



BEHIND JACKSON'S MURALS: CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH



MAYOR LUMUMBA ENDS CITYWIDE MASK MANDATE, OTHER RESTRICTIONS



CITY EMPLOYEE LANDS PRESTIGIOUS FELLOWSHIP

CITY OF JACKSON NEWSLETTER

Spring edition

Commemorating Black History Month through Art

In honor of Black History Month, City of Jackson photographer Imani Khayyam caught up with four Jackson artists who have been using their talents to transform the City into a more colorful and welcoming place. The creative murals help to liven up the City and pay respect to the historical icons that came before us.

Khayyam sat down and talked with Reshonda Perryman, an artist and the creative design manager for Visit Jackson. Perryman's "Jackson Icons" mural is located on the back wall of the Old Capitol Inn on North Street.



This boldly colored painting, located on the back wall of the Old Capitol Inn on North Street, depicts Civil Rights leader Medgar Evers; writer and photographer Eudora Welty; American ballet dancer, educator, and author Thalia Mara; and rapper and philanthropist David Banner.

The painting depicts Civil Rights leader Medgar Evers; writer and photographer Eudora Welty; American ballet dancer, educator, and author Thalia Mara; and rapper and philanthropist David Banner. Perryman said she used bold, vibrant colors to allow the City of Jackson and its history "to shine."

Jackson artist Sabrina Howard gave some insight into her mural which shines at the gate to several communities surrounding Jackson State University, including Washington Addition, Hemingway Circle and Pecan Tree Park. The mural features Alyce G. Clarke, Fannie Lou Hamer, Bob Moses, Rose Elizabeth Howard Robinson, Albert Powell and Louise Marshall.

“(My art) is an eclectic soup of everything that happens around me: my family, my profession, everything that is going on in this state and this world. It’s all that...Life inspires me.” - Sabrina Howard



Artist Justin Ransburg stands in front of his mural on Capitol Street entitled “The Coming of Spring.” Ransburg said he utilized colors that represent growth, royalty, luck and renewal

Artist Justin Ransburg described the process behind his painting “The Coming of Spring” on Capitol Street.

He said the theme was the renewal of the season and also the promise of a new beginning, one filled with hope and growth. Ransburg used green, purple, brown and gold in his mural to represent growth,

royalty, luck and renewal.

Artist Tony Davenport used his creative vision to create a colorful mural celebrating the contributions of groundbreaking Black athletes, including Jackie Robinson and Hank Aaron.

“Part of my job is to paint Jackson as a destination that people really want to be a part of, but also make it feel like home to those who already live here.” - Reshonda Perryman

For an interactive look at the collection of Jackson murals and artwork, check out the following link: www.visitjackson.com/blog/public-art-map. Additional artwork can be found at the bottom of this newsletter.

City of Jackson photographer Imani Khayyam met with Jackson artists to commemorate Black History Month.



Khayyam interviewed four artists - one for each week of the month of February - who have been helping to uplift the City with fresh and vibrant murals across Jackson, with many honoring the legacies of those who fought for human rights. Pictured above (top to bottom): Reshonda Perryman, Tony Davenport and Sabrina Howard.

Mayor Lumumba lifts mask mandate, other COVID-19 restrictions



Two volunteers wearing facial coverings help distribute water to residents in need. Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba lifted the citywide mask mandate in early March

In early March, Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba made significant changes to his Safe Recovery executive order which put restrictions on the public due to the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The Mayor made the decision after discussions with his COVID-19 Task Force.

The new order included the the lifting of the citywide facial covering (mask) mandate. “All restrictions previously implemented through any (order) related to face coverings are hereby lifted in their entirety,” the order reads. The order follows a similar one issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that also lifted mask wearing requirements.

The mayor’s new order also lifts all restrictions related to capacity and hours of Jackson businesses.

“I have imposed restrictions and limitations on certain businesses with public health in mind, and also understand that such restrictions and

limitations complicate the economic picture for many business owners...this executive order seeks to provide a further economic lifeline to businesses by lifting some restrictions of business services,” said Mayor Lumumba.

An ordinance allowing businesses to establish a temporary leisure and recreation district remains in place. Businesses in Jackson with alcohol permits may offer alcoholic beverages through carry out, drive-thru and curbside pickup.

Restaurants, bars and retail establishments affected by COVID-19 restrictions may contact the City’s Constituent Services Office at 601-960-2324 to request a temporary permit to create or expand an outdoor area for customers to consume food/alcohol and to expand business operations to public parking lots, sidewalks and streets closed to public access, and other areas within proximity of the business.

Mayor Lumumba advises residents to remain vigilant in light of variants of the Omicron strain of the virus. He continues to recommend residents get vaccinated and boosted against the virus. “We know the best precaution you can take to prevent serious side effects from COVID-19 is to get your shots. This virus is still with us and we still need to take precautions,” the Mayor said.

Meet the Messengers: Addressing violent crime block by block

As Mayor Lumumba works behind the scenes with officials to mitigate cracks in the court and jail systems, another group of residents is on the frontlines of preventing violent crime from continuing a post-covid surge.

Strong Arms of Jackson, along with Operation Good, have been making their presence felt in some neighborhoods in an effort to reduce incidents of gun violence in Jackson. These unsung community heroes have placed themselves in the jails, hospitals, courts and homes to reach those most likely to fall through the cracks.

Their work is having an impact. Due to their grassroots messaging, counseling and offering of hope, their concentrated efforts in a 45-block area of South Jackson has resulted in over 200 days of an absence of violent crime.

The hope is to spread their work across the City as resources allow to not only break a cycle of violence, but to also offer positive alternatives, such as sustainable employment opportunities, prison reentry programs and counseling.



Marshun Moore, a member of Strong Arms of Jackson, is one of several community heroes succeeding in breaking a cycle of violence in some of Jackson's most violence prone neighborhoods.

Coca-Cola Company donates pallets of bottled water to Jackson

The Coca-Cola Company delivered over two dozen pallets of water to the City of Jackson. The 28 pallets, which equates to over 2,000 cases of bottled water, will be distributed to residents in need.

Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba expressed his appreciation to Coca-Cola for their generous donation, and also to all the City workers, non-profits, business community and church leaders who have stepped up to assist Jackson during its latest water disruption.

"I want to say thank you to everyone who has stepped up to help the City of Jackson during this latest disruption to our water system," Mayor Lumumba said. "The contribution from Coca-Cola is thoughtful, generous and a credit to the company. It is greatly appreciated."

Mayor honored with prestigious award from Harvard Kennedy School

Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba joined a prominent list of young elected and public service leaders as he accepted the prestigious John F. Kennedy New Frontier Award from the Harvard Kennedy School. The annual award honors those under the age of 40 who are changing their communities and the country with their commitment to public service.



Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba recently accepted the prestigious John F. Kennedy New Frontier Award from the Harvard Kennedy School.

The awards are presented annually to two exceptional individuals whose contributions in elective office, community service, or advocacy demonstrate the impact and the value of public service in the spirit of President John F. Kennedy. Mayor Lumumba joined climate leader Jasmine Sanders in acceptance of the award.

“I am incredibly honored - and humbled - to accept this award,” said Mayor Lumumba. “I am firmly committed to and believe in the self-determination of the residents of Jackson, and I will continue to fight for their fundamental right to not only achieve the American dream, but make it visible as well. I stand on the shoulders of those who have been accepted this award in the past, and I am honored by the Kennedy School for their consideration.”

The Kennedy School said it took note of Mayor Lumumba’s efforts to expand Jackson’s digital economic strength, make community oversight of police more transparent, focus on improving the city’s infrastructure and create an education partnership to improve public schools.

President John F. Kennedy’s grandson, Jack Schlossberg presented the awards during a virtual ceremony during the Campaign Conference at the Institute of Politics at Harvard Kennedy School.

“With his vision for a New Frontier, President Kennedy challenged young Americans to take on great challenges, solve complex problems and work for a better future,” said Schlossberg, who is a member of the New Frontier Awards Committee. “Jasmine Sanders and Mayor Lumumba have each answered President Kennedy’s call to action in our time, taking on some of the greatest challenges facing our country today. Their courage is a reminder that each of us can make a difference.”

For more information visit the Kennedy Presidential Library’s website at www.jfklibrary.org or the Institute of Politics’ website at www.iop.harvard.edu.

City employee nabs fellowship with U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Jonathan Barnett, the City of Jackson's workforce development coordinator and director of Jobs for Jacksonians, has been accepted to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Business Leads Fellowship Program.

The Chamber selected Barnett for its sixth cohort program based on his past success at implementing multiple, successful education and workforce initiatives in Jackson. During his 10 years with the City, Barnett has helped over 4,500 people obtain jobs.



City of Jackson Workforce Development Coordinator, Jonathan Barnett accepted a prestigious fellowship with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

"I'm elated to be honest," Barnett said. "I have been studying the chamber's website for a number of years to see how it might benefit Jackson and also my own skill set to see how I can become more efficient at what I do."

Barnett joins the distinguished program as one of 35 fellows from 25 states. He met the criteria for a Business Leads Fellow and has partnered with the U.S. Chamber Foundation for five or more years. Barnett is also an established education and workforce leader at the state and local level.

He will now attend monthly meetings that will plug him into the education and workforce pipeline and network with professionals from across the country.

Barnett stands out as the only fellow currently working in city government. The other fellows were culled from their respective chamber of commerce. He said he plans to take what he learns and bring it back to Jackson.

Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba expressed his support and appreciation for Barnett's accomplishments.

"We are proud of this well-deserved recognition for a hard-working City employee and believe Jonathan will take back what he learns and continue to be a bright light for the residents of Jackson for a long time."

Jobs for Jacksonians is an initiative created to provide accessible information about employment opportunities for Jackson residents. The program offers an array of services and training opportunities to assist job-seekers.

Upcoming events:

Easter egg Hunt: Children ages 2 to 8 are welcome to participate in an Easter egg hunt. The hunt will take place **11 a.m. Saturday, April 16** at 4500 Officer Thomas Catchings, Sr. Drive. Plastic Easter eggs and candy will be provided.

JPS/City of Jackson Job Fair: The City of Jackson and Jackson Public Schools will hold an employment fair from **9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, May 4** in the Lanier High School gymnasium. Local business and industry will be in attendance for possible hiring. For more information, please contact Marquita Slater, Director of Academies for JPS at mlavine@jpsms.org, or Johnathan Barnett, coordinator of Jobs for Jacksonians at jbarnett@jacksonms.gov.

2022 Annual Mayor's Cup 3 Player Scramble: Come out and enjoy the weather for the annual Mayor's three player golf scramble. This year's event starts at **9:15 a.m. Friday, May 20** at the Pete Brown Golf Facility at 3200 Woodrow Wilson Drive. Registration deadline is May 6. Call 601-960-0471 for more information.

Movies in the Park: The City of Jackson will again offer movies for residents to enjoy at Westside Park. The next movies will take place **Friday, May 6 and Saturday, May 7**. Pre-show is at 6:30 p.m. with the movies beginning at 7 p.m. The movies will shown in Westside Park at 1445 Peach Place.

Keep American Beautiful Great American Cleanup: This year's Great American Cleanup began Friday, March 25 and will continue throughout Jackson every Friday over the next several months. Residents are invited to volunteer and assist in efforts to remove litter and other debris. For more information, please contact the City of Jackson's Solid Waste Division at 601-960-1193.



This mural painted by Tony Davenport at the recently-renamed Hank Aaron Academy (formerly Smith-Wills Stadium) celebrates the contributions of groundbreaking Black athletes, including Jackie Robinson and Hank Aaron.



Sabrina Howard created this mural honoring Jackson icons that symbolizes the breaking off of chains near Jackson State University.

