

Note to Commission
Williamson Street Park murals
1002 Williamson Street

An artist who lives close to this park wishes to erect four 4'x8' murals on the side and rear lot lines of the Williamson Street Park. The murals will celebrate the art scene on Williamson Street in the 1970s. The artist has worked with the neighborhood residents on a mural for the Wil-Mar neighborhood Center and, a couple of years ago, the Landmarks Commission approved a mural project for the outbuilding in her back yard.

The color photographs submitted is to show you samples of her work, but the mural designs have not yet been determined. The new murals will be placed against the plain side of a commercial building on Williamson Street and the rear lot line of the park, screening an MG&E equipment yard.

She has broad based neighborhood support. I recommend approval.,

K. H. Rankin *KHR*
10-5-07

c/o WILLIAMSON STREET GROCERY CO-OP
1221 WILLIAMSON STREET
MADISON, WI 53703
www.williamsonst.com



PRESIDENT
ANYA FIRSZT
(608) 251-0884
a.firszt@willystreet.coop

September 18, 2007

Dear Plan Commission members and to any other interested parties,

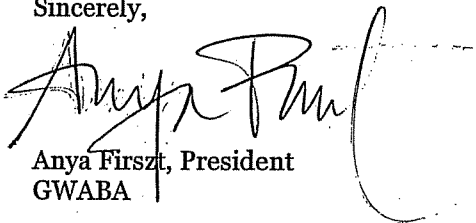
The Greater Williamson Area Business Association (GWABA) is writing this letter of support for the mural project that Sharon Kilfoy is proposing for the Willy Street Park on Williamson Street.

Given that this mural project is highly unlikely to generate any opposition or controversy this is a very easy letter to write. But, we did want to formally support this project as a way for the near east side business community to recognize Sharon's work on Willy Street specifically and to honor the contributions that she and her fellow artists who have made Williamson Street their home have made over the past many decades in general. In many ways it is their presence that has made "Willy Street" the vibrant and creative destination that it is today. For the small business community this has meant not only has Williamson Street been a financially attractive place to set up shop but also a fun place to do so.

GWABA will more than **LIKELY** be making a financial contribution to this mural project. Sharon can also look to individual businesses for support as well.

We wish this project well and look forward to also your support of it.

Sincerely,



Anya Firszt, President
GWABA

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~~ 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.

Sharon Kirby



August 30, 2007

SOCIETY INCORPORATED
PO BOX 3023
MADISON WISCONSIN 53704

Sharon Kilfoy
1020 Williamson St.
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Sharon,

Willy Street Park would be a fine site for the mural project you outlined earlier this month. Our board of directors supports your application for funding to paint and install this community artwork in the Park at Williamson and Brearly.

Sincerely yours,

Bill Jolin
President of the Board of Directors.