

“Garage” Art for Asylum Hill

Back in February, when The Hartford first proposed to AHNA their plans to extend their parking garage on Sumner St up to Collins St, the neighbors asked them to look into ways to soften the effect that this structure would have on the residential neighbors both on Collins and Sumner Streets. They agreed, and what we see today is the result of that commitment.

Quietly, they reached out to Georges Annan-Kingsley, a resident of Asylum Hill and recent refugee from Cote d’Ivoire who also happens to be an accomplished artist to design a concept that would beautify the concrete wall of the new parking garage, and also express the character of Asylum Hill.

Georges rose to the challenge, first creating a small version of the work that was proposed to The Hartford, and when that was approved, he created a 5’ x 5’ version that was to be the “original”. In this painting, Kingsley depicts the spirit of Hartford’s Asylum Hill

neighborhood – lively, colorful and full of possibilities. In the artwork, different shapes and meanings come alive through the many different angles of the piece.

The Hartford then had it digitally scanned and enlarged to the grand banner that was announced at the November 2nd

AHNA meeting and that hangs there now.

It will remain there until the weather requires its removal and will be reinstalled in the spring for everyone to enjoy.

Aside from the beauty and interest that it adds to the neighborhood, it stands as a tangible example of the generosity of The Hartford and the strength of their commitment to the neighborhood.



From left to right Mike Lauretano Sr., Lauretano Sign Group; Ray Marcotte, The Hartford; Jahn Marie Surette, The Hartford; Georges Annan-Kingsley, Asylum Hill Resident & Artist; Morgan Ferrarotti, The Hartford; Sandra Chong Ham, The Hartford;