

The Gateway History Mural at Cooke Road

The mission of the Clintonville Historical Society is to discover, collect and preserve the history of the Columbus neighborhood known as "Clintonville". In its pursuit of this mission, the Society has pledged to make local history a part of day to day life. In 2012, the Society took on its largest project to date. Working with artist Greg Ackers and the City of Columbus Development/Planning Division, the Society began the creation of a history themed mural on the railroad underpass at North Broadway. That mural has been well received. Many visitors and residents appreciate the imagery and seek more information about the content. As a result, the Society wishes to create similar murals on other underpasses.

The City of Columbus has recently completed the repair and painting of the railroad bridges at Cooke Road. In advance of the repair, the City verbally approved the concept of murals on the Cooke Road underpass once their repairs were complete. Those repairs are now complete.

Prior to the arrival of pioneer families, the Clintonville area was home to many Native Woodland Indians. In fact, an Adena mound was located near the site of the proposed mural. It was removed in 1955 to make way for residential housing. The Society Board felt that the Cooke Road mural subject matter should be Native American themed.

In the spring of 2014, Artist Danielle Poling (resume included) contacted the Clintonville Area Commissioners via email. She told them she was a local artist interested in painting in the public right of way. Commissioner (and Clintonville Historical Society member) Libby Weatherholt forwarded the message to the Clintonville Historical Society. Society President Mary Rodgers contacted Ms. Poling and they met.

Ms. Rodgers advised Ms. Poling of the Cooke Road underpass and the Society's desire to have murals painted on the walls of this underpass, specifically, murals representing the Native Woodland Indians who resided in the area prior to the arrival of the pioneers. Ms. Poling embraced the project and created a model of a design for the site (note, we will bring this model to the Commission meeting). The design consists of the Sun Wall and the Moon Wall. The Sun Wall contains images depicting hunting, gathering and action oriented symbols. Bright colors are used to convey these images. The Moon Wall reflects the cycle of the moon and focuses on more peaceful images including animals like the wolf and the bear that are no longer a part of the local environment.

Impressed by the design, Ms. Rodgers contacted several neighborhood associations/organizations and made arrangements to show the design. After reviewing the design with over 150 people, the Society has prepared this application to the Columbus Arts Commission.

We would like to begin this project in mid-June and complete it by September 1, 2014. The murals will be a permanent addition to the area. Timing may be impacted by fundraising. We are working hard to raise all the funds needed for the project. A budget is separately attached.

The Artist plans to use hand crafted stencils to create the larger images of the murals. Paint will be brushed, rolled and sprayed when creating the murals. Ms. Poling would like to incorporate

incandescent paint on the Moon Wall. Her hope is that this paint will charge during the daylight hours and glow at night.

Ms. Poling and the Society will agree to a maintenance agreement relative to the artwork. The Adena Brook Community (additional information enclosed) has been keeping the area clear of trash and they maintain the surrounding landscape areas. In fact, that group would like to work with the Society to obtain grants to re-landscape the area post mural.