



SAVANNAH

Cultural Resources

Request for Submissions

Savannah's Storm Drain Art Project: Phase 2

City of Savannah Cultural Resources & Water Resources

1.0 General Overview

The City of Savannah's Cultural Resources and Water Resources Departments invites artists to submit proposals to install artwork on City of Savannah storm drains. This second phase will focus on drains that flow into the Savannah River. The storm drain art project is part of a larger campaign to enlighten the community about the connection to our rivers and ocean through the drain. It will be a reminder that our actions impact wildlife and local economies depending on our waters staying healthy. **The City of Savannah is seeking bold and original designs that call attention to our waterways, reducing pollution, and protecting our local ecosystems.** Proposals from artists of all backgrounds and abilities are welcomed. Emerging artists, local artists, Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC), as well as artists a part of other minoritized or historically excluded communities are strongly encouraged to apply.

1.1 Highlighting Our Connection to Our Water

Savannah is surrounded by creeks that flow to rivers that flow to the ocean. Living in the city we don't see the rivers and oceans every day; yet we are still connected to them and to the plants and wildlife living in them. We may not hear the otter munching an oyster, but our pet's waste left on the ground impacts the safety of that oyster. We may not see the turtle eating jellyfish, but our plastic litter looks like food and injures them. We may not see the shrimp boat working the estuary, but many of us enjoy what the nets bring in! The price we pay for our wonderful local seafood depends, in large part, on the quality of the water.

So, what connects us to these waters, plants, and wildlife we don't see? What connects us is something we do see every single day. It is the storm drain in front of our homes, schools, offices, parks, grocery stores, restaurants, and gas stations. This lowly, unassuming, gray structure is a major gateway joining our everyday

activities to our rivers and ocean. It is there to take rain away from the land in storms and to prevent flooding.

When only rain goes down that drain, our water stays healthy. But rain will pick up what's on the ground. When we have pollutants like pet waste and litter on the ground; when we use fertilizers incorrectly; when we put oils and chemicals on the ground, we have unhealthy water. It is the duty of all residents and visitors to remember this important connection to the water below them while they walk, drive, and play on City streets.

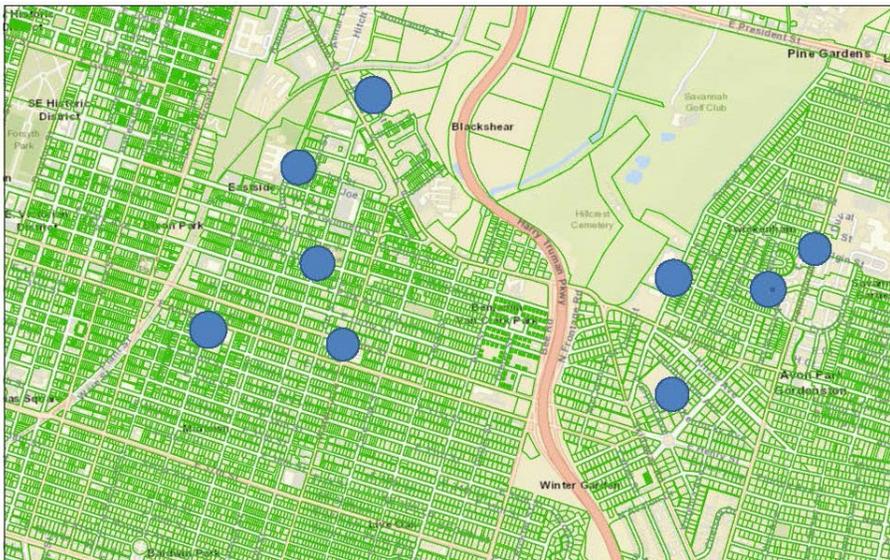
Our Impaired Waterways

The City of Savannah lies within two watersheds, the Savannah and the Ogeechee River Watersheds. On the eastside, from Victory Drive north, water flows through our ditches and canals into the Savannah River. These canals are often full of litter. Only rain should go down a storm drain. If only rain goes down the storm drain, then less litter and pollution will reach the Savannah River where dolphin and manatees live and where we swim, fish, and crab.

1.2 Storm Drain Selection

Storm drain selections were made based on eastside locations and drains that flow to the Savannah River which have good public visibility, and relative safety. Four drain locations are in or near city parks and four are adjacent to schools and community centers. The remaining four are in areas where there is moderate to heavy pedestrian and bicycle activity.

1.2.1 Storm Drain Map



1.2.2 Storm Drain Locations

Location	# of Drains	Notes	Drain Shape	Address
Savannah Gardens	2	side of PARC	Rectangles	425 Pennsylvania Avenue – SE & NW Corners of Pennsylvania and Elgin PARC side
Savannah Gardens	2	Playground	Large Trapezoid	0 Inspiration Way - Between W. Crescent Drive and Playground
Gordonston	1	Juliette Low Park	Irregular Polygon	Corner of Edgewood and Kentucky - Residential side of street
Shuman Elementary School	2	Street Crossing House side	Rectangle and Irregular Polygon	415 Goebel Avenue - NE Corner of Goebel and Greenville side of crosswalk and on school side
Asbury Church	1	Intersection	Large Irregular Polygon	1301 Waters - Corner of Henry and Waters
Savannah Classical Academy	1	Entrance to parking lot	Rectangle	705 East Anderson - Corner of Atlantic and Anderson
Dairy Barn	1	Victory Garden side	Rectangle	2428 Tennessee Avenue - near intersection of Maryland and Tennessee
Hubert Middle School	2	Paulsen Soldier Field	Rectangle	768 Grant Street – Either side of Joe Street
Blackshear Park	1	On side of Park off Aberdeen Street	Trapezoid	824 Wheaton Street – residential side
WW Law Center	1	On side of Community Center	Irregular Polygon	909 Waldburg Street – SE Corner of Waldburg and Harmon

2.0 Artwork Requirements

2.1 Design Specifications

Designs should fit the brief of bold and original designs that call attention to our waterways, reducing pollution, and protecting our local ecosystems.

The chosen storm drains are 3 basic design shapes. Design submissions should be for a specific shape, not for a specific drain. Artists are welcome to submit designs for all three shapes. Selected designs will be assigned to the specific location by the review committee. Since every drain is slightly different, submitted designs should be able to be altered slightly to fit the exact location once drains are assigned.

Designs must cover the sidewalk area outlined in the schematics as well as the metal drain cover.

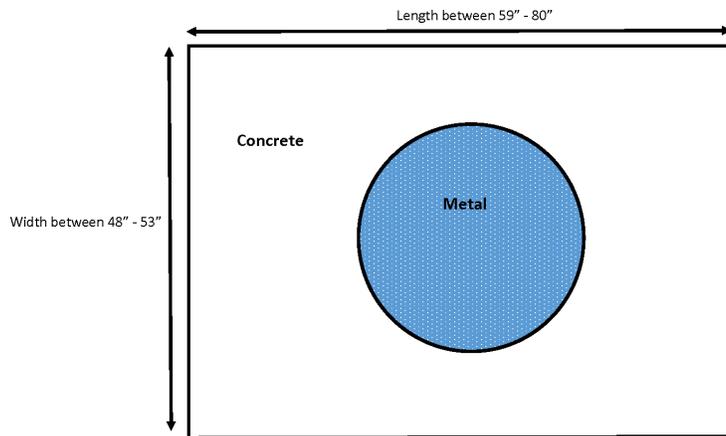
Designs must be original work. Designs may not include any breach of intellectual property, copyrights, brands or trademarks, or depictions of illegal activity. Design may not include political references. Designs that are derogatory or discriminatory will not be accepted.

Designs may not contain any business promotions or advertisements.

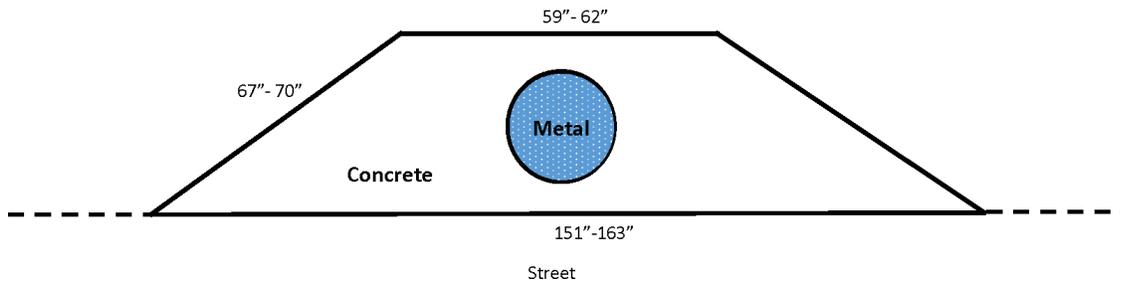
2.2 Diagrams

Storm drain schematics. Surface is concrete (white area) and metal (shaded area).

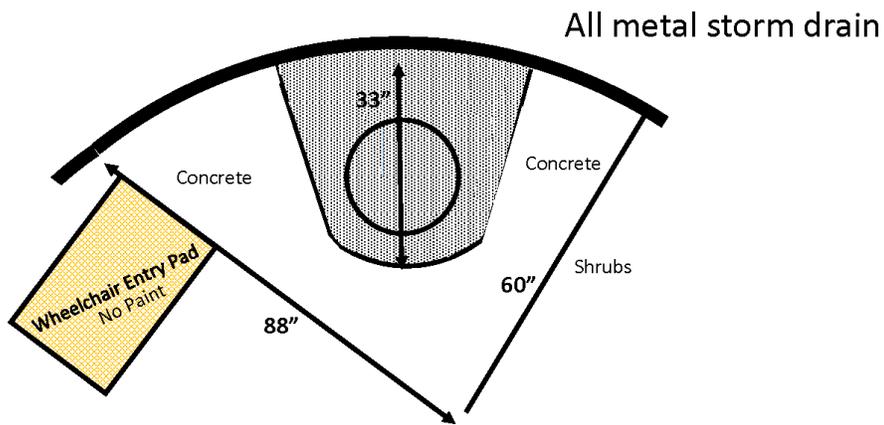
A. Rectangle



B. Trapezoid



C. Irregular Polygon



2.3 Reference Photos

Artists are encouraged to visit the storm drain locations listed in section 1.2.2

A. Rectangle



B. Trapezoid



C. Irregular Polygon



3.0 Eligibility

Applicants must be residents of Chatham County, Georgia, and 18 years of age or older. Proposals from artists of all backgrounds and abilities are welcomed. Proposals will only be considered if all the required information outlined in section 7.0 is included.

4.0 Budget and Supply Details

Artists will be supplied with brushes, small cups, water, and paint sufficient to complete the project. The paint provided will be specific for outdoor use and foot traffic and may not be substituted by a lower quality paint by the artist. The surface to be painted will be cleared of debris and primed for the artist.

4.1 Stipend

Each selected artist will be awarded a stipend. The stipend is based on surface area and complexity. If an artist is awarded more than one mural, they will receive one stipend per installation. Stipends will be distributed upon completion of the art installation.

- A. Rectangle \$850
- B. Trapezoid \$1,000
- C. Large Trapezoid \$1,200
- D. Irregular Polygon \$1,200
- E. Large Irregular Polygon \$1,500

5.0 Contract

The artist(s) selected will work directly with the City of Savannah's project team. The project will be promoted through City of Savannah and department marketing efforts through the installation's display period. Artwork will be covered in a protective layer to increase durability. Artwork will be displayed up to 5 years.

The artist(s) selected will enter a contract with Cultural Resources and receive a schedule for installation. Artist(s) will be given a nine (9) day period for installation. The City of Savannah reserves the right not to install or remove artwork if it differs greatly from the proposed design, and revoke stipend as a breach of the agreement.

The artist or artist team shall retain intellectual property rights to the artwork commissioned for the City of Savannah. The City of Savannah shall have the unconditional right to retain the design materials (drawings, illustrations, etc) for educational purposes. Full credit will be given to the artist or artist team if the design is disseminated by print or digital means. Proposed artwork must be original.

6.0 Submission Procedure

Submissions, including supporting materials, will be accepted through the online form found at savannahga.gov/stormdrainart. One design per submission. Artists preparing more than one design should submit each design as a separate and complete submission through the online form. Questions should be submitted to margaret.willett@savannahga.gov prior to the submission period closing.

7.0 Proposals Shall Include

7.1 Written Proposal Information

Written statement outlining the concept of proposed installation, how it will activate the space and fulfill the needs of the brief outlined in section 1. Include information on how the design can be adapted to fit slight variations in drain sizes.

A short biography of the artist, including previous work.

All documents must be submitted in PDF format.

7.2 Images for Proposal

Proposals should include up to five (5) images related to the project. Image guidelines:

- Accurately represent the artwork in scale and color.
- Include at least one image showing design within provided drain schematic (diagrams can be downloaded from savannahga.gov/stormdrainart)
- Proposals should include examples of previous work. Up to three (3) images may be submitted.
- Images may be submitted as jpg, png, eps, or PDF.

8.0 Evaluation, Selection, and Approval

Submissions will be juried by a panel of local experts including marine ecologists, artists, and City representatives.

8.1 Scoring Rubric

All submissions will be scored on the following four (4) categories out of a total possible 100 Points.

Clarity of theme and overall concept [35 Points]

Formal and aesthetic qualities [25 Points]

Creativity and originality [25 Points]

Feasibility [15 Points]

9.0 Selection and Installation Timeline

October 21, 2025 Information Session via Zoom (6:00pm)

November 10, 2025 Submission Deadline (11:59pm)

November 17, 2025 Selection Committee Reviews Submissions

November 21, 2025 Selected Artists Notified and Assigned Specific Drain Site

The artists selected and City of Savannah staff will discuss installation specifications, and the artist will be asked to make adjustments to design as needed to fit assigned site.

Dec, 2025 – Jan, 2026 Designs presented to neighborhood representatives, Chatham County - Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission, and City of Savannah City Council.

February 26 – 29, 2026 Install weekend (Backup/rain date March 5-8)