


1




2

Public Art Master Plan



3



SAVANNAH GPS

Goal 2: Invest in Equitable Community Development & Resiliency
The City of Savannah is dedicated to building strong neighborhoods, protecting housing, and promoting the well-being of all residents while celebrating our unique and diverse cultures and supporting individuals, families, and communities.

Objective 3. Celebrate Savannah's unique and diverse cultures by promoting the arts and celebrating our diverse communities.

Strategy 4. Develop and implement a Public Art Master Plan.

Project 1. Public Art Master Plan adoption.

4

4

November 13, 2025 Council Workshop Recap

- ▶ What a Public Art Master Plan is and why Savannah needs one
- ▶ Summary of the plan's five sections: Public Art in Savannah, What We Heard, Curatorial Guide, Art Projects for Savannah, Policy and Administrative Recommendations
- ▶ Proposed governance structure
- ▶ Administrative recommendations including staffing and program launch

5

5

Council Feedback

- 1. Governance:** Did not support creating a new standalone Public Art Commission
- 2. Staffing:** Approving the plan should not include creating/funding a new Public Art Administrator position
- 3. Role of Residents:** Citizens were not visibly centered in the governance structure and public art process

6

6

Concern No. 1: Governance Structure

City Council Feedback

City Council did not support creating a new Public Art Commission.

City Council already appoints a citizen-led Cultural Affairs Commission. Can't the existing Commission help the City implement the public art process rather than creating another Commission?

Revised Plan Recommendation

Create a standing "Public Art Committee" under the existing Cultural Affairs Commission.

The Cultural Affairs Commission was established by ordinance on June 14, 1979 with the charge of advocating for the creation, promotion, and expansion of art, culture, and historical opportunities to be enjoyed by residents and visitors of Savannah.

7

7

Council Concern No 2 Creation of New Administrator Position

City Council Feedback

City Council did not support including an Administrator position with Plan adoption

Funding a new full-time Administrator position should not be included in the Public Art Master Plan. The public art program will be new, and we don't know if a position is necessary or a justified cost.

Revised Plan Recommendation

The proposed Public Art Administrator position has been removed from the Plan.

- Existing Cultural Resources Department staff will manage plan implementation
- Any future funding request for staff will be based on documented need and considered as part of the City's annual budget process.

8

8

Council Concern No. 3: Clear Role of Residents

City Council Feedback

City Council was concerned the plan did not clearly identify the central role of residents in the public art process.

City Council wanted to ensure residents were driving the process, able to identify the locations and types of public art they desired in the community.

Revised Plan Recommendation

The Plan better defines the role of residents as central to the public art selection and implementation process.

It ensures broad community engagement:

- Call for Artists process
- Artist Selection Process
- Artist Guidance
- Art Design(s) Feedback

Community Engagement in Planning:

Fliers promoting the public art project and related community meetings were distributed to neighborhood associations, posted at community centers, advertised in the local press, posted on City websites, and circulated via social media. Engagement included stakeholder interviews, workshops, focus groups, and surveys.

SAVANNAH

To: Mayor and Aldermen
From: Sarah A. Miller, City Manager
Date: December 28, 2024
Subject: Public Input Phase of Public Art Master Plan

The Public Art Master Plan is set to be adopted in February 2025, and I wanted to make you aware of some of the upcoming community events. Plan consultants, Designing Local, LLC, along with the City will be conducting several outreach efforts, including large and small community gatherings, in early 2025 to gather feedback about the plan. We encourage you to get those insights and when the survey is open, help guide our plan and facilitate some vision for the city.

The first phase of public input will be a series of smaller, community focus group meetings in each neighborhood district. The focus group meetings will happen on 1/22/25. After a presentation is a discussion about public art. Neighborhood association presidents are being contacted and asked to get feedback to help guide the next steps of community, while you are in the focus group dates.

These initial focus groups are a crucial first step in helping the consultants to present a Master Plan that will be presented to you in Feb. Community meetings for each district meeting are listed below. If you have any specific questions, please contact the consultant for the smaller focus groups, please contact me for the larger focus groups. Thank you, Sarah, will be back to you as all communications.

District 1	1/22/25 11:00am-1:00pm
District 2	1/23/25 11:00am-1:00pm
District 3	1/24/25 11:00am-1:00pm
District 4	1/25/25 11:00am-1:00pm
District 5	1/26/25 11:00am-1:00pm
District 6	1/27/25 11:00am-1:00pm

As the planning process moves forward, I encourage you to provide the various opportunities for the public to get involved and ensure your community is heard and that the result of these public engagements. Beginning in February, there will be large community-wide public meetings that will be video recorded. Some recommendations will be highlighted.

Thank you.

CALLING ALL SAVANNAHIANS!

Your ideas, input, and thoughts are needed to shape the vision for Public Art in Savannah.

WHAT IS A PUBLIC ART MASTER PLAN?

The Plan provides a comprehensive vision for managing public art in our community and serves as a roadmap for both our City officials and our residents. The City of Savannah has partnered with Designing Local and Savannah-based Ethos Preservation and Arts Projects.

WHY DOES SAVANNAH NEED A PUBLIC ART MASTER PLAN?

The Savannah Public Art Master Plan will provide City leaders with the information and guidance they need to make informed decisions about public art in our city. It will also provide a framework for the city to manage public art in a way that is consistent with our city's history and culture.

HOW CAN I SHARE MY VISION FOR PUBLIC ART?

The first phase of public input will be a series of smaller, community focus group meetings in each neighborhood district. The focus group meetings will happen on 1/22/25. After a presentation is a discussion about public art. Neighborhood association presidents are being contacted and asked to get feedback to help guide the next steps of community, while you are in the focus group dates.

OH, I'M NOT SURE HOW TO LEARN MORE!

Look for official outreach materials throughout the planning process. We'll be back to you as all communications.

DISTRICT 3 SHARE YOUR VISION!

Join us for an upcoming event to get a part of the conversation, share your ideas, and help us bring both our planning and to every corner of Savannah.

PUBLIC ART

➤ Virtual Focus Group
Monday, February 17, 2025
11:30-1:00pm

➤ Community Engagement Workshop
Monday, February 26, 2025
5:30-7:00pm

Pennsylvania Avenue Resource Center
625 Pennsylvania Ave., Savannah, GA 31401
No registration required

These events are free and open to residents of District 3.

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UPCOMING PUBLIC ART EVENTS

Your ideas, input, and thoughts are needed to shape the vision for Public Art in Savannah.

Focus Groups

- District 1: Monday, Feb 11, 2025 | 11:30am-1:00pm
- District 2: Tuesday, Feb 12, 2025 | 11:30am-1:00pm
- District 3: Wednesday, Feb 13, 2025 | 11:30am-1:00pm
- District 4: Thursday, Feb 14, 2025 | 11:30am-1:00pm
- District 5: Friday, Feb 15, 2025 | 11:30am-1:00pm
- District 6: Saturday, Feb 16, 2025 | 11:30am-1:00pm

Community Engagement Events

- District 1: Monday, Feb 24, 2025 | 5:30-7:00pm | Pennsylvania Avenue Resource Center
- District 2: Tuesday, Feb 25, 2025 | 5:30-7:00pm | Savannah Community Center
- District 3: Wednesday, Feb 26, 2025 | 5:30-7:00pm | Savannah Community Center
- District 4: Thursday, Feb 27, 2025 | 5:30-7:00pm | Savannah Community Center
- District 5: Friday, Feb 28, 2025 | 5:30-7:00pm | Savannah Community Center
- District 6: Saturday, Feb 29, 2025 | 5:30-7:00pm | Savannah Community Center

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CALLING ALL SAVANNAHIANS!

Your ideas, input, and thoughts are needed to shape the vision for Public Art in Savannah.

Scan the QR code or visit savannahpublicart.com to take the survey, attend upcoming events, learn about public art and more!

PUBLIC ART

Community Engagement Workshop

March 5, 2025
5:30-7:00pm

Liberty City Community Center
1401 Mills & Lane Blvd., Savannah, GA 31401

PUBLIC ART

Community Engagement in Planning:

Community feedback received throughout the public engagement process was compiled into a report which guided the vision for public art in Savannah.

Council Concern No. 3: Clear Role of Residents

First Point of Engagement

Call for Artist Engagement

- Working with City staff, residents will help to guide the creation of the Request for Proposals (RFP) for public art that reflects the type of art they wish to have in their neighborhood.
 - e.g., location and type of art, art themes/characteristics to be captured, including a youth element or community participation in art creation, etc.

Second Point of Engagement

Public Art Artist Selection Committee

- Residents will be invited to serve on the Artist Selection Committee during the Public Art procurement process
 - The five (5) member panel for each public art project would include two (2) residents from the immediate area/neighborhood to help select the artist.

Council Concern No. 3: Clear Role of Residents

Third Point of Engagement

Public Art Project Community Design Feedback and Guidance Sessions

- The selected artist will meet with the community to receive feedback and guidance on the style, significant theme(s), and ongoing engagement of final proposed work of Public Art that is being commissioned

Fourth Point of Engagement

Public Art Project Community Design Charette

- Once designs are complete, the artist will meet with the community again for feedback and reactions to proposal

• *Public Art Training: Types of public art, general costs of public art, maintenance requirements, etc.*

13

13

Public Art Project Example

Phase 1: Project Ideation & Planning

- Define the Vision & Goals
Residents suggest/support project
- Site Identification and Analysis
Residents identify/support site selection

Phase 2: Artist Selection


- Define Artist, Project Criteria (RFP)
Residents provide guidance on interests
- Artist Selection Process
Residents included on selection panel

Phase 3: Project Implementation

- Contracting & Permitting
- Installation Oversight
Resident liaison represents community for installation process

Phase 4: Post-Installation

- Maintenance & Conservation
- Promotion & Education
Neighborhood promotion and suggested ancillary programming



14




Next Steps

- ▶ City Council Adoption of Public Art Master Plan (June 11, 2026)
- ▶ Public Art Policy development & finalization (formalize public art program)
- ▶ Public Art Committee formation under existing Cultural Affairs Commission
- ▶ Initiate public art program

15

15

Savannah Parking Matters



City of Savannah / Parking Services Department/ 2026 Workshop Roundup Presentation

16

16

GPS and Parking Matters



Goal 5: Improve quality of life by Raising Municipal Service Standards

Objective 1: Improve Neighborhood Quality & Livability

Strategy 1: Strengthen enforcement of quality of life codes and effectively enforce city ordinances that protect the use of public spaces for the enjoyment of all

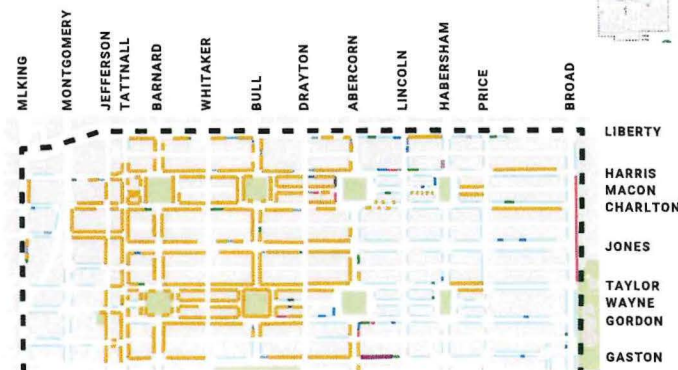


City of Savannah / Parking Services Department / 2026 Workshop Roundup Presentation

MEETING WITH STAKEHOLDERS – ST. VINCENTS ACADEMY AND TEMPLE MICKVE ISRAEL

4/1/2026 – Met with St. Vincents Academy
4/14/26 – Met with Temple Mickve Israel Exec. Staff

Both stakeholders have similar needs; currently having internal discussions on options to present to them.




- Free, 30 Minute Limit
- Free, 1 Hour Limit
- Free, 1.5 Hour Limit
- Free, 2 Hour Limit
- Free, Unregulated
- Metered, \$1/Hour
- Handicap Permit Only
- Passenger Loading
- Freight Zone
- Restricted / Reserved


SAVANNAH PARKING MATTERS UPDATE

SAVANNAH PARKING MATTERS UPDATE


Stakeholder Groups

- **Victorian Neighborhood Association**
 - ❑ Advocating for **major changes to Drayton/Whitaker** for years
 - ❑ Noted pressures are **Wednesday night and Saturday morning**
- **Thomas Square Neighborhood Association**
 - ❑ Advocates for **changes to Drayton/Whitaker** including on-street parking
 - ❑ **DOT shuttle, walking, and biking** important for mobility
- **Forsyth Park Community Alliance**
 - ❑ Concerned about **Whitaker/Drayton** (Emergency services, other conflicts) and **parking demand spread** as a result of these measures
- **Park Avenue Businesses**
 - ❑ In **favor of regulations**, especially on Park Avenue, noting varying perception of Park Avenue parking scarcity
 - ❑ Observe parking in Forsyth Park lots and take DOT downtown due to **lack of regulation**
 - ❑ In favor of anything to **slow down traffic on Whitaker/Drayton**
- **Downtown Neighborhood Association**
 - ❑ Caution about Liberty Garage when Civic Center redeveloped
 - ❑ **Supports traffic calming** on Whitaker/Drayton (Reiterated 2017 Letter of Support)
 - ❑ Interested in **expanded EV charging**
 - ❑ Want attention paid to **construction impact management and development review**
- **Tourism Leadership Council**
 - ❑ Discussed previous Parking Matters process; first opposed by business owners in Downtown, but **benefits were ultimately recognized and supported**
 - ❑ Urged the City to speak on that previous process as it relates to this update
- **Savannah College of Art and Design**
 - ❑ Supports improvements to **encourage walking and biking** – SCAD bike share
 - ❑ Aligning classes and residence halls






19



NEXT STEPS:

- Finalize and present recommendations to DBA**
- Meet with Thomas Square Association, rescheduled for June.**
- Scheduling meetings with remaining stakeholders in coming weeks**
- Prepare ordinance revisions for Council review by August 1.**

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Forsyth Master Plan



21

Forsyth Park Master Plan

GPS ALIGNMENT



Goal 4, Objective 2, Strategy 4

- Use urban and architectural design and the management of built and natural environments, to improve quality of life and public safety.

Goal 4, Objective 3, Strategy 5

- Strengthen and expand existing initiatives to preserve historic sites, restore historic buildings, and further promote Savannah's cultural history



22

Forsyth Park Master Plan

Purpose

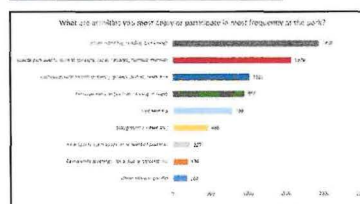
- Created as a long-term vision and road map for the future of Forsyth Park
- Focused on community feedback, professional recommendations and preservation of the park’s historic integrity and tree canopy.

Process

- Developed over 7 years (2015–2021) with City leadership and staff involvement
- 11-month community engagement process with 4,500+ citizen surveys
- Produced a 300-page long-range vision with standards for materials, fixtures, and maintenance

Practice

- Accepted as a gift by the City in 2023, but never adopted by City Council
- Plan has been used as a guideline for work being done and proposed within the park



Forsyth Park Master Plan

Since Accepting the Master Plan....

What We Have Done

- Basketball Court Renovation (2024)
- Playground Repairs & Resurfacing (2025)
- Forsyth Fountain Restoration (2025)
- Shade Gaden Project (2026)

What We Are Doing

- Tennis Court Renovation
- Splashpad Repairs
- Gathering Space Project (Rotary Club)

What We Plan To Do Next:

- Basketball/Tennis Court Lighting Replacement
- Splashpad Replacement
- Fitness Equipment Installation
- Lighting Replacement and Electrical Upgrades
- Restoration of the Fragrant Garden

Possible Council Actions

- Consider formally adopting Master Plan



River Street Vision Plan



City of Savannah / Planning & Economic Development/ 2026 Workshop Roundup Presentation

SWCID: Savannah Waterfront Community Improvement District

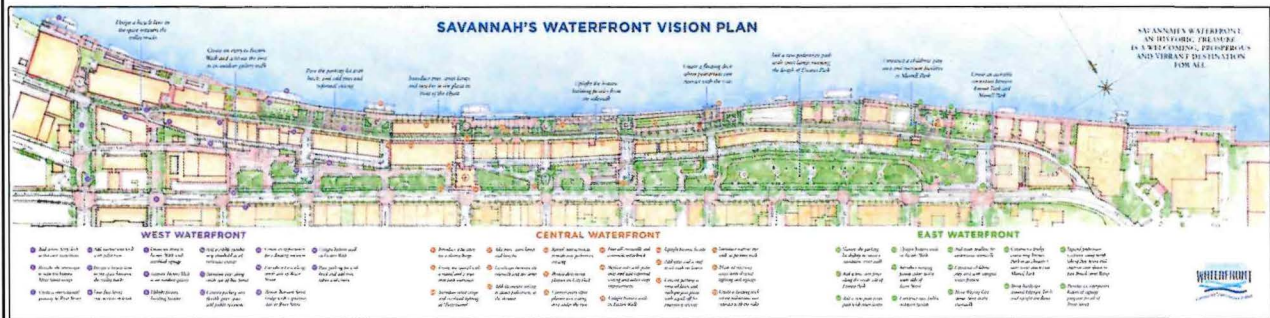
GOAL 4: Develop World Class Livable Environment & Infrastructure

- **Objective I. Strategy 5**
Maximize the lifespan of our infrastructure by implementing comprehensive asset management and proactive preventative maintenance programs.
- **Objective IV. Strategy 5**
Upgrade and modernize public spaces to meet current and future community needs, and prioritize street, trail, and sidewalk maintenance throughout the City



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savannahga.gov

Redevelopment of River Street, Savannah's Waterfront



- Prepared by SWCID and Sottile & Sottile in partnership with the City of Savannah
- The SWCID Executive Director has presented all Council Members with a copy
- City of Savannah has further coordinated the Savannah MOVES plan with infrastructure and streetscape improvements along River Street and Factors Walk up to Bay Street, with a focus on multimodal infrastructure and improved ADA accessibility.



Next Steps

Upcoming Council Actions to be agendized for consideration:

- Adoption of the SWCID Vision and Implementation Plan
- Memorandum of Agreement for the implementation of lighting, ironwork, and refuse enclosure projects to be led by the CID (part of River Street Redevelopment Plan & Budget)
- Award of design services contract for the ADA multimodal path that will serve end-to-end on River Street



Housing ToolKit



City of Savannah / Savannah Planning & Urban Design Department/ 2026 Workshop Roundup Presentation

Housing Toolkit: GPS Alignment

- **Goal 2: Objective I., Strategy 2**
Update housing policies and ordinances to remove barriers and offer incentives that encourage the development of affordable housing.
- **Goal 3: Objective III, Strategy 1**
Advance strategic community-based initiatives that enhance public spaces, improve neighborhood corridors, and boost local quality of life through sustainable development.
- **Goal 3: Objective I., Strategy 3**
Use place-based planning and land-use policies, like neighborhood and small area plans, to drive development efforts that prioritize equity, sustainability, and the preservation of historic neighborhoods.
- **Goal 3: Objective I., Strategy 3**
Collaborate with partners and local businesses to foster economic opportunities by implementing effective economic development, incentive programs, streamlining permit and licenses processes, and building needed infrastructure to support local economic growth.
- **Goal 3: Objective IV., Strategy 4**
Promote the development of housing and commercial spaces near transit hubs.



Housing Toolkit: Update

Zoning Text Amendment submitted to MPC (May 8)

- Expand housing types (apartments, townhomes, and mixed-use residential) in OI- and B- zoning districts
- Update corridor and mixed-use zoning standards to support housing and neighborhood compatibility
- Increase allowable building heights and adjust setbacks/building coverage standards for redevelopment sites
- Add design, buffering, and compatibility standards for multi-family development
- Create incentives for affordable housing, mixed-use projects, and transit-oriented development through height bonuses and parking reductions



Housing Toolkit: Next Steps

- Recommendation from Planning Commission
- Consideration by City Council
- Outreach Efforts
 - Chatham County Housing Coalition: May 27
 - Home Builders Association of Greater Savannah: June 9

