



Freedom Wall Stakeholder's Meeting
December 03, 2020 at 5:30 PM
Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Samantha White (East Side Garden Walk), Audrey Clark, Zeneta Everhart (Senator Kennedy's Director of Diversity & Inclusion), Alexa & Edryes Wajed (Eat off Art & Original Freedom Wall Artist), Sharon Holley (MSAAHCC), Sydney Collins (Buffalo Sewer Authority), Helen Tederous (NFTA), Rachel Lyons (Buffalo Academy For Visual & Performing Arts), Constance Stothers (East Side Garden Walk, Buffalo Urban League, & WNY Art Collective), Carolyn Lee (East Side Garden Walk)

Introductions

- Presentations from Samantha White – issues around the freedom wall include exposed rebar, garbage, and general neglect take away from the beauty of the murals and does not give the Freedom Wall the respect it deserves.
 - Proposal from Samantha – replace some of the grass with ground cover garden with stamped concrete so that the grass does not get trampled down. Propose to work with Buffalo Sewer Authority to create a water system through Rain Check (Street Trees and Rain Gardens).
 - Proposal to include benches and seating to enjoy space.
 - Shared prior 2019 Proposal from Elbers with \$13,000 – acts as a starting point. Several problems with proposals ranging from plants chosen and pavers to the lack of MWBE status.
- Open Conversation - Many individuals stress that the plants should be in addition to but not a takeaway from the murals.
 - Inclusion of block clubs is necessary.
 - Discussion of lighting and different logistics surrounding it. Lighting- besides letting people view the art at night- also makes the space safer. Ground lighting was proposed as a possible solution.
- SAM Grant \$366,000 – given to NFTA from Senator Kennedy for a streetscape project.

Next Stakeholder Meeting: Thursday January 21, 2021 5:30 – 6:30 PM