

Hello,

Attached is a project review request form. We received a notice from the Historic District Commission stating that the mural on our building painted during the BLKOUT WALLS festival in the summer of 2021 was not approved by the commission. We mistakenly assumed that the festival organizers had obtained permission for the dozens of murals painted around the North End, Jam Handy, and Milwaukee Junction neighborhoods. I've also attached photographs of the mural and our building.

The mural is a painting of the artist, Immanuel Ahiable. The "Kid's Got Heart" message is a reference both to himself as well as Sir Galahad, one of King Arthur's knights, whose heart was so pure that he never lost a fight. Immanuel's father was a boxer, and Immanuel himself had to spend time in the hospital at age 12 with a serious heart condition. His father taught him about having "heart" in terms of personal fortitude, integrity, and passion and its relationship with improving his health at the time. In the artist's words, the mural is a piece about the character people see stemming from his own personal life experiences and the people who've found themselves on a similar journey with the same result in character. Our staff has personally found inspiration from the mural in regards to the hardships and challenges we've faced over the last two years as our industry has been among the hardest hit by covid-related issues, but we're still standing and optimistic that the worst is behind us.

I certainly hope that this inspirational and beautiful mural is accepted by the commission and allowed to remain, and I know that our staff (as well as many of our neighbors in the community and guests/patrons) feels the same.

If you have further questions or any other information would be helpful, please don't hesitate to contact me anytime via email (this address), phone, or text (below).

Sincerely,

Sandy Levine
Freya & Dragonfly
Hewitt & Levine Holdings
248-259-2110