



**SAVANNAH-CHATHAM COUNTY HISTORIC SITE AND MONUMENT  
COMMISSION  
RENAMING RECOMMENDATION**

**PETITIONER:** CITY OF SAVANNAH

**FILE No.:** 21-006810-HM

**LOCATION:** Yamacraw Art Park

**DATE:** January 6, 2022

**NATURE OF REQUEST:**

The applicant is requesting approval to rename Yamacraw Art Park located between West Bay Street to the north, Ann Street to the east, West Bryan Street to the south, and Fahm Street to the west. The request to change the name from Yamacraw Art Park to Yamacraw Square, as per the applicant, “*would better describe the function it is intended to serve, a central gathering space for the neighborhood, and would tie this greenspace to other public greenspaces downtown.*”

**FINDINGS:**

The following standards apply:

***Article E- Naming and Renaming of Public Property, Facilities and Streets.***

***General policy.*** As a general policy, the Mayor and Aldermen find that public property should be named after its principal function, location, or historical reference; however, significant community events, organizations or well-known persons with important contributions to the community, state or nation may deserve public recognition, which may occur by way of naming or renaming public rights-of-way or facilities.

***Naming criteria and requirements.***

***Criteria.*** Naming or renaming of a public right-of-way or facility shall occur only when the proposed naming or renaming satisfied at least one of the following criteria:

*It honors and commemorates a noteworthy person associated with the City of Savannah, Chatham County, the State of Georgia or the United States of America;*

This is not a person; the standard does not apply.

*It commemorates local history, places, events or culture;*

*It will strengthen neighborhood identity; or*

It commemorates the local history of the area and will strengthen the neighborhood identity.

*It recognizes native wildlife or natural geographical features.*

This standard does not apply.

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***Exclusions.*** *The following shall not be considered for purposes of naming or renaming:*

*Persons that resided in the City of Savannah for less than five years, other than prominent national figures;*

This is not a person; the standard does not apply.

*Names assigned to existing public property within the City or unincorporated Chatham County where duplication of the name is likely to lead to confusion; and*

Staff is not aware of any other existing public property with a name duplication.

*Except as set forth in Section 4-1106 of this Article, commercial names where usage of such name would amount to advertising.*

This is not advertising.

***Considerations.*** *Naming requests shall consider:*

*The number of residents and businesses directly affected;*

*Community diversity;*

*The historical significance of preexisting name or location;*

*The appropriateness and compatibility of the request in relation to the existing area;*

*The impact on emergency service delivery; and*

*Continuity and stability.*

The name change does not affect these considerations.

***Additional considerations for persons.*** *Requests to name a public right-of-way or facility in honor of a natural person should also consider the following:*

*Absent extraordinary or extenuating circumstances, the proposed honoree shall be deceased;*

*Whether the proposed namesake made a sustained contribution over an appreciable time period, exerted efforts of benefit or significance to local, state or national affairs and/or demonstrated leadership in governmental, cultural or historical affairs, humanitarian efforts, or community development;*

*Contributions that beneficially changed the nature and characteristics of the community; and*

*Achievement by a native Savannahian of national or international acclaim in a specific field of endeavor that has reflected positively on Savannah.*

This is not a person; therefore, the standards do not apply.

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***Renaming of public property facilities or streets.*** All requests to rename public property shall be made in writing and directed to the attention of the City Manager. Such requests shall include:

***In the instance of a park, playground, trail, recreational area or space;***

*A supporting petition signed by not less than 51 percent of all property owners abutting the subject property;*

*The present official name of the property;*

*The proposed new name;*

*The specific location of the property;*

*The name address and telephone number of the person requesting the name change;*

The City of Savannah is requesting the change.

*A statement of reasons supporting the renaming request;*

Per the applicant, the name change “would better describe the function it [the park/square] is intended to serve, a central gathering space for the neighborhood, and would tie this greenspace to other public greenspaces downtown.”

*A thorough discussion regarding the history of the property, including all prior names associated therewith; and*

*An endorsement by the current Mayor, an at-large alderman or the alderman representing the district in which the property is located.*

This information was provided with the submittal packet.

***Public Notice:*** 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.*

No comments were received from the public.

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**RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL:**

The Historic Site and Monument Commission recommends **approval** to the Savannah City Council **with the following conditions** because the proposed name change otherwise meets the standards within *Article E- Naming and Renaming of Public Property, Facilities and Streets*:

1. Provide information regarding the history and all (if any) prior names of the property.
2. Provide an endorsement by the mayor, an at-large alderman or the alderman representing the district in which the property is located.

DocuSigned by:

*Kristopher Monroe*

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**Mr. Kristofer Monroe, Chairman  
Historic Site and Monument Commission**

January 6, 2022

**Date**

DocuSigned by:

*Melanie Wilson*

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**Melanie Wilson, Executive Director  
Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission**

January 6, 2022

**Date**

DocuSigned by:

*Leah G. Michalak*

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**Leah G. Michalak, Director of Historic Preservation  
Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission**

January 6, 2022

**Date**

**MW: LGM**