

9/18/2007

To whom it may concern,

I am the director of the Williamson St Art Center and a community artist. Murals are one of my specialties. Among my recent murals are ones at Wil-Mar Neighborhood Center, Atwood Youth Center, Lowell Elementary School, Lakeview Elementary School, Family Centers, and the four exterior walls of my studio at the rear of 1020 Williamson St. During the next 6 weeks I will be painting a mural with high school students at Sun Prairie's Angel Park.

I am proposing the creation of a mural next year to be placed on 4 – 6 panels at the Willy Street Park. The theme of the mural is ***“Willy Street in the 70’s – Changing the World through Art.”*** The proposal has received the endorsement of the Willy St Park Association, MNA, Wil-Mar, GWABA and my alderperson.

My intent in painting this mural is to tell the story of the artists, poets and musicians who lived on Willy Street in the 70’s when it was primarily a working class, industrial area. It was the place where we found cheap rent and minimal restriction on our artistic expression.

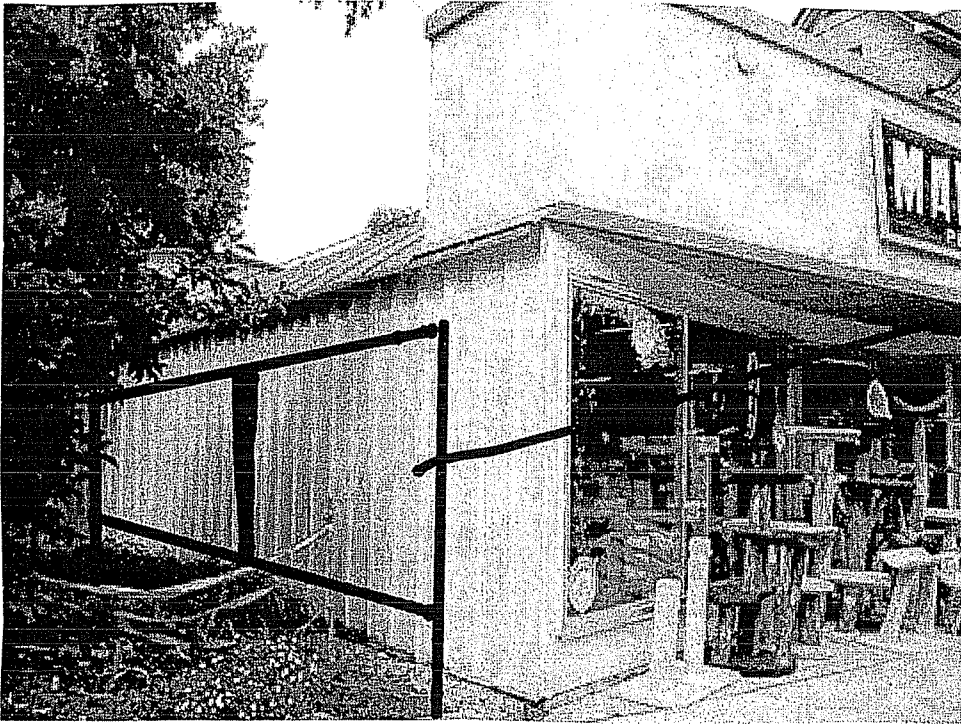
Centers of artistic activity were created up and down the street. A vibrancy and a buzz resulted. From Gallery 853 to Broom Street Theater, from Mona’s Way House Gallery of Light to WORT radio broadcasts at Dolly’s Cafe, a community of creative people developed. Although we worked in different media, we shared a common vision and belief that through our artistic activity we could make a difference. We were a generation that had become disillusioned with the world as we found it. We created our own “counter-culture revolution” right here on Willy Street and I believe it is a story that deserves to be told.

The mural will be painted on 4’ x 8’ panels. Two panels will be placed on a screen that will be 6’ high, adjacent to the building at the north front end of the park, perpendicular to the sidewalk. Two to four additional panels ~~will~~ ^{MIGHT} be located along the fence at the rear of the lot, to serve as a screen of the machinery in MG&E’s lot next to the park.

I am applying for grants from the Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission to gather and record stories from various artists. This activity will take place in the early spring of 2008. I am applying to Wisconsin Arts Board / Artists in the Community and the Madison Arts Commission to fund the actual painting of the panels which will take place during the summer of 2008. I will paint the panels at Wil-Mar, involving as much of the neighborhood as possible. I will follow a format similar to that when I painted the Wil-Mar mural, in which many neighborhood artists and non-artists participated.

The panels will be installed in the park at the end of the summer. There will be a dedication of the mural sometime in early fall 2008. I would appreciate your support of this project. If you have questions or concerns, please contact me at 256-8878. Thank you.





MURAL
PANELS



POSSIBLE
ADDITIONAL
MURAL
PANELS