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FEATURED

Explore Gwinnett hands out \$100,000 in placemaking grants to local communities

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Explore Gwinnett announced this week that it has awarded \$100,000 in placemaking grants to eight projects around Gwinnett County.

Photo: Explore Gwinnett

Eight community placemaking projects in Gwinnett County are getting some help from Explore Gwinnett to fund their efforts.

The tourism and convention marketing group announced this week that it has handed out \$100,000 in grants to help with placemaking projects around the county. The first-ever Placemaking Grants were distributed through the Gwinnett Creativity Fund.

The recipients range from Gwinnett cities, to community improvement districts to the Hudgens Center for Art and Learning.

“It’s incredibly rewarding to support projects that use creativity to uplift and transform shared spaces,” Explore Gwinnett Chief Operating Officer Lisa Anders said. “Inspired by the words of poet John Dryden, ‘mighty things from small beginnings grow,’ this grant cycle prioritized small to midsize projects, with a focus on areas with limited access to the arts. From murals to decorative crosswalks, these projects help strengthen a sense of place while sparking pride connection and momentum.”

The projects that are receiving grant funding range from new murals and decorative sidewalks to a reading grotto, a pocket park and a bioswale and landscaping feature.

Explore Gwinnett officials said the grants are intended to help communities around Gwinnett enhance their public spaces by encouraging vibrancy and activity as well as addressing functional, aesthetic and social needs. the idea is to help develop Gwinnett County as an arts and cultural destination.

Many of this year’s grant recipients are in unincorporated Gwinnett.

“This first round of Creativity Fund Placemaking Grants represents exactly what makes Gwinnett so special — collaboration, innovation and a deep investment in our diverse communities,” Gwinnett County Chairwoman Nicole Love Hendrickson said. “I’m especially proud that many of these inspiring projects are taking root in unincorporated Gwinnett, helping us reimagine public spaces and create meaningful access to the arts for all.”

♦ \$30,000 for Art in Motion to support a 2,600-square-foot mural at Singleton Park in unincorporated Norcross

♦ \$11,500 for the Hudgens Center for Art & Learning, to help pay for an 864-square-foot wall mural which will be located at the entrance to the School of Fine Arts

♦ \$7,500 for Sugarloaf Mills LP to help pay for a 288-square-foot continuation of the Sugarloaf CID's decorative crosswalks

♦ \$12,500 for the City of Suwanee Public Arts Commission to help pay for a reading grotto which will be located at the entrance to the Gwinnett County Public Library system's Suwanee branch from the city's new Town Center Park

◆ \$10,000 for the Norcross Public Arts Commission to help pay for a multi-phase “Norcross Forever” utility box wrap project that will feature postage-stamp-inspired designs highlighting the city’s history

- ◆ \$10,000 for the City of Peachtree Corners to help pay for a pocket park that will be located in Technology Park and offer a gathering space, trail and fitness equipment
 - ◆ \$3,500 for the City of Duluth to help pay for a bioswale and landscape feature that will collect and filter stormwater in an area next to Coleman Middle School
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