

The Augusta Chronicle

Sculpture Trail could attract more to downtown Augusta

By Amanda King
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Downtown Augusta will be getting a little facelift mid-January with the installation of 10 sculptures approved by the City of Augusta.

The new Sculpture Trail will include four sculptures in the Augusta Common, four in various locations along Broad Street and two on Eighth Street leading down to the Riverwalk. The city received applications from 120 sculptures before narrowing the selection down.

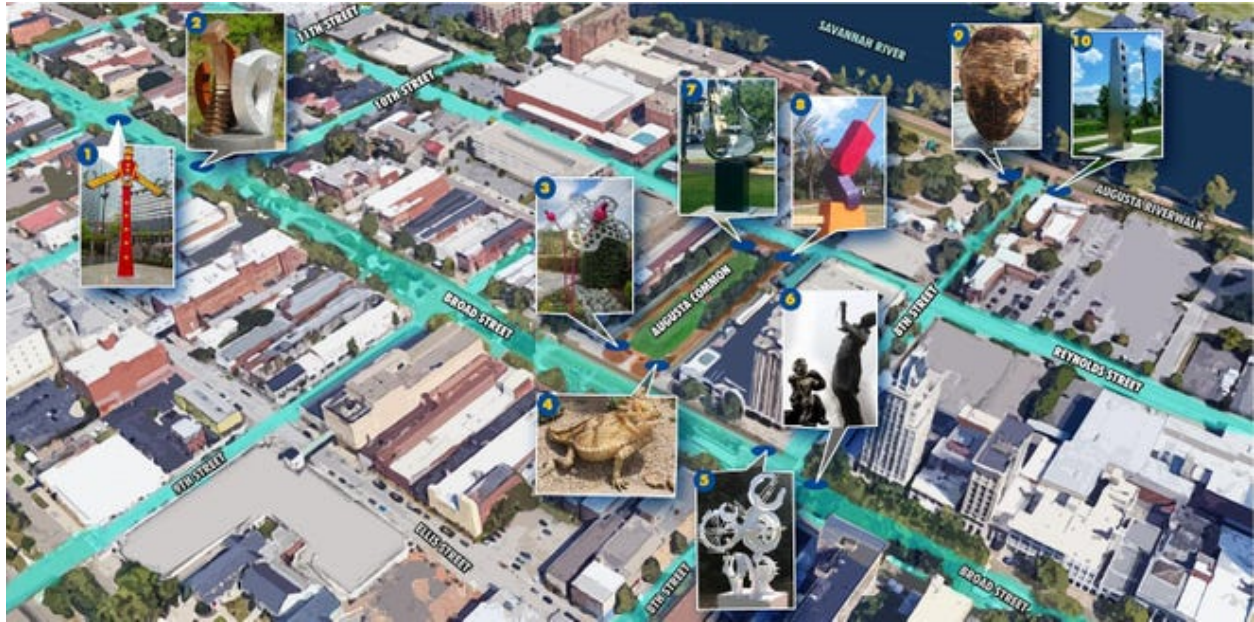
Paid for through Augusta's recreation budget, sculptures will be on loan by the artists for two years. Artists will receive \$3,000 upon the installation and an additional \$3,000 when they are removed. All 10 will be available for purchase but Augusta will purchase one to remain downtown. Greater Augusta Arts Council Executive Director Brenda Durant said the budget for that purchase is \$25,000.



“Popsicles” by CR Gray of Key West, Florida

Durant said the trail will help spur economic development downtown, pride in the community and give people another reason to visit downtown especially as businesses look for ways to drive foot traffic to the area.

"Restaurants are really looking for any kind of engagement they can get and so if people decide to come downtown, it's just a way of building engagement," she said.



Along with the sculptures, Durant said there are plans to install picnic tables at the Common to allow people to eat while seeing the artwork. An app will also be available for sightseers to access the full map of sculptures and learn more about them including the artists' information and a recording by the artist about the piece.

A ribbon cutting for the Sculpture Trail will be held Feb. 6.