

ORIGINAL

RESOLUTION NO.: R-2024-094

Approving the Installation of a Public Art Project in the Lincoln Street Tunnel

WHEREAS, the Congaree Vista Guild is a non-profit community group that advocates for the preservation and progress of the Congaree Vista Cultural District. This includes beautification and art projects within the Congaree Vista area; and,

WHEREAS, in August 2024, the Congaree Vista Guild applied for approval to install a public art project in the Lincoln Street Tunnel; and

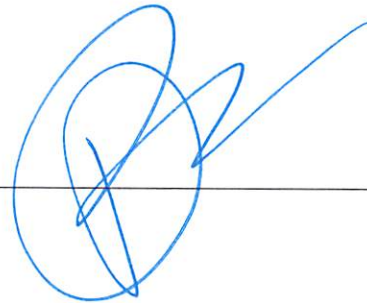
WHEREAS, on November 19, 2024, the Arts, Historic Preservation and Philanthropy Committee endorsed the Lincoln Street Tunnel Lighting Project; and, NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council this 17th day of December, 2024, that the Congaree Vista Guild's application to install a public art project in the Lincoln Street Tunnel is hereby APPROVED.

Requested by:

Councilman Tyler D. Bailey

Mayor



Approved by:

Teresa B. Wilson
City Manager

Approved as to form:

City Attorney

ATTEST:

Eikadil Hammond
City Clerk

Introduced: 12/17/2024
Final Reading: 12/17/2024



PUBLIC ART PLACEMENT APPLICATION

1. Name of individual, organization, or event to be commemorated:

Congaree Vista Guild commissioned art piece

2. Title of Artwork:

Lighting of the Lincoln Street Tunnel

3. Attach a sheet describing the significant contribution (s) this individual, organization, or event has made in the community (no more than one-page)

4. Location, date, and time of unveiling ceremony (if approved):

The placement of public art within the City's right-of-way shall adhere to the City of Columbia encroachment ordinance process.

Lincoln Street Tunnel to be dedicated in Fall 2025

5. District Council Member Sponsor: Ed McDowell

At-Large Council Member Sponsor: Tyler Bailey

FOR STAFF USE:

Arts, Historic Preservation & Philanthropy Committee: Endorsed Rejected

One Columbia Review: Approved Rejected

Arts, Historic Preservation & Philanthropy Committee: Endorsed Rejected

Public Works: Approved Rejected

Parks and Recreation: Approved Rejected

Support Services: Approved Rejected

Public Safety: Approved Rejected

Lincoln Street Tunnel

Description

The Lincoln Street tunnel plays a strategic role in connecting downtown and the Vista to Finley Park along the Vista Greenway. In recent years the City of Columbia installed additional security lights that caused the tunnel to feel far safer than before. However, there remains an artistic opportunity through creative lighting to cause the tunnel to function as much as a 'place' as it does a 'pass-through.'

Parameters

The tunnel is approximately 600' long and extends underneath the city block of Lincoln between Hampton and Washington Streets.

Installations

Colorful lighting similar to that underneath numerous underpasses in Birmingham, Alabama could make the tunnel not only feel safe, but also inviting. Additional consideration could be given to artistic treatments on the ground plane utilizing 'magic carpet' or horizontal murals if so desired (see Page 7).

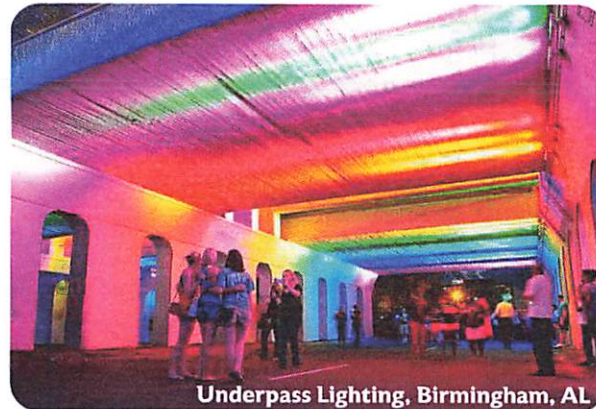
- » Colorful/artistic lighting
- » Murals on the ground plane
- » Etc.



Site Photo



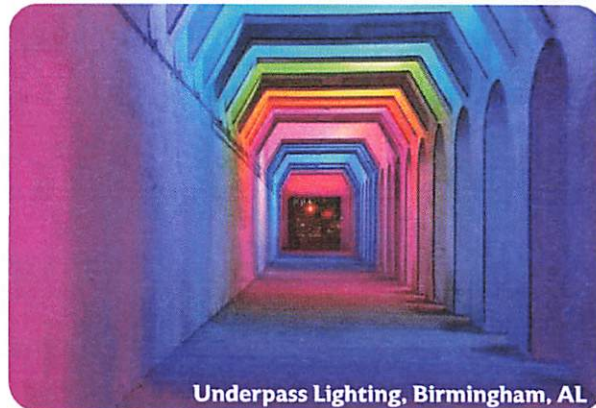
Map Location



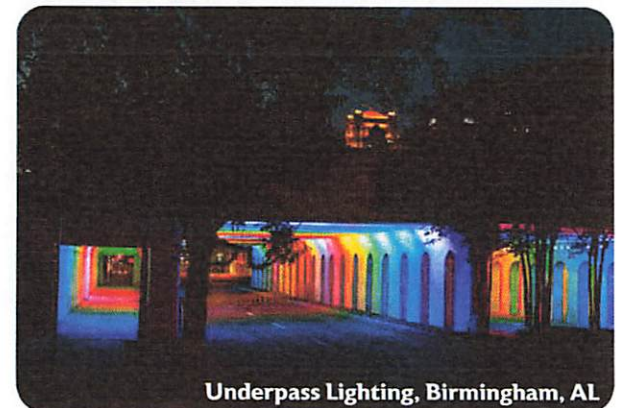
Underpass Lighting, Birmingham, AL



Underpass Lighting, Birmingham, AL



Underpass Lighting, Birmingham, AL



Underpass Lighting, Birmingham, AL

Installation Considerations



The Vista Guild would like to work with One Columbia for Arts and Culture on a new public art piece. This piece will be located in the Lincoln Street Tunnel in the 1400 block of Lincoln Street, under Justice Square. The Vista Guild would like to commission an artist to add a lighting element to the tunnel which would draw visitors to the tunnel and the Vista. The Guild would like to work closely with the City of Columbia on this project in hopes of installing and dedicating the art at the same time that Finlay Park reopens in the fall of 2025. We think this piece will help draw people from the Vista to Finlay Park and vice versa.

Lincoln Street is a historic part of the Vista and we take pride in the history and features that it brings to the City and visitors. We would love to draw more attention to the incredible Lincoln Street Tunnel to help create a thoroughfare to Finlay Park and the Vista Greenway. We believe this will also make the tunnel safer for the community as it will draw visitors to the installation. The Vista takes pride in being an Official South Carolina Cultural District. We hope that by continuing to add public art like this, we will continue to lead the city in the arts for years to come.

803.269.5946 www.vistacolumbia.com

701 Gervais Steet, Suite 150-118, Columbia, SC    @vistaguild



ARSENAL HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

1707 WAYNE STREET COLUMBIA, SC 29201

August 26, 2024

The Arsenal Hill Neighborhood wholeheartedly supports the public art piece proposed for the Lincoln Street Tunnel. We look forward to the Vista Guild leading the charge to install another exciting piece of art to enjoy by our neighborhood and the city at large.

Sincerely,

Kristen Puckett, AIA
President, Arsenal Hill Neighborhood Association
1707 Wayne Street
Columbia, SC 29201
540-808-7692

Subject: Letter of support

Date: Monday, August 26, 2024 at 8:44:13 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Carolyn Leedecker

To: Abby Anderson

Dear Mayor Rickenmann and City Council Members,

The Vista Neighborhood Association (VNA) fully supports The Vista Guild's proposed public art project to add a lighting element to the Lincoln Street Tunnel that connects to Finlay Park.

As you know, the Vista Guild was created by Mayor Kirk Finlay to rehabilitate the Vista as Columbia's art and entertainment center and develop a new aesthetic and community experience for Columbia. This proposed art work will draw locals and visitors alike from the Vista to Finlay Park and vice versa and in so doing continue the commitment of those founding business people and artists.

The Guild plays an integral role in the economic development and viability of the Vista and thus has our total support and endorsement for this project.

Sincerely,

Carolyn LeeDecker, president

Bart Walrath, vice president

Thomas Kelly, treasurer

Donna Ugino/Debbie Fetner, co-secretaries

Sent from my iPhone



CITY OF COLUMBIA
SOUTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL

December 5, 2024

Dear Members of the Public Art Committee,

I am always eager to see creative initiatives that enhance our public spaces and bring new life to our city's infrastructure. With that, I express my strong support for the Lincoln Street Tunnel Lighting Art Piece project.

The proposed lighting art installation at the Lincoln Street Tunnel represents a unique opportunity to not only beautify the area but also to engage the community in a meaningful way. This project will undoubtedly become a signature landmark, fostering both civic pride and artistic expression, while also promoting safety and vibrancy in the surrounding neighborhoods.

I believe this project aligns perfectly with our city's goals of fostering cultural enrichment and enhancing public spaces for residents and visitors alike. I fully support this initiative and look forward to seeing it come to life.

Sincerely,

Ed McDowell, Jr.
District II



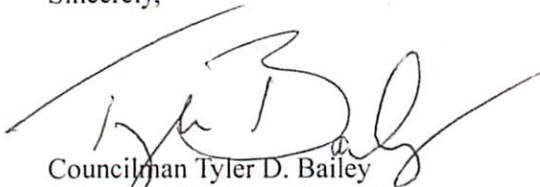
CITY OF COLUMBIA
SOUTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL

September 16, 2024

Dear Committee Members,

I am excited to support the Vista Guild's proposed public art project to be located in the Lincoln Street Tunnel at the 1400 block of Lincoln Street, under Justice Square. I am also pleased to see that the Vista Guild has early support from the Vista Neighborhood Association and Arsenal Hill Neighborhood Association. I look forward to seeing the progress of this proposed project as the Vista Guild works with One Columbia for Arts and Culture and follows the policy and procedures that this Committee has implemented.

Sincerely,



Councilman Tyler D. Bailey
Columbia City Councilman At-Large



Arts, Historic Preservation, and Philanthropy Committee
City of Columbia
1737 Main St.
Columbia, SC 29201

Re: Congaree Vista Guild's Lincoln Street Tunnel Lighting Project

Dear Councilman Bailey ,

I am writing to express One Columbia's enthusiastic endorsement of the Congaree Vista Guild's Lincoln Street Tunnel Lighting Project, a public art initiative set to enrich our community, enhance our shared spaces, and add an additional aspect of safety to the Lincoln Street Tunnel. This project will transform the space by adding vibrancy and character. It invites engagement and interaction, encouraging people to gather and explore their surroundings.

The goal of the project is to create a meaningful work of public art that engages both residents and visitors as they enjoy The Vista. This unique artwork will support The Vista's vision of being a vibrant, walkable neighborhood that welcomes a diverse mix of people, businesses, and entertainment. This project will also serve as a revitalized gateway between The Vista and the newly renovated Finlay Park.

Public art projects like the Lincoln Street Tunnel Lighting Project have proven to foster community pride and enhance local identity. We believe that investing in this initiative will yield significant benefits, such as increased foot traffic to local businesses, boosted tourism, and a strengthened sense of community ownership. This project will not only beautify our surroundings but also promote dialogue and interaction among residents and visitors.

We fully support the Congaree Vista Guild's Lincoln Street Tunnel Lighting Project and look forward to collaborating on a vibrant cultural landscape that reflects the diversity and creativity of our community.

Thank you for considering our endorsement. We are excited to see the positive impact this project will bring.

Sincerely,

Pamela Zeljak
Public Art Administrator
One Columbia for Arts and Culture

One Columbia for Arts and Culture
1013 Duke Ave., Columbia, SC 29203
803-254-5008
www.onecolumbiasc.com