

**Andrew Bryan Commemorative Bust
Supplemental Information**

Title of Monument - Andrew Bryan Commemorative Bust

Written Description of the Proposed Monument – This memorial will consist of a cast bronze portrait bust, slightly larger than life, from the lower chest up. This bust will be a representation of Andrew Bryan, founder of First Bryan Baptist Church. The approximate bust size will be 14” tall, 16” wide, and 8” deep. It will sit atop a stone base measuring approximately 54” tall, 20” wide, and 12” deep. Together, the monument will be about 5’ 8” tall, totaling approximately 8.5 cubic feet

Photographs of Existing and Proposed Location with Digital Mockup:



Existing – Facing East



Proposed – Facing East



Existing – Facing West



Proposed – Facing West



Existing – Facing South



Proposed – Facing South

Overall Site Photographs:



Looking North



Existing Sculptures within the Square



Looking Southeast

Monument Location and MAP – Yamacraw Square Map #1 (available site)



Special Considerations – “Minor monument or art, possible underground utilities, African American or Native American theme.” Coordination with Gordon Denney has already occurred. He stated that the proposed location looks to be clear of any underground utilities. The proposed sculptural monument of Andrew Bryan depicts an African American theme, further detailed below.

Statement on how it will enhance space and relate to surroundings: The Bust will further enhance the space within Yamacraw Square and relate to the neighborhood surroundings by bringing First Bryan Baptist Church history into the square in a more prominent way. Being the only civic structure facing the square and considering the church’s significance, it will tie the integral role of the church’s founder artistically into the square. First Bryan Baptist Church and Andrew Bryan are briefly mentioned in the mounted plaques already located in the square as part of the public art project, also completed by artist Jerome Meadows.

Theme for the Monument – Religious History –Historic First Bryan Baptist Church is an African American church organized twelve years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence by Rev. Andrew Bryan, formerly enslaved, in 1788. Considered to be the Mother Church of Black Baptists, the site was purchased in 1793 and to date is one of the oldest continuous parcels of real estate owned by African Americans in the United States. Reverend Andrew Bryan was the founder and first pastor of the church until his passing and deserves significant recognition as such.

How the proposed theme is relevant to the community: The proposed bust of Andrew Bryan is relevant to the Savannah community as a whole, and also specifically the Yamacraw community, because his legacy through the church has produced pastors, members of the congregation and members of the community as leaders in the Baptist religion, government, emancipation, education, and civil rights movements in Savannah and Georgia.

Statement of Artist Selection Process: The artist selection process for this project was quite simple. In 2006 Jerome B. Meadows completed the sculptural works that area currently existing within Yamacraw Square. It seemed logical to employ him to complete the proposed bronze bust of Reverend Andrew Bryan as well.

CV of Jerome Meadows:









Estimated Timeframe: Pending approval at the April meeting to proceed forward, we plan to have the project fully approved by June’s meeting. The artist will then need 2-3 months to render the clay portrait, and 4-5 months for casting the clay into bronze. Simultaneous to the casting process creation of the base will take place as well as site preparation. Once complete, the bust will be shipped and be installed upon receipt. We aim to have the bust completed and installed by the end of this year or the beginning of next year at the latest. Unveiling the bust will take place in a formal ceremony.

Realistic Budget:

<u>Budget</u>	
• Clay bust creation	\$3,000
• Shipping to Foundry	\$500
• Bronze Bust creation	\$6,000
• Shipping back to Jerome’s studio,	\$500
• Materials for complete base	\$2,500 est
• Site foundation work/installation	<u>\$2,000 est</u>
• Total	<u>\$14,500</u>

Statement of Funds: A GoFundMe campaign has just been initiated in order to raise funds by members of First Bryan Baptist Church as well as the Yamacraw and Savannah community. Any financial difference not raised will be supplemented by the Andrew Bryan Community Development Corporation, the non-profit organization initiating this application.

Maintenance Recommendations: Maintenance recommendations are based off the City of Savannah Monument Assessment completed by Landmark Preservation LLC in 2020. Once installed the monument would be considered a Priority Level 1, which is categorized as needed minimal work and placed into a regular maintenance cycle from the outset. Inspection of the monument should occur at minimum yearly, preferably twice a year, to identify any deficiencies. Considering that the proposed monument is Bronze, the following recommendations for treatment are based off of pages 24-27 of the above mentioned document. All bronze work should be conducted by a bronze conservator or specialist. Surrounding materials must be protected to avoid damage to other materials such as stone or metal. **“Lacquer Coatings Solubility Testing** - This test is used to determine if previous coatings are present. It is conducted by applying a dab of gel stripper in an inconspicuous spot on the bronze element and watching to see if residual coatings solubilize. It is recommended that failing coatings are removed. Residual lacquer can be removed using a variety of different processes to include solvent poulticing, aqueous gel stripping, or dry ice/ soft media blasting and laser ablation, which are often used in combination.

In certain cases where no residual lacquer or other protective coatings are present, the bronze may receive standard treatment directly following assessment. Once treated, these works would achieve the larger project goal of inclusion in an ongoing regular maintenance cycle.

Preservation treatment consists of: 1. *Cleaning* [**Standard treatment**] – Outdoor sculpture requires regular cleaning to remove a variety of fouling agents such as soiling, residues, bird droppings and graffiti. A careful and thorough aqueous cleaning with a (hot water optional) pressure washer (500 psi) outfitted with 15- 35 degree fan spray tip; followed by scrubbing of surfaces with anionic detergent/surfactant (< .5% solution Vulpex) with soft, natural bristle brushes. The sculpture will be thoroughly rinsed and allowed to dry. 2. *Coating* – Protective coatings provide a maintainable moisture-resistant barrier on the bronze surface. Water is the foremost factor for promoting corrosion of outdoor sculpture and its associated negative influences on structural integrity and appearance. Cleaning is followed by application of protective coating, which may be selected on a case by case basis determined by factors such as bronze conditions, artist intent, budget and ease of retreatment. See options below: *Option A: Cold paste wax* [**Standard treatment**] – a brushed application of a sacrificial paste wax (Renaissance wax or approved equivalent) and left to set/harden before being selectively buffed with clean, lint-free cotton rags. This option requires an annual assessment (preferably bi-annually) and refurbishment. *Option B: Hot wax* [**Non-standard treatment**] – an application of a specially formulated, poly wax blend in use by the National Park Service. The process consists of heating the bronze surface with propane-fueled torches then applying by brushing on the molten wax in a thin film. Hot waxing darkens the existing patina. Subsequent applications are selectively applied to form a continuous film, detailed to fill pitting and help shed moisture. Wax is left to set before being selectively buffed with clean, lint-free cotton rags. This option has superior durability compared to Option A and requires annual assessment and refurbishment on areas of wear every 1-3 years. Periodic comprehensive removal and refurbishment is expected approximately every 10 years. *Option C: Acrylic lacquer* [**Non-standard treatment**]– provides an attractive and weather resistant barrier that may retain an acceptable appearance for many years. Unlike hot waxing, acrylic lacquer is a clear coat and does not darken light toned patinas. Lacquer on bronze is commonly touched up or completely overcoated, and requires skill and special equipment to apply. However, acrylic lacquer -and all protective coatings– eventually uptake moisture and lose their capability to inhibit corrosion. Lacquer is often used in conjunction with an annually applied, paste wax top coat. Periodic comprehensive removal and refurbishment of the coating system is expected approximately every 10 years.”