

MARKERS, MONUMENTS, AND PUBLIC ART



Markers, monuments, and public art are important elements of Savannah's urban landscape. The Historic Site & Monument Commission (HSMC) reviews these and provides an opportunity for public input. All markers, monuments, and public art visible from the public right-of-way must be reviewed by HSMC.

For more information about HSMC go to www.thempc.org.

What does HSMC Review?

HSMC reviews any markers, monuments, or public art visible from the public right of way, including those on private property. These can include murals, historical markers, monuments, and more.

If the object is located on public property, HSMC provides a recommendation to City Council who makes the final decision. HSMC reviews markers, monuments, or public art on private property located in historic districts. HSMC also reviews murals on private property throughout the city of Savannah, including the historic districts.

Review Process

The HSMC meets on the first Thursday of every month to review applications. The applications and instructions can be found on the MPC website, www.thempc.org. Once an application is submitted, a sign, provided by the MPC, must be placed on the property and public notice will be sent out to nearby property owners and neighborhood groups.

All HSMC meetings are open to the public, and the applicant and any member of the public may provide comments to the Commission. If the art is located in the Savannah Historic District, it may also require review by the Historic District Board of Review.

Guidelines

The guidelines for markers, monuments, and public art are provided in the Markers, Monuments, and Public Art Master Plan and Guidelines for the City of Savannah, also available at www.thempc.org. This document provides guidance for a variety of markers, monuments, and public art projects; however, a meeting with staff prior to submitting an application is recommended. These guidelines also do not cover every type of public art, so staff welcomes proposals that may not be explicitly covered in them. The HSMC considers criteria relevant to the location, theme, design, and funding.

Resources

There are many resources available to learn more about HSMC and the review process. A few are listed below:

- Master Plan and Guidelines: <http://www.thempc.org/docs/lit/Hist/Masterplan.pdf>
- Application and Instructions: <http://www.thempc.org/Forms/App>
- Overview of the HSMC and Review Process: <http://www.thempc.org/Dept/Smc>

Examples

There are many examples of successful projects approved by the HSMC. These include:



Kayak Kafe Midtown Mural (66th St and Paulsen St, Photo by Andrea Six)



Judge Reality Moss Mural (347 Abercorn St, Savannah Art Informer)



Miracle on 34th Street Mural (34th St and Reynolds St, Photo by Scott Boylston)

Contact the Historic Preservation Department:
historic@thempc.org or 912-651-1440



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