

**RESOLUTION 20-16**

**SUPPORTING THE PAINTING OF TWO BLACK LIVES MATTER  
STREET MURALS - ONE ON ELM STREET AND ONE AT A DOWNTOWN  
LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED**

WHEREAS, the City of Bloomington previously expressed in Resolution 20-06, adopted on May 6, 2020, its commitment to promoting the health, safety, welfare and inclusiveness of all community residents, and acknowledged its responsibility to oppose, and aid in eradicating, systemic racism, racial bias and racial animus; and

WHEREAS, over the last several months, prompted by the killings of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Breonna Taylor in Louisville and Daniel Prude in Rochester, and by the cumulative effects of so many others before them, our country has been in turmoil, reeling from the horror of yet more of our Black and Brown family members, friends and citizens being killed brutally and unnecessarily while in government custody; and

WHEREAS, our community is far from immune to racial inequality and strife, and residents and others have been making their voices heard and demonstrating their pain and frustration at the continuing scourge of racism nationally and in our own community by marching in our streets and calling for all of us to do more; and

WHEREAS, governments may and regularly do engage in official government speech on important matters, and the City recognizes its obligation to condemn racism and inequality, and to stand in solidarity with organizations and individuals who share those sentiments; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Baneker Community Center Advisory Council have proposed two street murals that would involve the painting of the words “Black Lives Matter” on the public right of way with one mural on Elm Street in Bloomington and another at a downtown Bloomington location to be determined, and the Board of Parks Commissioners endorsed the concept at their July 28, 2020 meeting, and the Bloomington Arts Commission endorsed it at their August 12, 2020 meeting; and

WHEREAS, the City has funds available from the Black Y Brown Arts Festival, which was canceled due to the COVID pandemic, to pay an artist to complete the mural; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bloomington wants to reiterate its position in Resolution 20-06 that the City condemns all forms of bigotry, racism and hatred; and proudly stands for individual dignity, and against all those who would seek to propagate hate, fear and intimidation, or incite fear and violence targeting any human being; and

WHEREAS, the Council wholeheartedly endorses this use of public art to express its stated position and especially to support and honor a movement fighting to bring justice and equality to Black and Brown members of our community and beyond;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT;

The City of Bloomington endorses the painting of two Black Lives Matter murals - one on Elm Street in front of the Baneker Center, or at such other nearby location as the City and the Baneker Community Center Advisory Council agree is appropriate, and one at a downtown location to be determined, and supports the City’s use of existing funds to pay the artist hired to design and paint the mural. Further, the Council calls on the Board of Public Works to permit

this use of a public right of way and join in this public display of support for our Black and Brown residents who have been fighting for justice and equality for far too long.

PASSED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana upon this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
STEPHEN VOLAN, President  
Bloomington Common Council

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
NICOLE BOLDEN, Clerk  
City of Bloomington

PRESENTED by me to the Mayor of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

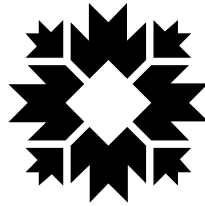
\_\_\_\_\_  
NICOLE BOLDEN, Clerk  
City of Bloomington

SIGNED and APPROVED by me upon this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
JOHN HAMILTON, Mayor  
City of Bloomington

#### SYNOPSIS

This resolution endorses the painting of two Black Lives Matter murals in the public right of way - one on Elm Street in Bloomington and one at a downtown Bloomington location to be determined and calls on the Board of Public Works to permit this use of a public right of way for public art that supports the cause of anti-racism and promotes justice and equality for our Black and Brown residents and visitors.



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON  
Parks and Recreation

## STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item: C-13  
Date: 7/23/2020

Administrator  
Review\Approval  
PM

**TO:** Board of Park Commissioners  
**FROM:** Erik Pearson-Program/Facility Coordinator  
**DATE:** July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
**SUBJECT:** Banneker Community Center Advisory Council Recommendation

### Recommendation

Staff recommends review and support the recommendation from the Banneker Community Center Advisory Council (BCCAC) to pursue street murals on Elm Street and in the downtown area.

### Background

BCCAC members Nichelle Whitney and Jaquita Roberts recommended to Erik Pearson that a mural containing the words Black Lives Matter be painted on Elm Street between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> street in front of the Banneker Community Center gymnasium. Further discussions took place between the Office of the Mayor, Community and Family Resources, Economic and Sustainable Development, and Public Works of which support for the murals was unanimous. On July 15<sup>th</sup>, in a special session, the BCCAC voted to recommend two murals be implemented by the City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department. In addition, the BCCAC recommends the Elm Street mural be designed by local Black artists and community members be invited to participate in the painting.

BCCAC recommends the City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department facilitate the street mural projects in purpose, funding, and continue to develop conversations and seek actionable steps through the Racial Justice Task Force that focus on equity and investment in Black and Brown businesses and neighborhoods. Funding will be allocated from City of Bloomington Economic and Sustainable Development's arts area including funds allocated towards the 2020 Black y Brown Arts Festival.

### Additional Details

- The street mural along Elm Street is recommended to have a lifespan of approximately two years
  - Elm Street is slated to be milled and paved at that time
  - Artists will be responsible for maintenance of the mural
  - In 2021 at the Black y Brown Arts Festival artists will be invited to join a rededication

ceremony wherein the mural will be touched up

- Next Steps:
  - Upon support of recommendation by Board of Parks Commissioners, the recommendation will go before the Board of Public Works
  - Selection of second mural site
  - Assistant Director for the Arts-Sean Starowitz will collect submissions from local Black artists who will provide examples of previous works
    - Three artists will be selected and will represent one word each
    - Artists will be paid
  - Purchasing of the outdoor and high traffic paint

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**

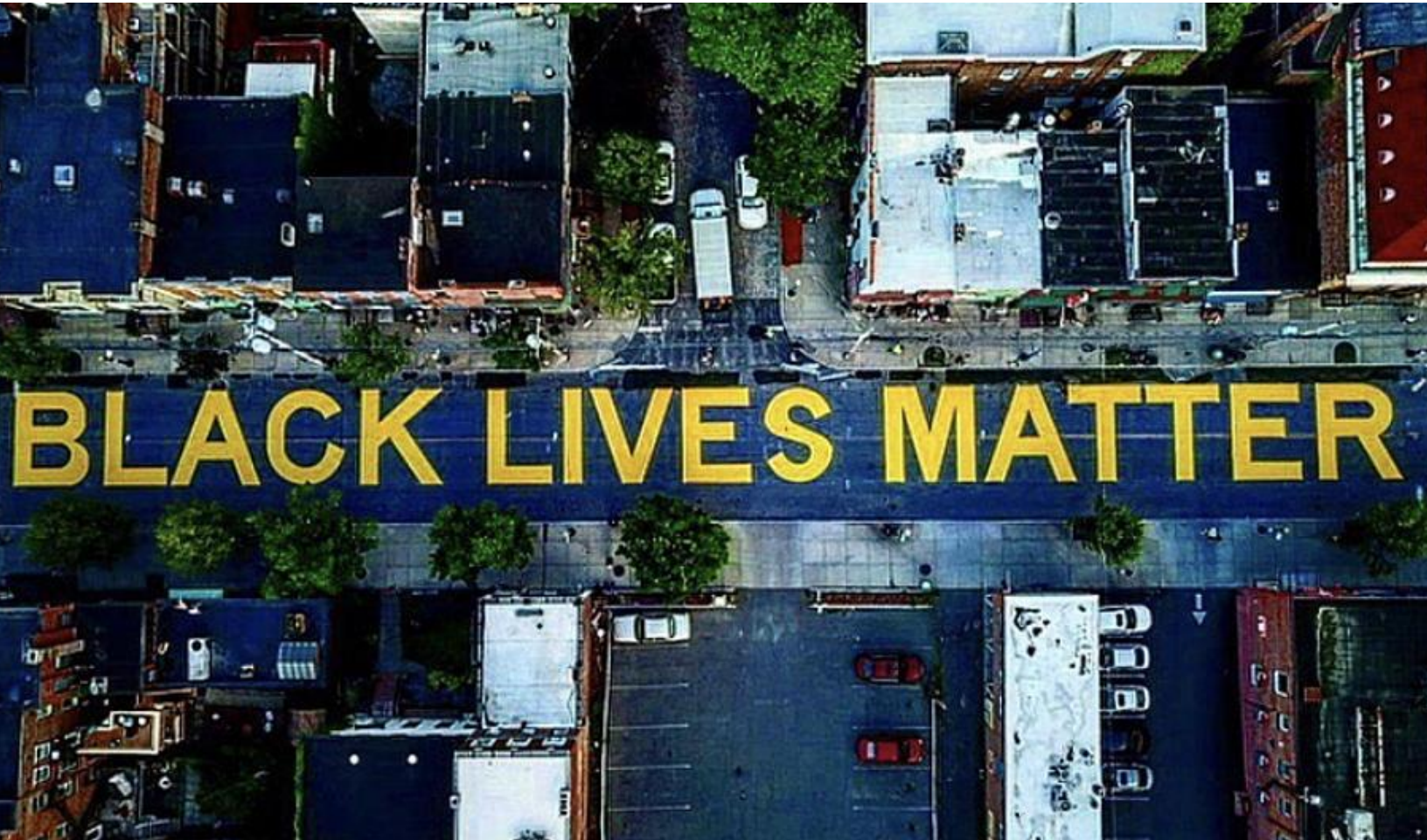


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Erik Pearson, Program/Facility Coordinator

**JULY 2020**

Submitted for consideration



Credit: Chris Famelette

# COMMUNITY MURAL PROPOSAL

Recommendation for construction of two  
*Black Lives Matter* murals in Bloomington, Indiana

**Proposed by: Banneker Community Center Advisory Council**

# THE PROPOSED PROJECT


Banneker Community Center Advisory Council (BCCAC) members Nichelle Whitney and JaQuita Roberts suggested to Erik Pearson that a street mural stating **Black Lives Matter** be erected on Elm Street in front of the Banneker Community Center.

Construction of each mural is both political and communal. Politically it reflects the responsibility that this community holds in disrupting racism and creating a quality of place that is inclusive and equitable for all people but particularly groups that have been systemically oppressed. It is an act of good communal faith, and shows the City's commitment to embrace the depth of culture and resilience for Black people.

*"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."  
-Barack Obama*

On July 15th the BCCAC convened a special session to discuss the project and vote on two key measures. Majority votes favored:

1. Banneker Community Center Advisory Council supports the Black Lives Matter street murals at Elm Street and in the downtown area, with the Elm street mural to be completed first.
2. For the Elm Street mural, BCCAC prefers a more unique artistic mural with images within letters, etc.



**BLACK  
LIVES  
MATTER**

## THE OBJECTIVE

The group recommended that two murals be created with consideration to Elm Street and downtown Bloomington. The Elm Street mural will have a culturally-textured design, while the downtown location will mirror the traditional "high traffic" yellow design. Members request the City of Bloomington needs to take onus of funding to show the BIPOC community its commitment to equity and justice.

The Elm Street mural would be a community engagement initiative with respect to COVID19 safety precautions. The mural would be designed by a Black or Latinx artist and would have cultural artistic consideration.



## CENTRAL RECOMMENDATION

A street mural with the statement Black Lives Matter be created along Elm Street in front of the Banneker Community Center.

### REQUESTS

- City of Bloomington shall serve as primary sponsor for each mural including mural maintenance.
- If the murals are vandalized, it is the responsibility of the City and artists to repair within a timely manner.

### TIMELINE

- Official proposal submitted to Parks and Recreation Board on July 28 2020.

### RISKS

- Resistance from community leading to additional acts of hate and intolerance

## BCCAC STATEMENT

In a special meeting on July 15, 2020, the Banneker Community Center Advisory Council voted to recommend the creation of two Black Lives Matter murals in Bloomington, Indiana, the first of which will be located on Elm Street. We recognize this effort as both political and communal, and as a Council, we commit to holding ourselves, our community, and our leaders accountable for addressing racial and social inequity in Bloomington. A firm commitment to the Black Lives Matter mural is an outward expression and recognition of one of the largest civil rights movements in US history, but we know that this act of good faith cannot stand alone. We implore City leaders to establish points of accountability that citizens can/should expect to hold. We call for the Racial Justice Task Force to review policies and programs, statements of no tolerance for hate, and strategic allocation of resources into Black and Brown businesses and neighborhoods. ***This statement reflects the opinion of the Banneker Community Center Advisory Council only and does not necessarily represent the view of the City of Bloomington. The Banneker Community Center Advisory Council is composed of residents who serve as volunteers to inform and advise their fellow residents, City staff and elected officials. This statement is for informational purposes only.***



# **BANNEKER COMMUNITY CENTER ADVISORY COUNCIL**

- Heather Addison
- Richelle Brown
- Autumn Brunelle
- Martha Chamberlain
- Seth Debro
- Victoria Englert
- Amy Oakley
- Joy Roberts
- Itia Saahir
- Muhammed Saahir
- Stacy Sedory
- Mathew Shockney
- Nichelle Whitney