

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD



MEMORANDUM

DATE OF MEETING: September 5, 2024

To: Appearance Commission

From: Noah Schumerth, Assistant Director of Community and Economic Development

Through: Angela Mesaros, Director of Community and Economic Development

Topic: Case 24-31: Mural at 2033-2049 Ridge Road

DOCUMENTS FOR REVIEW

Title	Pages	Prepared by	Date
Application Form	1	Nate Otto, Applicant	07/25/2024
Portfolio Samples	3	Napoleon Haney, Village Manager	07/15/2024
Staff Exhibits	3	Noah Schumerth, Asst. Dir. ECD	08/23/2024

BACKGROUND

A local art enthusiast has presented an opportunity to install a mural in the alleyway between the buildings at 2033 Ridge Road and 2049 Ridge Road, in partnership with the Village of Homewood. The Village is bringing the proposed murals to the Appearance Commission for review, and to provide an opportunity for public discussion on the mural project.

DISCUSSION

Site Context

The alleyway between the buildings at 2033 Ridge Road (Hartford Building) and 2049 Ridge Road (retail building occupied by Loulou Belle boutique and Artistix Salon) was created with the demolition of the former Triumph Building and construction of the Hartford Building in 2023. The alleyway provides a pedestrian-only connection between Ridge Road and parking areas servicing buildings on the south side of the 2000 block of Ridge Road. The alleyway is accessible to the public via an access easement.

The Village is seeking improvements to the alleyway to increase safety and aesthetic quality of the space. In addition to the proposed mural, the Village Board has approved colored lighting for the space. The mural proposed is an addition to ongoing efforts to improve the space.

Artist

The proposed muralist, Nate Otto, is a Chicago-based artist who primarily creates murals and paintings, and has been commissioned for a variety of public and private projects. Mr. Otto has presented art at a

solo and collective art shows across the United States. According to his online bio, Mr. Otto describes his art style as:

"...occupying its own lane somewhere in between the worlds of folk art, street art, lowbrow art, and contemporary fine art."

More information on the artist may be found at his online portfolio: <https://nateotto.com/home.html>

Mural Details

The mural is proposed along the north wall of the alleyway and will extend the length of the alley. The proposed height of the mural is from the sidewalk level to approximately 6' above the sidewalk. Artistic styles that are similar to the proposed mural design are attached to this memorandum. The mural will include icons and artistic images of Homewood landmarks.

TIMELINE

The recommendations and feedback of the Appearance Commission will be forwarded to the Village Board of Trustees for final approval at a future meeting.

RECOMMENDED APPEARANCE COMMISSION ACTION

Staff asks that the Appearance Commission provide feedback on the proposed mural. Section 2-362.(i) of the Village Code of Ordinances lists the Appearance Commission's powers and duties, including the study of exterior public improvement projects at a public meeting before final approval by the Village Board of Trustees.

No motion is required.