

## Minutes from Public Art Committee Meeting 11.19.25

All members present – Lisa Adams, Vanessa Adams, Forrest Fortier, Dot Goodwin, Monica Laschanzky, Roland Matthews, Charleston Thompson

Motion from Dot to approve previous minutes. Forrest seconded. All approved.

Review of proposal – multiple questions of purpose of mural, who it meant for? Tourists? Locals? Who is it meant to speak to? Concerns from multiple members that the task of creating a public art plan may need to occur before this mural is approved. Letters could be potentially hard to read, spacing may need to be modified. Question about what if it doesn't fit plan – Kat explained that a recommendation or denial could be overruled by City Council and the mural would be grandfathered in. Committee discusses what other images could be representative of Camden – uniquely special to the City, as opposed to other locations (i.e. golf, hiking, etc.). Questions about color palette also came up, in addition to how much time drivers/passersby would be able to actually see and capture the nature of the image. Committee recognized the inclusion of the Native American icon, but questioned whether there was room for additional diversity. Suggestions of other iconic Camden images included the “Horses Forbidden on Sidewalk” or even the historic movie theater that used to sit beside it before it was Hazelwood Cleaners and then torn down. Suggestions also about including more work that Michael Geddings had in Gallery 537, such as the blues and jazz artists. Perhaps iconic Camden/Kershaw County residents such as Brook Benton, Sam Wright, etc.

Next step is to recommend that City Council not approve the mural as is. Kat will draft a memo to Council for the committee to review and submit for the Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> agenda. A question arose about wanting to ask the building owners how strongly they felt about the design and them of the mural.

Public art is a part of this overall plan to create a destination. The purpose of the Committee is to review and make recommendations to Council.

Review of schedule to include meeting monthly on third Wednesday at 9:00 am. Next meeting will be held December 17<sup>th</sup> at Greener Pastures.

Next step in the public art plan? Lisa suggested going out and finding a few locations to start with? It may be easier to apply the abstract to real spaces. Forrest suggested starting with the gateways, such as entering from different directions. The committee as a whole was hesitant to reach out to a consultant without know what the budget would be. Kat said that would likely not be decided until next fiscal year, but would have an estimate in January or February. Forrest also suggested looking at the already defined historic districts and identify potential spaces and ideas for public art. Charleston will share the public art/sculpture plan from early 2000's. Kat will share map of City limits with committee

Question arose about future projects, including any additional Boykin Spaniel statues. Committee will need to review any future statues.

Monica moved to adjourn meeting, Lisa seconded. All approved.

Meeting ended at 10:08 am.



## MEMO

TO: Matt Dewitt, City Manager  
FROM: Katharine Spadacenta, Community Development Coordinator  
COPY: Brenda Davis, City Clerk  
DATE: November 25, 2025  
RE: Camden Public Art Committee –  
Proposed Mural at Gallery 537

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Please see the attached letter to City Manager and City Council from the Camden Public Art Committee regarding their review and recommendation not to approve the proposed mural at Gallery 537 in its current state.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me.

TO: City Manager Matt DeWitt, Camden City Council

SUBJECT: Proposed Mural – “More Than A Revolution” at Gallery 537, 537 East DeKalb Street

1. The Public Art Committee met on November 19, 2025 to review the proposed mural submitted by Gallery 537 for the building located at 537 East DeKalb Street.
2. It is the committee’s recommendation that the mural be denied in its proposed state, for the reasons indicated below.
  - a. The committee has questions about the color palette indicated in the rendering (no paint samples have been provided);
  - b. The committee has concerns as to how much time drivers/passersby would be able to actually see and capture the nature of the image in its proposed state, i.e. the individual letters may need to be modified in shape and spacing in order for the greater public to read “CAMDEN”;
  - c. While not specifically an infringement on any trademarked images or intellectual property, the committee has concerns that the style of the mural has been replicated in multiple municipalities and locations;
  - d. The committee has concerns that not all the images included in the mural are uniquely representative of Camden, i.e. golf, hiking, shopping, etc.;
  - e. The committee recognizes the inclusion of a Native American icon, but questions whether there is room for additional diversity;
3. In order to adhere to the Art Policy, adopted by City Council earlier this year, the committee recommends the following, in order for a new proposal to be reviewed:
  - a. Color swatches or paint samples should be provided with the submission of the mural proposal;
  - b. A consideration of the historic nature of the location where the mural is proposed be taken into account, as well as other features that are representative of the City, its values, culture and people;

Respectfully submitted,

The Camden Public Art Committee

## Mural Proposal for Gallery 537

### Goals:

To create a breath-taking vibrant and diverse mural that will attract positive attention to downtown Camden as well as Gallery 537. Over 20,000 vehicles will view the mural on a daily basis. It will help promote the rejuvenation of downtown Camden and is consistent with the Mayor's Task Force that recommended the installation of more murals in downtown Camden.

### Artists

The mural will be jointly completed by local artists Micheal Geddings from Lexington, SC and Ja'Lathea McClendon from Camden, SC. Mr. Geddings is a well-known artist and muralist with several indoor and outdoor installations in Columbia, SC (<http://michaelgeddings.com/about.html>) while Ms. McClendon has created several indoor and outdoor murals in Camden and Sumpter.

### Mural Description:

Gallery 537 Building Dimensions: 60 ft x 32 ft (1,820 sq. ft.) : Mural Dimensions : 32 ft x 18 ft (576 sq. ft). This will leave approximately 1,250 sq. ft. of the original brick as the background.

The mural will start approximately six feet from the front corner of the building This space will be used for signage or will be left empty.

### Paint Specifications

Bher exterior acrylic paint for stucco and masonry - 20+ years guarantee Resistant to harsh conditions: Resists cracking, fading, and peeling even in harsh weather. Comes with built in self primer for longevity.

Sherwin Williams Duration exterior Acrylic latex paint - 25+ years guarantee. Resistant to harsh conditions: Resists cracking, fading, and peeling even in harsh weather. Comes with built in self-primer for longevity.

### Mural Care Plan

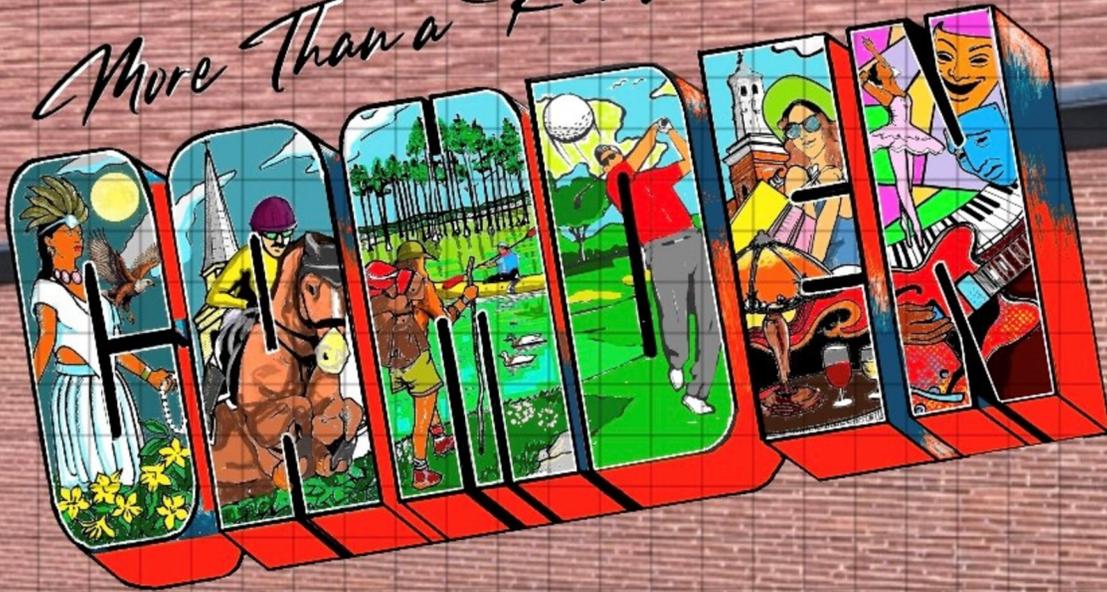
1. Clear coat and touch up when necessary every 2 years
2. Light handwashing throughout the years to clear any debris every 2 years.
3. Maintenance to be paid by Gallery 537.

### Costs

The estimated cost for the mural is between \$6,00 8,000. Gallery 537 will seek partial City or other private funding.

EXPOSED SIDE BUILDING LENGTH (60 LFT)

*More Than a Revolution*



BUILDING HEIGHT (level 1 (30 LFT))

MURAL HEIGHT (18 LFT)

BUILDING HEIGHT (level 3 (32 LFT))

MURAL LENGTH (32 LFT)

.5" Scale - 1 square = 1.5 foot

Print size 20 x 16