

Mural Design Narrative

Project Intent

The proposed mural is intended to serve as a collection of semi-permanent works of site-specific public art that celebrates the Soul of the Starland Neighborhood through the perspectives of 7 local artists. Located on our "Artist Alley", the murals have been designed as an integrated architectural feature that enhances the pedestrian experience and contributes to the neighborhood's tradition of public art.

Proposed Mural Construction

The murals will be hand-painted directly onto the existing brick façade using professional-grade exterior commercial paint specifically formulated for long-term architectural applications. Upon completion, the mural will be protected with a clear commercial-grade protective coating to provide enhanced UV resistance, weather protection, durability, and ease of long-term maintenance while preserving the appearance of the artwork.

Each mural area measures approximately 4 feet in width by 8 feet in height. The composition has been specifically designed to work within the existing architecture of the building as illustrated in the submitted mural renderings and building images.

1. Theme of the Mural

The proposed murals celebrate the artistic identity of Savannah's Starland District through imagery inspired by multiple artists interpretation of the Soul of the neighborhood and district.

The artwork is intentionally designed to reflect the character of its surroundings.

Equally important, the mural recognizes the Starland District's established role as one of Savannah's centers for arts and culture. Public art has become an integral component of the neighborhood's identity, and the proposed mural continues this tradition in a manner that is neighborhood specific rather than decorative. Positioned along the projects Artist Alley, the artwork serves as a visual expression of the creative activity occurring within the neighborhood district and the building while contributing to the district's broader artistic character.

The mural does not depict commercial branding or transient imagery. Instead, it celebrates enduring elements of the neighborhoods cultural landscape, creating a timeless work of public art that respects the historic and socio-cultural context of the surrounding community.

2. Relationship to the Building

The murals will be designed as an integral architectural element rather than an applied decoration. Its locations along the Artist Alley create a unique pedestrian experience for the community to enjoy local art.

The scale of the artwork has been carefully considered in relation to the building's massing and façade composition. Occupying a defined architectural panel, the mural complements the contemporary design of the building while maintaining appropriate proportions within the overall elevation. It provides visual interest at the pedestrian level without overwhelming the architecture or competing with other building elements.

The artwork also creates a meaningful transition between the public sidewalk, the artist studios, and Desoto Avenue. Connecting a lane to the main commercial street through an art focused pedestrian walk emphasizing the building's role as a place of creativity and community engagement. Rather than functioning as a standalone feature, the murals work in harmony with the architecture to strengthen the identity of the building and create a memorable arrival experience.

3. Relationship to the Neighborhood

The proposed mural enhances the surrounding neighborhood by reinforcing the qualities that make the Starland District one of Savannah's most distinctive urban environments. The neighborhood is widely recognized for its creative culture, walkability, historic character, and collection of public art.

Located adjacent to the intersection of Bull Street and 38th Street, the mural contributes to an important pedestrian corridor by providing an engaging visual landmark that complements the district's existing murals, galleries, local businesses, and public spaces. Its "Starland Soul" subject matter reflects Savannah's celebrated creative and cultural diversity within the Starland District.

Together, these elements create works of public art that enhances the neighborhood through thoughtful placemaking, celebrates local identity, and contributes positively to the pedestrian experience while respecting the historic character of the surrounding community.

4. Enhancement of the Public Realm

The proposed murals transform a pedestrian transition zone between buildings and streets into a meaningful public amenity that celebrates the creative identity of the Starland District.

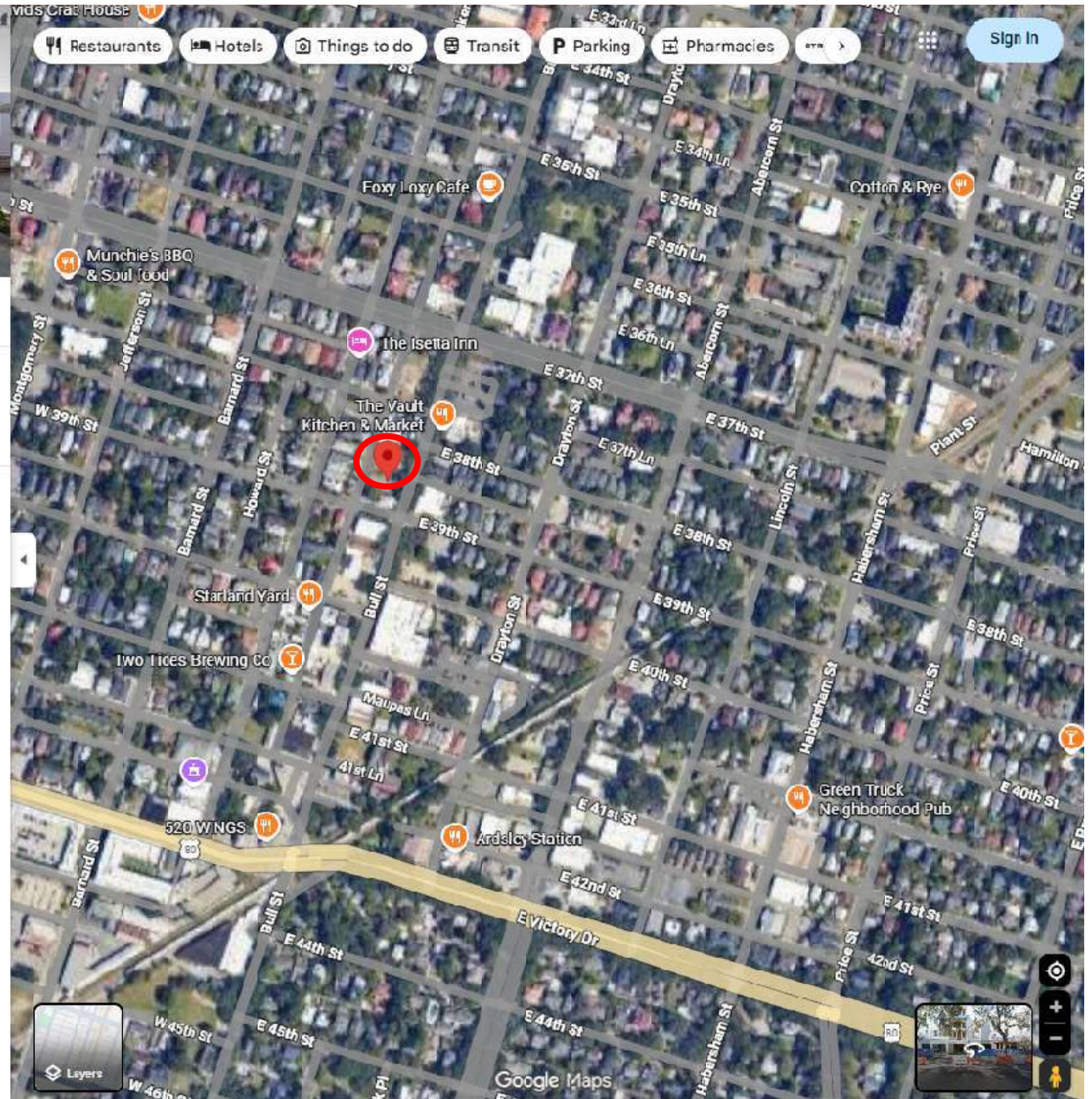
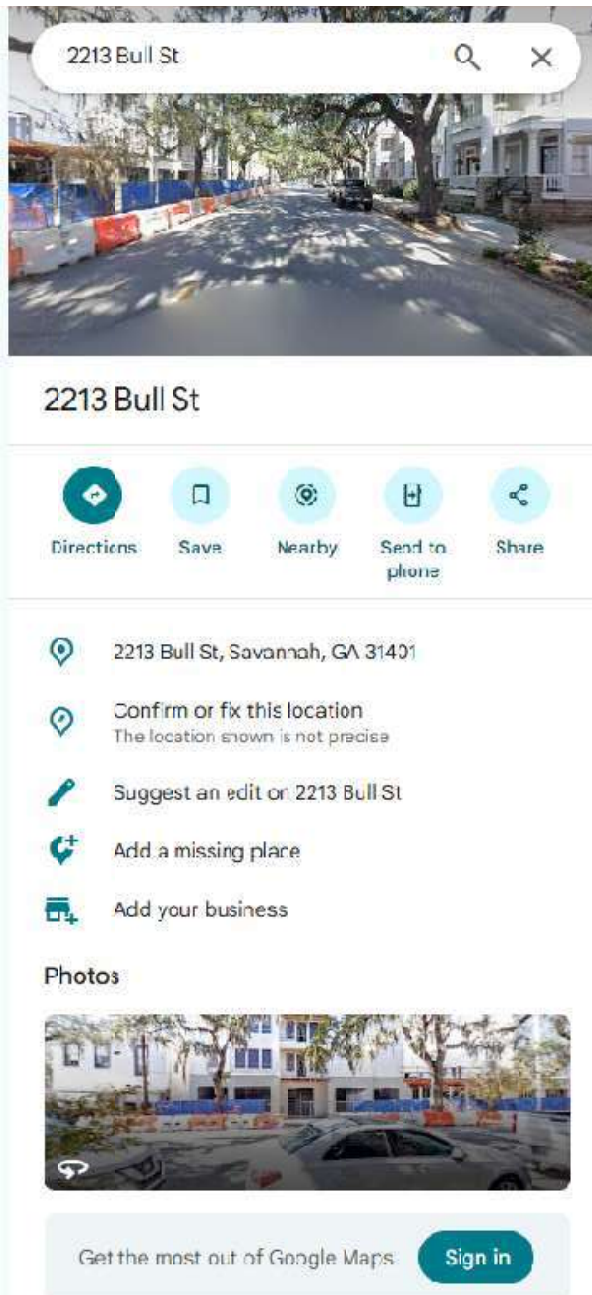
Beyond its visual contribution, the murals enrich the pedestrian experience along Bull Street by introducing an engaging focal point at street level, encouraging exploration and contributing to the vibrant street life that defines the Starland District.

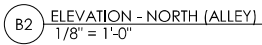
Community Outreach

On September 2nd, 2026, the complete mural application package, including the proposed artworks and supporting narrative, was provided to the Neighborhood Association Board for review and comment in advance of the City's review process. This outreach was undertaken to encourage community input and provide the Board an opportunity to offer comments prior to the formal board hearing.

The applicant acknowledges the City's September 3rd, 2026 formal submittal deadline and has provided the Neighborhood Association Board with the application materials in advance of that deadline to allow for meaningful review and feedback.

LOCATION OF MURAL















Shaye Garrigan

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Artist Bio:

Shaye is a quirky and light hearted ray of sunshine. Raised and based in Savannah, GA she earned her BFA in photography from the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD). Today she works in a variety of mediums from murals to textiles.

Her work focuses on the natural and the supernatural world, with vibrant color, and a touch of whimsy. She believes that art should feel both powerful and approachable. Also, that art can be elegant yet playful.

Shaye approaches life with curiosity, a sense of humor, and a commitment to creativity as a healing and connecting force. Whether working solo or as part of a team, she brings passion, playfulness, and a thoughtful eye to every project.

What “Starland Soul” Means to Me

Growing up in Savannah, I’ve had the privilege of watching Starland come to life. Year after year, more creativity, character, and community have taken root, transforming it into one of the city’s most vibrant neighborhoods. It feels like the heartbeat of Savannah, constantly growing, evolving, and inspiring community.

Between venues that celebrate local musicians, studios that give artists a home, vibrant restaurants, and creative events that bring neighbors together, Starland is a place where people don’t just visit, they connect.

To me, Starland exudes positive energy more than anywhere else in Savannah. It’s a neighborhood built on creativity, community, and the people who continually breathe life into it. I find immense joy in getting the opportunity to participate in this growth, and watch the continual expansion of its vibrant soul.

Jacob Frazier

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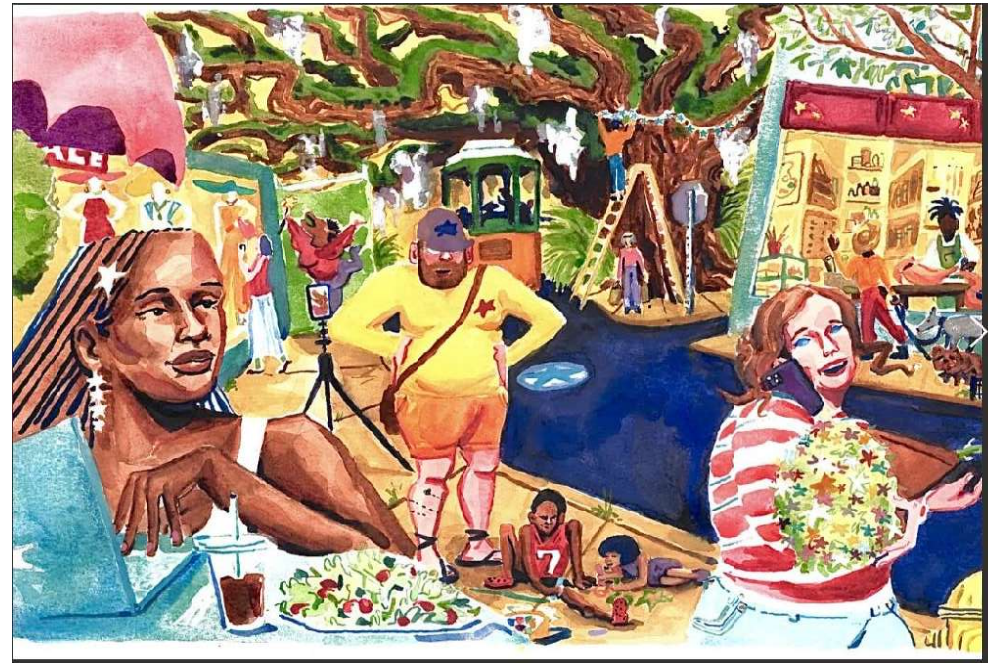
Dear Starland Soul Mural Fest,

My name is Jacob Frazier, a traditional illustrator based here in Savannah. I'm a graduate of New York's Fashion Institute of Technology where I studied illustration. My work includes a lot of color and humor, often depicting pop culture figures, romanticized reality and autobiographical sequential narratives. I work as an event portrait artist, painting the portraits of guests at weddings, kids at birthdays and new acquaintances at Forsyth Park's Farmers Market. I have also taught children and adult workshops. Clients I have been commissioned by include Bloomingdale's, Virgin Hotels, Primason Symchik, and NYC parks. A large majority of my artwork library consists of the watercolor medium; Paint that doesn't typically last long on outdoor walls! But my commitment to the physical craft of painting, and my commitment to the ever-expanding community of Starland has led me to submitting for your inaugural competition.

When I think of "Soul," my imagination takes me to the bodies those souls inhabit. Starland is representative of Savannah's characteristics that attracted myself and many others to this creative, southern hub! The people you see in the ten block radius of the area exhibit various characteristics, intentions and contributions to what makes Savannah special. The variety includes young, eager creatives who use the area as their canvas to express their budding ideas, to deep-rooted family ties, of all walks, supporting the local businesses while lighting up the streets with laughter and connection. The ecosystem is ever changing and expanding, while staying true to the one-of-a-kind qualities that make it such a highlight for the city. My pitch concept depicts the souls of the Starland streets that stand out on their own, while seamlessly intertwining. Subjects include a local waving into the Starlandia window at a busy employee, a farmer in awe of the chalk creations the kids around his feet are bringing to life, an experimental, self-produced, one-woman film being made in front of a backdrop, a fashionista taking inspiration from the innovative stylings in a boutique display, the distant "oo's" and "a-we's" of an approaching Savannah tour bus, and a woman hard at work on her laptop at an outdoor cafe table, enjoying a meal and the lively scene around her. I made plenty of drafts for this pitch (I will specify which is my most completed/confident for accessment) so I'll include a few of my favorites that I'd be taking reference from for my mural.

Outside of my work with watercolor, I have had recent experience with larger scale mural work. The Fashion Institute of Technology encourages its illustration seniors to participate in their annual "ChalkFIT" mural display, where graduating students are supplied with ample amounts of chalk and a 5 foot (height) by 3 foot (width) space on the exterior of the FIT campus to create a mural in their style for New York's 7th Ave to see. A week was given to complete the final image, something that has prepared me for the constraints of the Starland Soul project's timeline. Another opportunity from FIT, "Live Art Duel" led to me creating another mural (5x5 ft) in acrylic paints for Bloomingdale's 59th street location. This was done in an 8 hour period for the store's "Just Imagine" campaign with artist Yinka Ilori. Both of my past successes in creating murals in a short time period have prepared me for this opportunity.

The Starland area is home to many of my most-prized destinations and most-beloved people. Being able to contribute to the "Starland Soul Mural Fest" would be a huge honor as a creator, and as a resident.



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Starland Soul

Every neighborhood has a soul. Some reveal it through history. Others through the people who dare to imagine what it could become.

Starland is both.

It has always been a neighborhood of workers, families, dreamers, and neighbors who carried its spirit through seasons of hardship and change. That heartbeat is still here today.

Proposal:

The childlike drawings surrounding the sign remind us that every place is first imagined before it is built, restored, or rediscovered. Every generation leaves its own marks while honoring those already here.

The winding path begins where you stand, inviting you to follow curiosity instead of certainty. As you travel toward the sign, you become part of the story.

The soul of Starland isn't found in one mural or one moment. It lives in the people who have always called it home, the dreamers who continue to shape it with care, and every visitor willing to see possibility where others might only see a road.

May the next dream begin with someone standing exactly where you are.

About the artist:

Shea Slemmer (b. 1977) is a Savannah-based artist who has worked in studios throughout the Starland District since 2003. Having witnessed the neighborhood's transformation firsthand, she now lives in a home she lovingly restored in the community that has shaped much of her creative life.

Original from the rolling horse country of Ocala, Florida, Shea earned her BFA from the University of North Florida before following her work to studios in Savannah, Manhattan, and Marfa, Texas. Her paintings are held in private collections throughout the United States and Europe, and she has exhibited at the Telfair Museum, Lancy Contemporary, Sweet Lorraine Gallery in Brooklyn and Rick Wester Fine Art in Chelsea, NYC. She has been featured in various publications including *Luxe*, *Atomic Ranch*, *Studio Visit Magazine*, *Savannah Magazine* and *South Magazine*.

Believing that art can quietly recalibrate a nervous system and widen a worldview, Shea creates work in service of coherence, inviting the viewer into spaces that feel both deeply familiar and full of possibility.

JADA JOYNER

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What Does Starland Soul Mean to Me?

To me, Starland Soul is the feeling of escaping without ever leaving Savannah.

Starland is colorful, expressive, welcoming, unexpected, and constantly evolving. In one neighborhood, you can encounter art, music, food, nature, conversation, creativity, and people simply being themselves. There is energy without chaos and freedom without isolation. Every person, place, and experience seems to add something to the next.

That is where the "soul" comes in.

I see Starland as a living ecosystem. Individual people and ideas remain unique, but they flow into and influence one another. Someone else's expression can inspire your own. Their freedom gives you permission to be free. Their creativity adds another color to the neighborhood.

My mural represents that interconnectedness. Familiar pieces of Starland emerge from and dissolve into one continuous landscape rather than existing as separate objects. People, animals, art, movement, nature, food, and architecture become part of the same visual current.

Starland Soul is individuality without separation, the freedom to simply be, while still belonging to something bigger.

Jada Joyner Bio

Jada Joyner is a multidisciplinary artist and creative based in Savannah, Georgia. Her relationship with art began in childhood, creating alongside her mother and exploring graphic design and other forms of visual expression. She later entered the world of public art through Mural Arts Philadelphia, first as a student and then as an intern and apprentice.

Her mural experience includes helping install and design public artwork as well as creating a three-panel mural for the Grove Memorial at PowerCorpsPHL, honoring program participants whose lives were lost to gun violence.

For Jada, art is a language. While she also loves writing, poetry, and books, visual art allows her to communicate beyond words through color, movement, depth, symbolism, and intentional detail. She believes artwork can speak directly to the soul and transport people into another world.

Jada moved to Savannah in August 2023. As a mother, daughter, friend, entrepreneur, employee, and artist, she draws inspiration from the many identities and experiences that shape a life. At the center of them all is creativity: the freedom to express, connect, and tell stories without having to say a word.

Artist BIO

Sarah Pizzi (Massachusetts, b.1993) received a BFA in painting from the Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, GA in spring 2015. She began oil painting at the age of 11, taught under the instruction by artist, mentor, and friend, Sue Gilkey.

Pizzi has exhibited her work in an open studio in Lacoste, France in addition to various gallery exhibition shows in the city of Savannah, including: SCAD deFine Art Student Showcase and SCAD Drawing Works Exhibition, Hunny at Allure Salon, Project Liminal at Indigo Sky Gallery and Welcome to the Jam at the Bull Street College Center, Interim: From Infinite to Endpoint at Sulfur Studios, Small Works Show at Gutstein Gallery, and The Unveiling at The Whitefield Center, The Current Members Show at The Current Gallery in Stowe, Vermont, 'Return to the Light' Solo Show in Watertown, Massachusetts, and 'Something Gold Can Stay' Studio show in Savannah, Ga. Pizzi has also been featured in Beautiful Bizarre Magazine.

Her work consists of figurative or abstract paintings, and mixed media installations centering on nuances in intimate relationships. Pizzi currently works and resides in Savannah, Georgia.

Starland Soul: What Starland Means to Me

I've been a resident of Savannah on and off since 2011, and you could say *a lot* has changed. One of the most positive changes I've witnessed to this city is the Starland District. It embodies the power of community, culture, and beauty. It truly celebrates local talent. It unites people in ways other places *just don't*. The soul of starland is people. Of our multifaceted lives unifying as one village. Family, friendships, food, drink, art, music, the works. Not only that, but Starland *shows up* for each other. There are few places I've come across that sparkle like this one does, and I wanted to represent this through light and shadow: depicting all kinds of people brought together in this way. It also gives people an opportunity to join in with the mural, and to actually become part of the depicted grouping too. That's what Starland does best, afterall: you simply belong.



Sarah Pizzi

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STARLAND CONSTELLATION

Artist: Christina Robinson, CLR Creations

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Artist Introduction

Christina Robinson is a Savannah-based artist behind CLR Creations, specializing in abstract cartography. Her work explores how places become part of our identity, combining maps, memory, history, and lived experience to tell the stories held within a landscape.

Mural Description

Starland Constellation is a 3 x 5 ft celestial map based on the actual streets of central Starland. Inspired by historic star charts and celestial birth maps, the neighborhood's streets become constellations: a bull for Bull Street, paintbrushes for visual artists, outstretched hands for community, and a lyre for performing arts.

Bright white stars mark major neighborhood businesses. At the center is Starland's historic red star, honoring the Starland Dairy that helped give the district its identity. The star accurately points north, allowing the artwork to function as a directional compass as well as a neighborhood map.

Concept Statement: Starland Soul

To me, Starland Soul is the story of a place continually shaped by the people who gather, create, work, and dream within it. The red star connects the neighborhood's dairy roots to the creative district it has become. Surrounding constellations represent the artists, businesses, performers, and community members carrying that story forward.

Like a constellation, Starland's identity comes from connection. Individual places become something larger when viewed together. This mural maps those connections and celebrates the history, creativity, and community that continue to give Starland its soul.

Project Details

Proposed Location: Starland Village, 2213 Bull Street

Dimensions: 3 x 5 ft

Primary Palette: Navy, gold, red, and bright white. Alternate color treatments can be adapted to complement the selected wall.

Materials: Projector, spray paint, exterior wall paint, and protective clear seal.

Relevant Past Work

Christina's abstract cartography practice includes the ongoing Savannah Cartography Series, alongside place-based paintings exploring destinations through geography, history, culture, and personal experience. Her work provides the visual foundation for translating Starland's physical streets and cultural identity into a contemporary celestial map.

Permissions / Approval

Final placement, palette, surface preparation, and any required design adjustments will be coordinated with Starland Mural Fest and the property owner prior to installation.

Image List

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|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Watercolor design, original | 4. Digital design, gold, mockup |
| 2. Watercolor design, original, mockup | 5. Digital design, colorful |
| 3. Digital design, gold | 6. Digital design, colorful, mockup |



Sky Benson

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To me, the soul of Starland is found in the layers of its history and the energy of what the neighborhood has become. It is a place where the past remains visible while art, food, music, shopping, and culture continue to bring new life and movement to the streets.

This piece celebrates that energy through two figures sharing an unexpected toast of milk, a playful reference to the Starland Dairy that gave the neighborhood its name. Around them, bold stars, sweeping lines, oversized lettering, and layered supergraphics swirl together to create a sense of movement, celebration, and activity.

Many of the abstract shapes are pulled directly from the neighborhood itself. Patterns reference the distinctive four-square tiles of the original Starland Dairy building, while arches and other graphic forms are inspired by the stained glass and Gothic architecture of the historic church being incorporated into the new development. Other details draw from the familiar architecture and character of places like the Gingerbread House.

Rather than illustrating Starland literally, I wanted these pieces of its visual history to overlap, stretch, and transform. In me, Starland's soul is exactly that: history and creativity layered together, constantly moving, changing, and full of life.

Artist bio: Sky Benson is a Savannah-based muralist and fine artist known for bold, colorful work that blends figurative imagery with graphic shapes, expressive color, and influences from pop art, vintage illustration, and design.

After working as a scenic artist in the film industry, Sky shifted his focus to public art and has since completed more than 120 murals throughout the Southeast. His work ranges from large-scale public and commercial murals to hospitality spaces, restaurants, residential projects, and smaller architectural installations.

Sky's work often draws inspiration from the history and visual identity of the places he paints, translating local architecture, culture, and stories into contemporary compositions rather than illustrating them literally. His approach combines strong graphic design with playful storytelling, creating work that feels specific to its surroundings while remaining distinctly his own.

Based in Savannah, Sky continues to explore how murals can transform everyday spaces, celebrate community, and create memorable moments of connection between people and place.