



PUBLIC ART REPORT

ARTS DAY LUNCHEON 2020



Presentation Outline

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- Public Art Master Plan
- Public Art Panel
- Beacon Station Sculpture
- James Brown Mural
- Harrisburg Underpass Murals
- Hillside Park Fence-Anchored Art
- Grady Abrams Retrospective in the City Gallery
- Affordable Art Show in City Gallery
- Gallery at Augusta & Company
- Art the Box - Pandemic Safe Art Hunt
- It All Flows to the Savannah - Art on Storm Drains
- Golden Blocks Public Art
- Georgia Rehabilitation Institute, Inc. Canal Trail Sculpture
- Yarn Installation on Broad Street
- Gateway Project
- Other Public Art - new or coming into Augusta
- BIG REVEAL: Augusta Sculpture Trail and Celebration
- Summary



Public Art in Augusta

Public Art is an important part of our city, and we are working to bring even more public work to you, the Augusta community.

In early 2012, the Greater Augusta Arts Council was named as the Public Arts Agency for the City of Augusta, and our goal is to establish a program of high-quality public art in the local area.

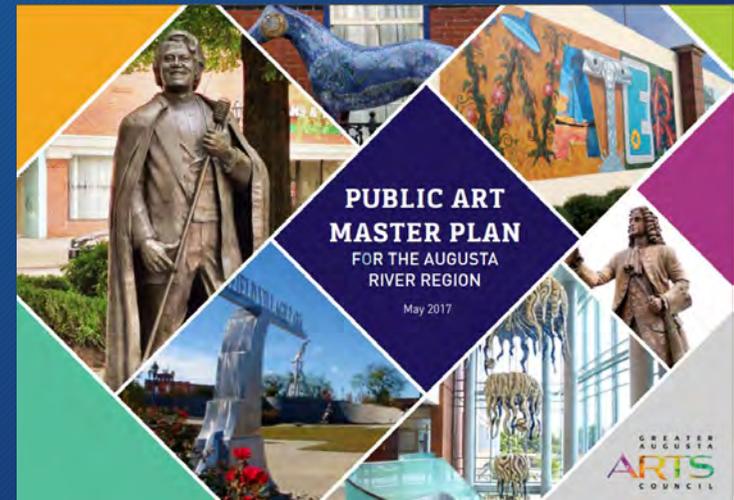


Public Art Master Plan

In 2016, the Greater Augusta Arts Council hired Convention, Sports and Leisure International to write a Public Art Master Plan. The Commission adopted it as the City of Augusta's Public Art Master Plan on May 30, 2017.

The Public Art Master Plan for Augusta lays out our public art goals to bring art to all corners of Augusta in the upcoming years. Convention, Sports and Leisure International employed their expert knowledge of city planning, destination development, and tourism marketing to formulate a list of recommendations for Augusta to highlight our unique community and love for the arts. Plans include Sculpture Trails, a new festival for public art in Augusta, and more.

<https://www.augustaarts.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Public-Art-Masterplan-Augusta-May-2017.pdf>



Public Art Panel

Voting Panel Members

Kenneth Benson (Term: 8/19-12/21)

Graphic Designer & Illustrator, Augusta Sportswear Brands

Jennifer Bowen (Term: 1/20-12/22)

VP of Destination Development, Augusta Convention & Visitors Bureau

Kigwana Cherry (Term: 5/19-12/21)

Project Manager, NIKA Solutions

Nick Dickinson (Term: 9/20-12/22)

President, CEO, Principal Architect, Dickinson Architects PC

Audrey Sala Adenike Jeter-Allen (Term: 9/20-12/22)

Visual Artist, Musician, Composer, Dancer, Teacher

Corey Rogers (Term: 1/20-12/22)

Historian, Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History

Seventh voting panelist: nomination is in process.

Ad Hoc & Ex Officio Panel Members

- **Maurice McDowell**, Interim Deputy Administrator
Interim Director, Recreation & Parks Dept., Augusta
- **Bobby Martin**, Assistant Director, Recreation & Parks
- **Takiyah Douse**, Director, Central Services
- **Shawn Edwards**, Director, Augusta GA Land Bank Authority
- **John Ussery**, Assistant Director, Traffic Engineering
- **Carla Delaney**, Assistant Director, Planning & Development
- **Jay Markwalter**, Chair of Public Art Advisory Panel
VP, Public Art, Greater Augusta Arts Council
- Executive Director, Georgia Association of Convention & Visitors Bureaus
- **Dennis Skelley**, Past Chair of Public Art Advisory Panel
- Member, Greater Augusta Arts Council Board of Directors
- **Rebecca Rogers**, Member, Greater Augusta Arts Council Board of Directors
- **Brenda Durant** - Executive Director, Greater Augusta Arts Council
- **Pax Bobrow**, Project Manager, Greater Augusta Arts Council

Beacon Station Sculpture

Project and Funding: Columbia Ventures

The Greater Augusta Arts Council worked with Columbia Ventures, LLC and the City of Augusta to facilitate a new piece public art sculpture at Beacon Station.

Created by local artists Wesley L. Stewart and Mat Thomas, the sculpture is located at the entrance to Beacon Station Apartments, across the street from the Augusta University School of Dentistry on Wrightsboro Road in Augusta, GA. Their winning design was selected from a 2019 public vote of finalists.

Titled "PitchTree" the three-sided, metal sculpture was fabricated into the shape of a triangular pillar that stands on top of a concrete base. Cutout of sheet metal, it displays a chevron pattern, referencing Beacon Station's icon. A key visual component is the pattern design that plays with light during the day and night, constantly changing the static artwork. The overall triangular shape of the sculpture refers to the area's rich history in railway, strength, luck, caution, and biblical themes that are reflective of the strong faith community of the area since 1880. The mission of the project is to unite Augusta's rich cultural traditions with an optimistic new future for this newly redeveloped area and welcome visitors into the Laney Walker and Bethlehem Neighborhoods.



James Brown Mural

Project: Greater Augusta Arts Council
Funding: Augusta Convention and Visitors Bureau and
The City of Augusta

James Brown Mural The colorful and iconic “Spirit of Funk” mural by Cole Phail was completed in October 2020. This piece was chosen by public vote in early 2020 after several artists submitted designs for the mural space.

The mural is located at 879 Broad Street and was unveiled on October 27 in a ceremony with Cole Phail, the Arts Council, the Augusta Convention & Visitors Bureau and the City of Augusta present in addition to representatives of the James Brown Family Foundation. The event was open to the public, following social distancing and mask guidelines.



Harrisburg Underpass Murals

Project and Funding: Porter Fleming Foundation

The Arts Council worked with the Harrisburg neighborhood groups to gather input and determine the need for this public art project that has enlivened often traveled and previously bleak paths. GAAC communicated the neighborhood's desires with local artists through workshops on how to apply for a Porter Fleming Foundation grant.

The selected artists, Wesley Stewart & Colleen Beyer, worked with the neighborhood groups to make certain their design was in line with what the neighborhood representatives wished to have highlighted in the murals. The Arts Council and Augusta Traffic Engineering negotiated the GDOT permits to allow for murals on State-owned underpasses. Recreation & Parks employee Charles Shirley pressure washed the surfaces to make them ready for the artists to paint.

Three of the four underpass murals have been completed, and the fourth is about to begin.



Hillside Park Mural



Project and Funding: Greater Augusta Arts Council and Junior League of Augusta

“Biome #2” from Wesley Stewart & Colleen Beyer

To beautify Hillside Park and celebrate the new drinking fountain and park improvements, the Greater Augusta Arts Council commissioned artists to create an engaging and whimsical attraction, which will uplift Hillside Park and the neighborhood surrounding it. This creative element activates this public space and increase livability by providing innovative design accessible to all ages and abilities. This process began with community meetings, and through an open call, juried by Harrisburg community members. “Biome #2” is installed along the fence that borders the tennis court at Hillside Park.

City Gallery

Grady Abrams: 1939-2018, Retrospective Exhibit

Mr. Abrams was a commissioner and activist who played a pivotal role in the 1970 riots in Augusta. In addition to his social justice work he was also an avid painter with an eye for color. He worked in an array of mediums and captured portraits, landscapes and more in his work.

The Arts Council has coordinated nearly every aspect of this exhibit including transporting the artwork, hanging the show, publicizing the exhibit and creating an online shopping component to make purchasing pieces in this exhibit as easy as possible.

Show Dates: Sept. 21-Nov. 20, 2020



City Gallery

The City Gallery Winter Art Sale, scheduled to be held in December, showcases small and large works by local artists.

Each year, the Arts Council hosts a show to support our local artists during the holiday buying season. This year each artist will be able to submit a small and a large piece for the exhibition.

Any work sold will be immediately available for the purchaser to take home, in expectation of being given as a gift.



Augusta & Co. Gallery

The Arts Council and the Augusta Convention & Visitors Bureau collaborate on the gallery space programming that's directly inside the Augusta & Co. visitors space. This gallery section features work from local artists that have, in the past, been tapped directly by the Arts Council.

In the summer of 2020 the Arts Council and a committee of local artists and art professionals met to discuss the future of this gallery space. The group decided to create an application process that would lead to quarterly juried shows at Augusta & Co with physical and digital display space. The group is currently working on the lineup for 2021 Q1 and Q2 at this time.

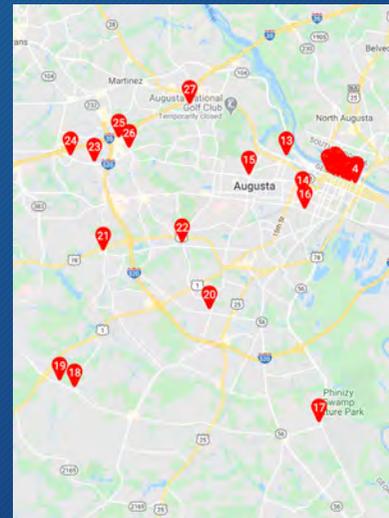


Art the Box Walking Tour

The 2020 Art the Box! walking tour was created to give the public an arts resource that could be enjoyed as a self-guided tour either in a socially distanced manner or from the comfort of home.

The virtual tour uses OpenTourBuilder software made at Emory University in Atlanta. This is the same platform used to create the Golden Blocks virtual tour in 2019 and will be used throughout the upcoming year to make more virtual tours including a mural tour and an arts historical site tour.

<https://opentour.emory.edu/augustatours/art-the-box>



Storm Drain Art 2021

Project and Funding: City Engineering

It All Flows into the Savannah

Our goal is to inspire Augustans to keep storm drains free of litter, leaves and pollutants by featuring art that communicates how important it is for our local water bodies to stay clean and litter-free.

Once the five drain designs are selected and painted, city residents will be able to vote via an online portal for their “Fan Favorite” storm drain. All of the proposed designs will be displayed in the City Gallery on the first floor of the Municipal Building to help promote the program.



Storm Drain Example from Vancouver

Georgia Rehabilitation Institute Canal Trail Sculpture

Project and Funding: Georgia Rehabilitation Institute, Inc.

Georgia Rehabilitation Institute, Inc. in association with the Greater Augusta Arts Council and the Augusta Canal National Heritage Area, will commission the creation and installation of one exterior public art sculpture on the Augusta Canal Trail.

A LOCAL ONLY call for artists has gone out.

The freestanding sculpture will be placed at one of three available sites along the Canal: on the River Levee Trail in view of Riverwatch Pkwy, on the Mill Village Trail near "Stone Boat", or on the River Levee Trail in a small field.



2018 Canal Trail "Stone Boat" Sculpture by Brian Rust. Canal Authority Project, funded by the Porter Fleming Foundation.

Golden Blocks Public Art

Project: Greater Augusta Arts Council is partnered with Augusta Housing & Community Development and the Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History
Funding: The National Endowment for the Arts and Housing and Community Development

The Golden Blocks Project is a celebration of the cultural legacy of Augusta's historic Black neighborhood through public art. Golden Blocks Phase 2 is in the planning.

- 2 artists have not yet been selected from a competitive call for proposals to create public art that shares the story of education in the Golden Blocks.
- 4 artists have already been selected from a competitive call for proposals to create public art that shares the story of the May 1970 Augusta Riot.

Enjoy a pandemic safe digital walking tour that includes public art pieces located in the Golden Blocks.

<https://opentour.emory.edu/georgia-humanities/augusta-s-golden-blocks>



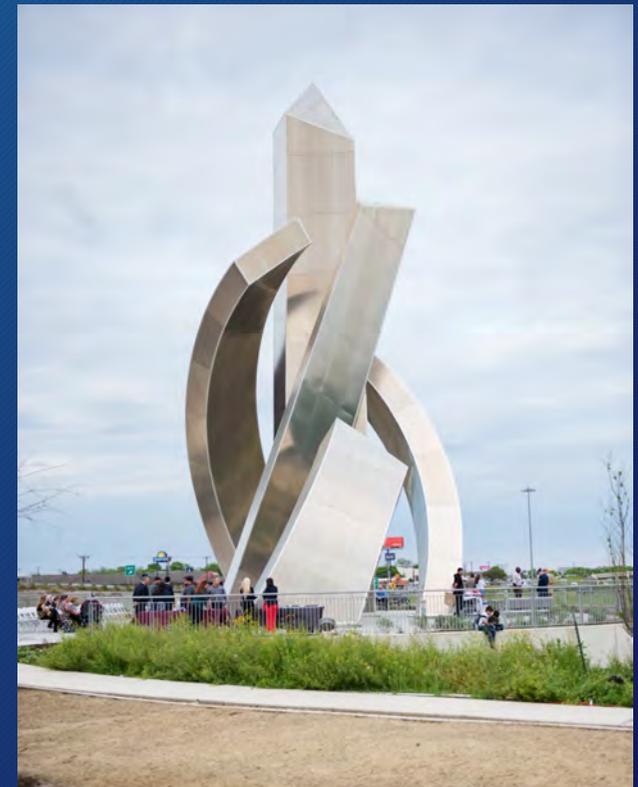
Phase 1: "Golden Blocks Map" Ceramic Tile Artwork by Ashley Gray at Wallace Branch Library

Gateway Project

Project and Funding: SPLOST 7

In winter of 2020, right before the pandemic closed down the City, the Greater Augusta Arts Council and Recreation and Parks completed 4 community meetings, educating the attendees about the Gateway project and soliciting themes for two gateways.

Our next step is to meet with City Representatives including Procurement and Recreation and Parks to begin a national call for 2 Gateway Sculptures at Sand Bar Ferry Road near Bobby Jones and Riverwatch Parkway at Alexander Drive.



Example of another city's gateway sculpture

Public Art: Community Investment

New Painted Pianos

The Jessye Norman School for the Art continues to coordinate painted pianos, arranging local artists to create the popular pianos for various businesses downtown.



Westobou Gallery and New Murals

Westobou has provided several gallery exhibitions as well as public art collaborations.

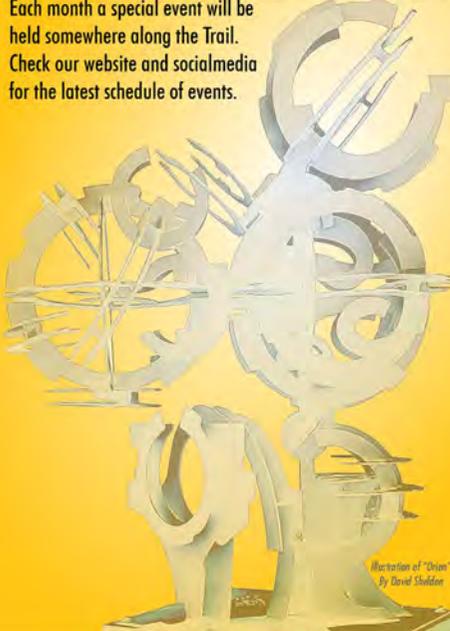


Augusta Sculpture Trail



Downtown • Augusta • Georgia

Celebrate public art by visiting the new Augusta Sculpture Trail! The Trail features 10 beautiful sculptures on display in downtown Augusta from January 2021 through January 2023. Each month a special event will be held somewhere along the Trail. Check our website and socialmedia for the latest schedule of events.



Installation of "Dion"
By David Sholder

Project: Augusta Recreation and Parks

GAAC in partnership with the CVB and City of Augusta has developed a new event promoting public art. The Augusta Sculpture Trail will have ten pieces, which will be on display for 18 months.

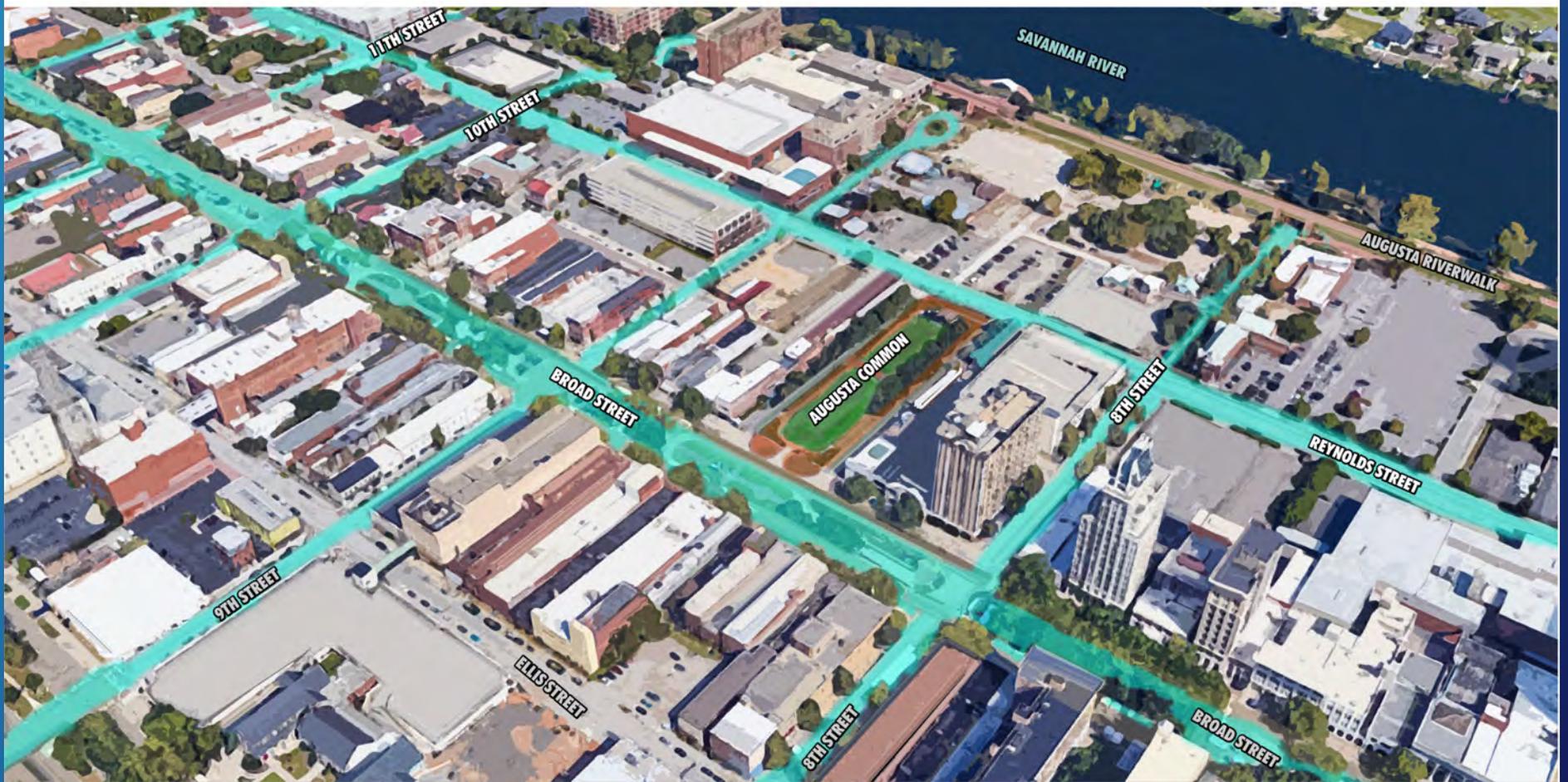
During the course of the installation, we will create Sculpture Trail Celebrations designed to draw visitors and locals to the site of the sculptures, create awareness of Augusta as an Arts Destination, and promote Augusta's rapidly growing public art.

The national call for art received an astounding 120 submissions.

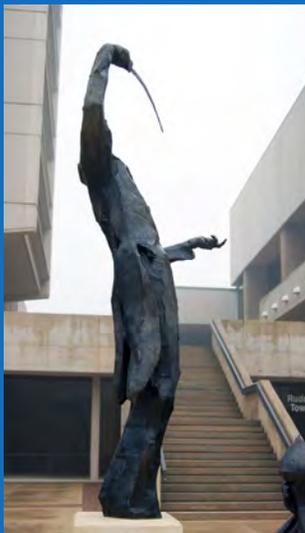
Sculptures will be installed in January 2021.



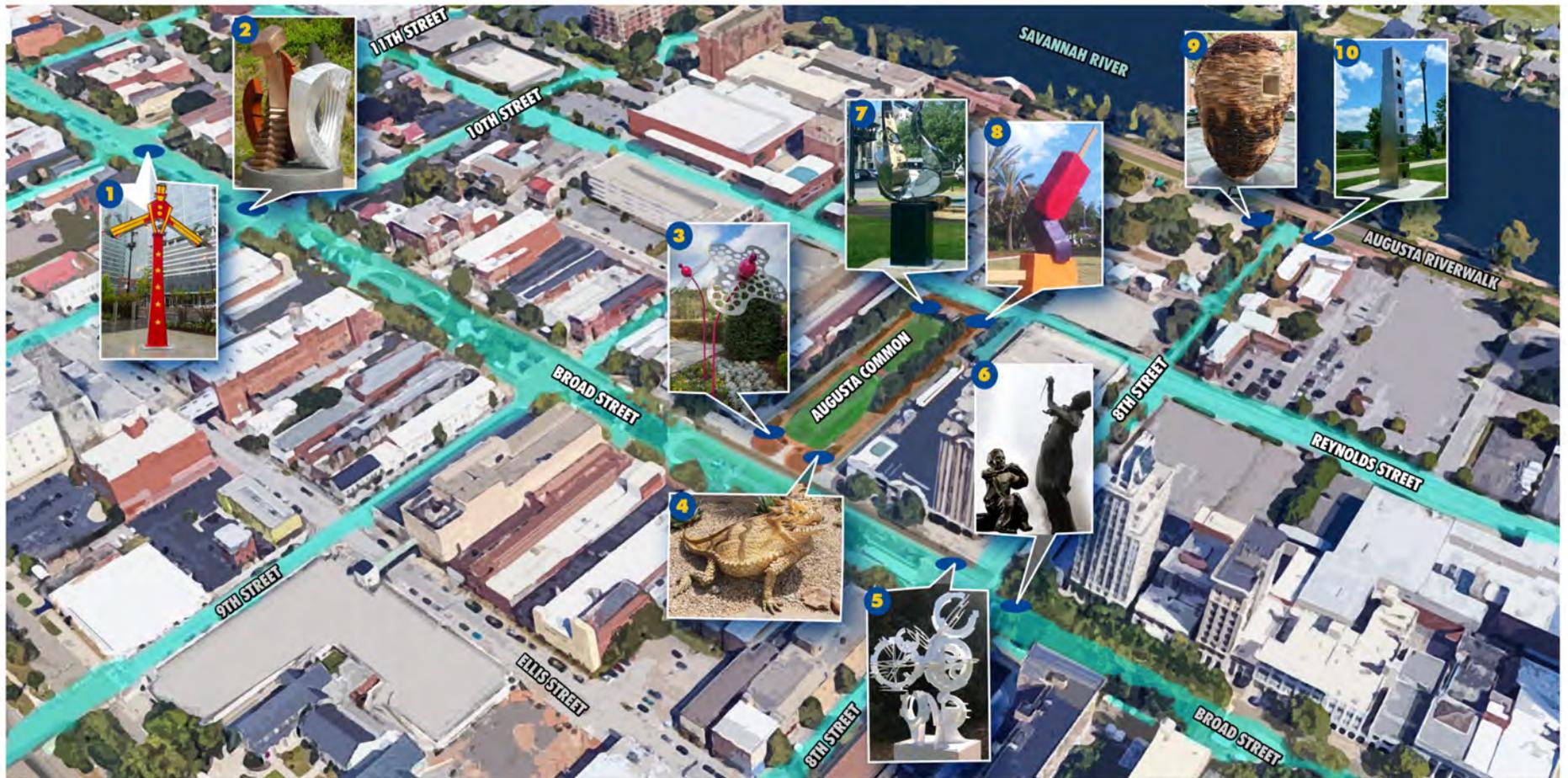
Downtown ▶ Augusta ▶ Georgia



GREATER
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ARTS
COUNCIL

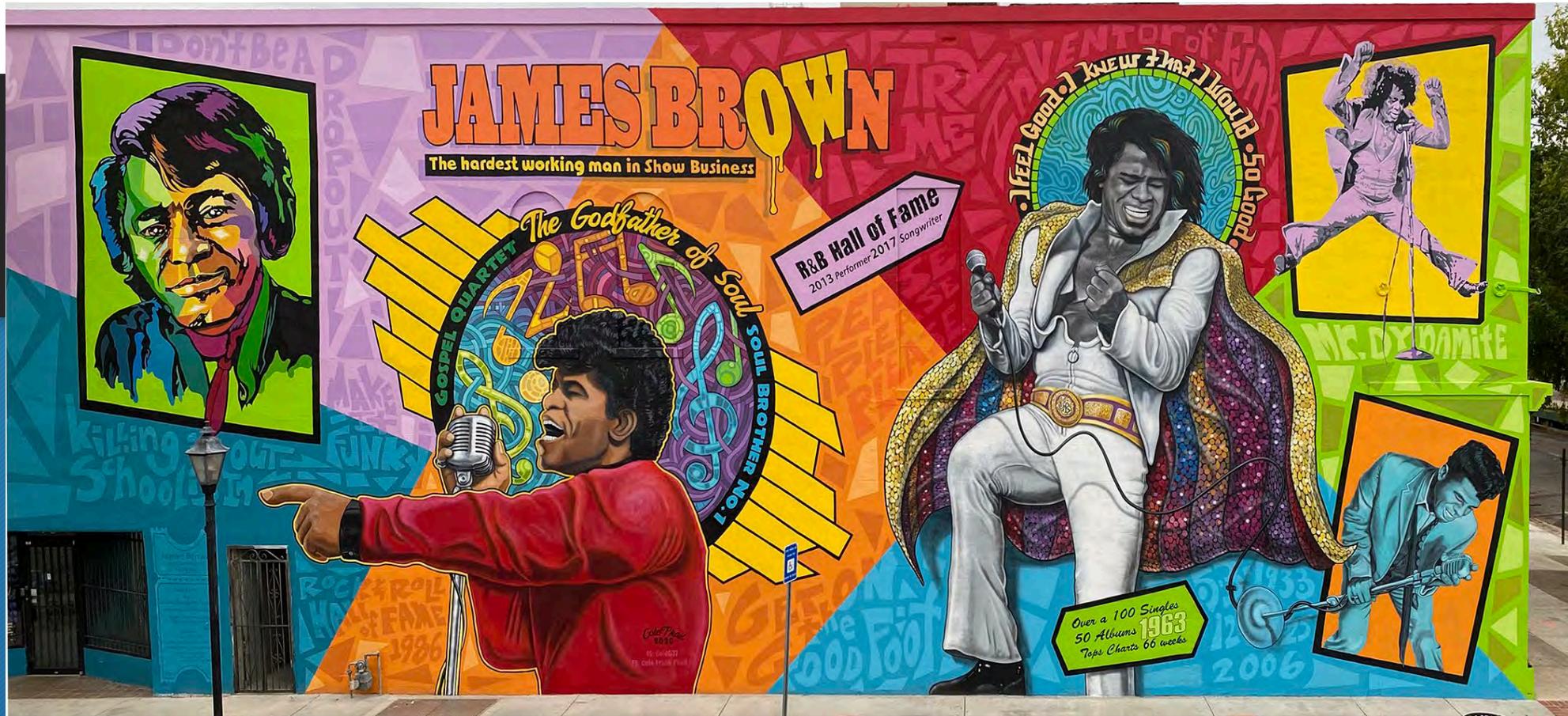






- 1 GUS AND LINA OCAMPOSILVA - UNSTOPPABLE**
- 2 HARRY MCDANIEL - IMPRACTICAL HARDWARE**
- 3 JENN GARRETT - INVASIVE**
- 4 D'JEAN JAWRUNNER - SUN LION**
- 5 DAVID SHELDON - ORION**

- 6 LARRY SCHUECKLER - MAESTRO / FOREVER YOUNG**
- 7 GREGORY JOHNSON - DUET**
- 8 CRAIG GRAY - POPSICLES**
- 9 LEONARD URSACHI - WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD**
- 10 LARRY MILLARD - STEPPED TOWER**



G R E A T E R
A U G U S T A
ARTS
C O U N C I L

The Greater Augusta Arts Council is honored to be the City of Augusta's Public Art Agency. We are proud to celebrate a community that embraces public art as an integral part of their pride in our city.

As more public art projects are completed and add to the colorful visual story of Augusta, we look forward to an increase in visitors to our arts destination city.