



**SAVANNAH-CHATHAM COUNTY HISTORIC SITE AND MONUMENT
COMMISSION
HISTORICAL MARKER DECISION**

PETITIONER: **The City of Savannah**
P.O. Box 1027
Savannah, GA 31402

FILE No.: **21-000348-PA**

LOCATION: **400 Block of West Broughton Street**

DATE: **February 4, 2021**

NATURE OF REQUEST:

The applicant is requesting approval for Public Art information displays within kiosks on the 400 block of West Broughton Street. The kiosks are part of a larger project, spanning 6 blocks, from Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. (400 Block), to Drayton Street (0 block of East Broughton). The kiosks are part of a larger City of Savannah project currently under construction to revitalize the Broughton streetscape.

Currently under review are public art on two kiosks (the kiosks themselves have already been approved by the Historic District Board of Review), one on the north and one on the south side of the 400 block of West Broughton Street; however, the applicant is proposing that the 5 additional blocks of kiosks also include similar public art. The petitioner has indicated that they would appreciate the approval of the project, allowing Staff to review future installations.

North Kiosk:

The kiosk on the north side of the street will focus on the transition of Broughton Street from a residential area to a more commercial area in the late 1800s. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps from Savannah - Chatham County indicate the location of the residential dwellings west on Broughton Street highlighting the diversity of businesses in the early 20th century.

South Kiosk:

The kiosk on the south side of the street will focus on Savannah's two primary commercial corridors – Broughton Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. (formerly West Broad Street). The copy discusses the contrast between the two corridors due to segregation.

FINDINGS:

The following standards from the Historic Site and Monument Commission Guidelines for Markers, Monuments and Public Art apply:

Evaluating Sites for Markers, Monuments, or Public Art. Certain factors should be taken into consideration when evaluating whether a site is the appropriate location for a marker, monument or public art [hereto referred to as "object" to indicate the inclusion of all three types]. These factors include:

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The installation of an object should not cause overcrowding of the site, if there are existing objects. Objects should be sited far enough away from other objects as to allow the visitor proper appreciation of each individually.

The proposed object should not damage or disturb existing established vegetation on the site including low tree limbs, or significant tree roots.

The proposed object should not require the removal or alteration of existing above or below ground utilities.

The proposed site should be large enough to accommodate an object, and should not encroach on other existing object sites, buildings, or designated green space.

The installation of the public art is to be integrated onto kiosks previously approved by the Historic District Board of Review (18-001061-COA); therefore, the addition of the public art onto the kiosks will not cause overcrowding, nor will it damage or disturb existing vegetation or utilities. The kiosks are being constructed with the inclusion of the public art in mind, therefore the site is large enough for the objects.

The proposed site should not be utilized for special events (such as sports, festivals, ceremonies, etc) on a regular basis which an object would disrupt.

The proposed site should not be prone to frequent automobile accidents which could damage the proposed object.

The proposed site should be easily accessible to pedestrians and the physically challenged (excluding marker sites).

The proposed site should be visible and accessible from a public right of way.

The proposed site should have adequate parking nearby (excluding marker sites).

The kiosks are located a large, redesigned sidewalk area along the north and south sides of Broughton Street. Broughton Street is known as a festival zone, often playing host to parades and other large group gatherings; Broughton Street is also known for frequent automobile accidents occurring on the street itself. Although known for festivities and accidents, the kiosks are to be located within a well-designed buffer zone between the sidewalk and the street, allowing for the kiosks to not become detrimental to the festivities nor prone to possible damage from automobiles. The kiosks and proposed public art will be included on the sidewalks along Broughton Street and will be easily accessible and will have adequate nearby on-street parking.

The proposed site should not have a high probability of significant archaeology unless an archaeological study is part of the proposal.

The proposed site should be easy to maintain.

The installation of the object should enhance the space and character of the surrounding neighborhood.

The public art proposed is included in a larger project to revitalize the Broughton Street corridor and will add to the enhancement of the neighborhood.

The installation of the object should not require the alteration or removal of existing signage (traffic, street, etc).

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The installation of the object should not significantly affect automobile traffic sight lines.

The installation of the public art is included in the already approved and ongoing Broughton Street revitalization project the above will not be affected.

The installation of the object should enhance the design of the overall site.

The public art proposed is included in a larger project to revitalize the Broughton Street corridor and will add to the enhancement of the site.

The installation of the object should not require the removal or alteration of existing sidewalks, unless it is part of a comprehensive redesign for the entire site (which is generally discouraged).

The public art is part of an overall enhancement of the site.

If periodic memorial services are likely, the site should be able to accommodate them without causing undue disruption to the neighborhood, plantings, etc.

The site will not play host to memorial services.

Site in Relation to Theme for Markers or Monuments. *The relationship between site and theme for a marker or monument is critical in determining the appropriate site for a particular theme.*

Public Art. *While public art by definition does not commemorate historical people, places, or events, its location is therefore less limited by relevance to the site. The theme of public art is considered Arts and Humanities and therefore the site should be appropriate for that theme.*

The location of public art in the Landmark District should respect the Oglethorpe Plan, particularly in terms of historic viewsheds and sight lines.

The inclusion of public art onto the already approved kiosks being installed along Broughton Street respects the Oglethorpe plan.

Design. *The design of a marker, monument, or public work of art should be of the highest quality and caliber, and enhance public space. In order to promote the high standards the City of Savannah has historically enjoyed in its markers, monuments, and public art, the following guidelines should be observed.*

Monuments and Public Art. *Monuments may take on many forms including works of art, benches, statues, sculptures, obelisks, sundials, etc. Monuments are typically commissioned, site-specific pieces.*

Public art may consist of a variety of media including, but not limited to, sculpture, mosaic, fountains or other water elements, or murals. Public art may be existing artwork or commissioned artwork.

The proposed public art will be photographic in nature and is a commissioned work.

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The applicant may choose to commission a work of art or monument. The artwork or monument must be of the highest quality and should adhere to the guidelines.

Public art should generally be considered permanent and be designed accordingly, except in special situations which will be evaluated on an individual basis.

Monuments and public art should be designed and constructed of materials suitable for outdoor display. All proposed materials should have performed satisfactorily in the local climate for a period of time long enough to assure permanence. Future maintenance and conservation requirements should be considered.

Monuments and public art should be designed to be reasonably resistant to vandalism.

The proposed public art is to be a permanent part of the approved kiosks. The public art will be of superior materials with the intention of being vandalism resistant.

Monuments and public art should be designed so as not to pose a danger to the curious public, such as the use of sharp objects or loose parts.

Monument and public art design should include landscaping, paving, seating, drainage, lighting, fencing, or other protective measures which may be considered necessary.

Monuments and public art should be of superior quality and craftsmanship.

Monuments should not resemble gravestones.

The proposed public art is to be designed with materials of a superior quality, will not pose any danger to pedestrians and will be within a newly maintained and landscaped area.

public art should be an original work of art (one of a kind) or reproduced in editions of less than 200.

Monuments and public art should not replicate an original monument or work of art.

Monuments and public art should be designed to complement and enhance the site in which it is located. It should not compete with, dominate or encroach upon existing monuments, public art, or buildings.

Monuments and public art should be respectful of the architectural, historical, geographical, and social/cultural context of the site.

The majority of the public art will utilize historical images of Savannah and other documents from the City Archives. These documents, although not original works, will be utilized in a unique and original way to present them to the public. These images and documents are part of the community and respectful to the community.

Monuments and public art should be compatible in scale, materials, and form with its context. Context includes the buildings, monuments, public art, landscaping and open space to which the monument or public art is visually related.

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The proposed work will be of an appropriate scale and will be within a maintained and landscaped portion of the revitalization of Broughton Street.

The artist's name may be incorporated into the design but should be in a discreet location on the work of art.

The designer and/or fabricator (for a monument) and the artist (for public art) should have completed projects of similar size and scale in the public arena and be able to provide appropriate documentation.

The designer and/or fabricator (for a monument) and the artist (for public art) should have an excellent reputation and be able to provide verifiable references attesting to the quality of work.

The designer and/or fabricator (for a monument) and the artist (for public art) should be able to provide images or samples of existing similar monuments or works of art.

The designer and/or fabricator (for a monument) and the artist (for public art) should be able to demonstrate the ability to meet the proposed timeframe.

The artist/designer/fabricator is the City of Savannah and associated contractors and have demonstrated their ability to create said public art and meet proposed timeframes.

Funding.

Budget. *The Mayor and Aldermen do not fund new markers, monuments, or works of art. The applicant is fully responsible for funding the design, construction, installation, and any necessary landscaping, paving, or lighting involved with a new marker, monument, or work of art.*

The applicant must provide a realistic budget in Part II Final Design and Funding. The budget should be based on cost estimates provided by the manufacturer, artist, installer and/or contractor, as appropriate. The budget should include funding goals and deadlines. Should funding goals and deadlines fail to be met, the HSMC may, at its sole discretion, reconsider the application. The applicant must be capable of raising the necessary funding. Construction of the monument or installation of the work of art will not begin until all of the funding has been secured.

All funding is part of phase 1 of the Broughton Street Streetscape Improvement Project.

Escrow Payment. *All markers, monuments and public art erected on public property become the property of the Mayor and Aldermen. The Mayor and Aldermen assume responsibility for the future maintenance and upkeep of the marker, monument or artwork. Therefore, an initial Escrow Payment is required of the applicant subsequent to approval of the application. The Mayor and Aldermen, or their designee, will determine the appropriate Escrow Payment and will notify the applicant. The Escrow Payment must be paid prior to construction/installation of the monument or public art. Any marker, monument or artwork erected on private property is the responsibility of the property owner.*

As part of phase 1 of the Broughton Street Streetscape Improvement Project, the kiosks and public art will be maintained as part of operations of various City departments.

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BOARD DECISION:

The Savannah – Chatham County Historic Site and Monument Commission hereby recommends approval of the public art located on the 400 block of Broughton Street to the Savannah City Council, because otherwise it meets the standards set forth in the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art.

AND

The Savannah – Chatham County Historic Site and Monument Commission does hereby continue the additional (5) five blocks of future proposed public art, to allow for the public art to be submitted to the Historic Site and Monument Commission at a future date, for review, when the City of Savannah has all required information ready.

DocuSigned by: <i>Kristopher Monroe</i>	2-4-2021
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Kristopher Monroe, Chairman Historic Site and Monument Commission	Date

DocuSigned by: <i>Melanie Wilson</i>	2-4-2021
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Melanie Wilson, Executive Director Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission	Date

DocuSigned by: <i>Leah G. Michalak</i>	2-4-2021
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Leah G. Michalak, Director of Historic Preservation Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission	Date

LGM: raj