular areas were highlighted, not advertising, more of a pathway from Tybee to the westside. She stated she appreciated that their feedback was included.

**Ms. Caroline Rose**, of the Candyland Mural Team, the goal was to be fun and playful, as is Savannah. They appreciated the feedback, and they were able to pivot to yield the current results. They were happy to have community involvement. The goal is to have QR codes to actually play the game.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

**Mr. Mannion** stated he did not think it was advertisement, but wanted to be sure there were no loopholes. Great project to show the benefits of collaboration. High commendation to all involved.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

**Approval for final phase of the pedestrian walkway mural for the city property located at 1204 Gwinnett Street because the project meets the standards in the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art.**

**Motion**

Approval for final phase of the pedestrian walkway mural for the city property located at 1204 Gwinnett Street because the project meets the standards in the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art.

**Vote Results ( Approved )**

Motion: Sean Mannion

Second: Eileen Baker

Kristopher Monroe - Abstain

Sean Mannion - Aye

Lisa D. Watson - Aye

Eileen Baker - Aye

Ashley Rainge - Aye

Catherine D. Kostilnik, PhD - Aye

**IV. Other Business**

**V. Adjournment**

[4. Next Meeting: October 6, 2022 at 4pm - 112 East State Street: Mendonsa Hearing Room](#)

5. Adjourn

There being no further business to present before the Commission, the September 1, 2022 Historic Sites and Monuments Commission adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leah G. Michalak  
Director of Historic Preservation

/bm

***The Chatham County - Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission provides meeting minutes which are adopted by the respective Board. Verbatim transcripts of minutes are the responsibility of the interested party.***