

Camden Public Art Committee Meeting – February 18, 2026

Present: Vanessa Adams, Forrest Fortier, Dot Goodwin, Monica Lachansky, Charleston Thompson

Mural Project: Gallery 537 (Call for Artists)

The committee finalized the requirements for the upcoming mural project at Gallery 537. Kat will refine the draft previously generated via Gemini to better fit local needs.

- **Theme & Inspiration:** Must incorporate the "**More than a Revolution**" concept and include a **piano keyboard** element.
- **Budget:** Proposed range is **\$8,000–\$10,000**. Katharine will apply to the Arts Commission for a Cultural District grant (estimated 10% coverage) as a good-faith contribution.
- **Qualifications:** Artists must provide a portfolio with **3–5 images** of previous work and a link to their website/social media.
- **Logistics:** The application will be a **Google Form** to streamline image uploads. Proposals must include maintenance plans and paint types.
- **Proposed Timeline:**

March 1: "Call for Artists" goes public.

March 18: Regular meeting to include a Q&A session for interested artists.

March 31: Application deadline.

April 15: Meeting to review proposals and make a final selection to present to the property owner (James).

Strategic Branding: The "Four Hs"

A significant portion of the meeting was dedicated to how Camden presents itself at its borders. The committee reached a consensus on a multi-faceted branding pillars: History, Horses, Heritage, and Hospitality.

The group emphasized that while the equine industry is vital, the art plan should reflect that Camden is "more than just horses."

Gateway & Corridor Projects

The committee discussed prioritizing entry points into the city and the "Path to the Arts" (the corridor from Broad Street to the Arts Center).

- **Gateway Priorities:** The **South** and **West** gateways are considered high priority due to traffic volume.
- **Bridge Art:** Proposed "quick wins" include installing metal silhouette horses on bridge railings or muralizing overpasses.
- **The "Colt Shirley" Piece:** Katharine will check on the price and condition of a metal horse head sculpture by local artist Colt Shirley for potential acquisition as a ready-made installation.
- **Creative Infrastructure:** Discussion of utilizing traffic light **mast arms** for sculptural elements and installing **crosswalk murals** on city-owned streets (e.g., Rutledge Street) to avoid DOT complications.

City Updates & New Business

- **Deluxe Inn:** The city is exploring the purchase of the "no-tell motel" on DeKalb Street for future mixed-use residential development.
- **City Hall Move:** Administrative staff move-in is delayed until late 2026 to allow for construction to be completed first.

Action Items

| Action Item | Responsible Party | Deadline |
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| Email draft "Call for Artists" to committee for final blessing | Kat Spadacenta | Immediate |
| Inquire about Colt Shirley sculpture (price/condition/size) | Kat Spadacenta | March Meeting |
| Research 54th Massachusetts Regiment ties to Camden | Kat Spadacenta | Ongoing |

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| Draft Gateway/Activation Plan for the Mayor | Kat Spadacent | April Meeting |
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