CITY OF PORTSMOUTH, NH
Public Art Review Committee

March 27, 2025

Memorandum

To: Peter Britz, Director of Planning and Sustainability

From: Public Art Review Committee (PARC)

Subject: Review of Proposed Mural for 222 Court Street, *Ona Judge Mural*

On March 26, 2025, PARC reviewed a proposed public art project from the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire for their building at 222 Court Street. The project is a large mural (approximately 28' x 24') to be created on proposed cementitious cladding panels affixed to the building's brick wall which faces east. The Black Heritage Trail has received a variance from the Board of Adjustment for the mural which will depict Ona Judge, who escaped to Portsmouth while enslaved by Martha Washington. The mural will be created by Manuel Ramirez from Positive Street Art.

PARC members were very enthusiastic about the plans for the mural and see it as a distinctive contribution to Portsmouth's growing collection of public art.

Site/location/safety. PARC noted that the mural is ideally located at the Black Heritage headquarters where residents and visitors to the City will be able to learn more information about Ona Judge and her important role in local and national history. From the location, the Langdon House which played an important role in the Ona Judge story, is visible. Further, the site is only a few blocks from the African Burying Ground which receives many visitors to Portsmouth.

In terms of accessibility, the mural will be highly visible to pedestrians walking down the busy Pleasant Street corridor. The four-way stop signs at the corner of Court and Pleasant as well as crosswalks support traffic and pedestrian safety; given the four-way stop, the mural should not cause a distraction for drivers.

Recognizing that there is very little clearance between the wall and the adjacent driveway (shared by two condos), the Black Heritage Trail has worked closely with the neighbors to ensure their cooperation. The mural will be positioned approximately 4 feet off the ground to avoid contact with vehicles in the driveway and improve visibility. Explanatory signage for the mural will be placed on the wall facing Court Street to avoid drawing pedestrians onto the neighbors' driveway.

Scale. PARC believes the large scale of the mural (covering most of the brick wall) is appropriate given the proximity of the wall to other properties. The mural will optimally be viewed at a distance which will discourage viewers from encroaching on private property. The scale and the amount of building coverage (on a relatively small building) create contrasts with the aesthetics of the image (see more below) which PARC believes add to the uniqueness of this particular work.

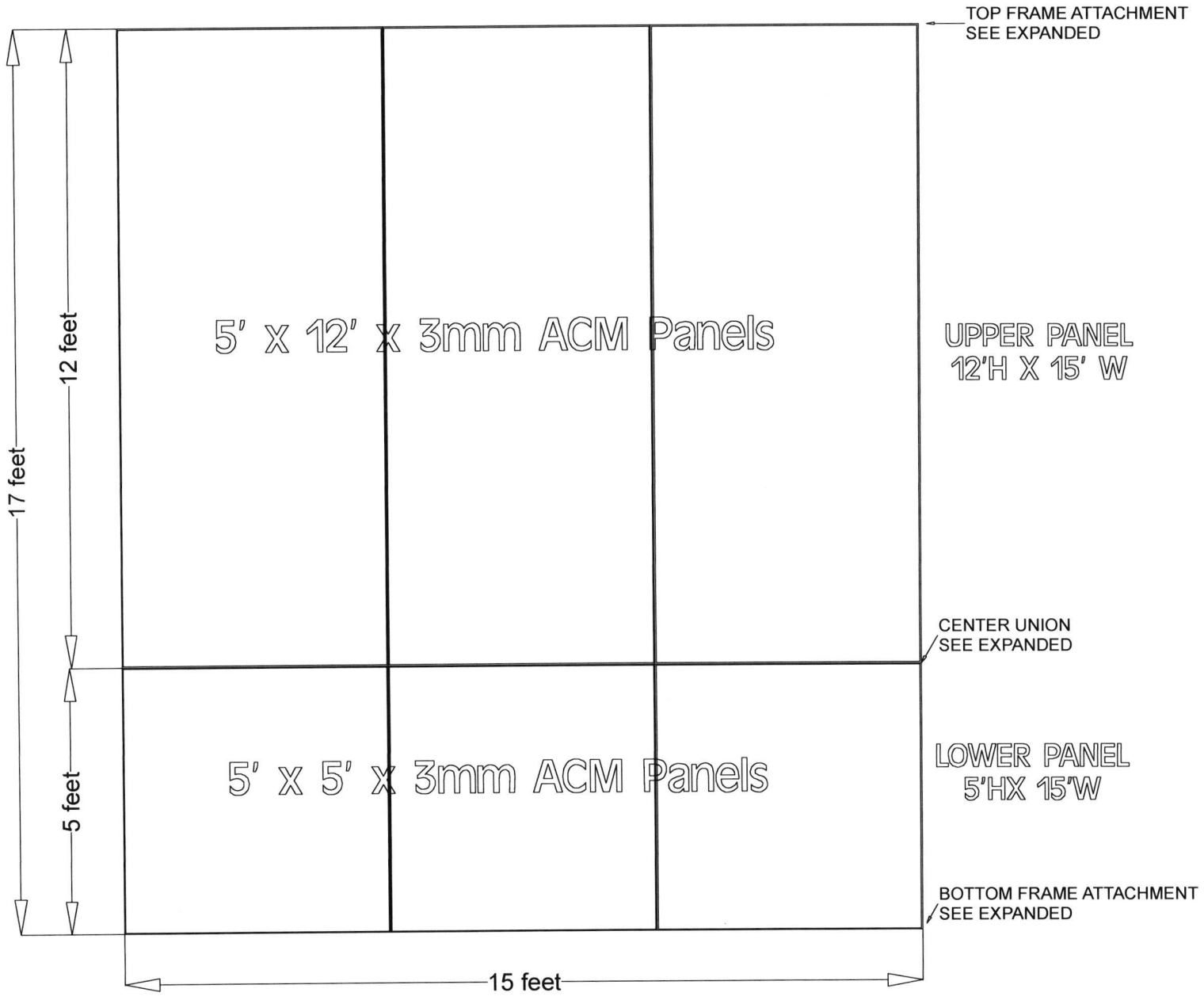
Wall preparation. PARC appreciated the groundwork that the Black Heritage Trail has undertaken to avoid damaging the brick wall that will support the mural. Paint will be applied to panels which

will be affixed to the wall with a small space between the panels and the brick. We understand that there are several types of panels under consideration, including one that simulates the texture of a brick wall. The artist has successful experience using such panels for murals in other locations, including those with harsh weather conditions like Portsmouth. PARC recommends that the Black Heritage Trail consider a non-textured panel flat panel.

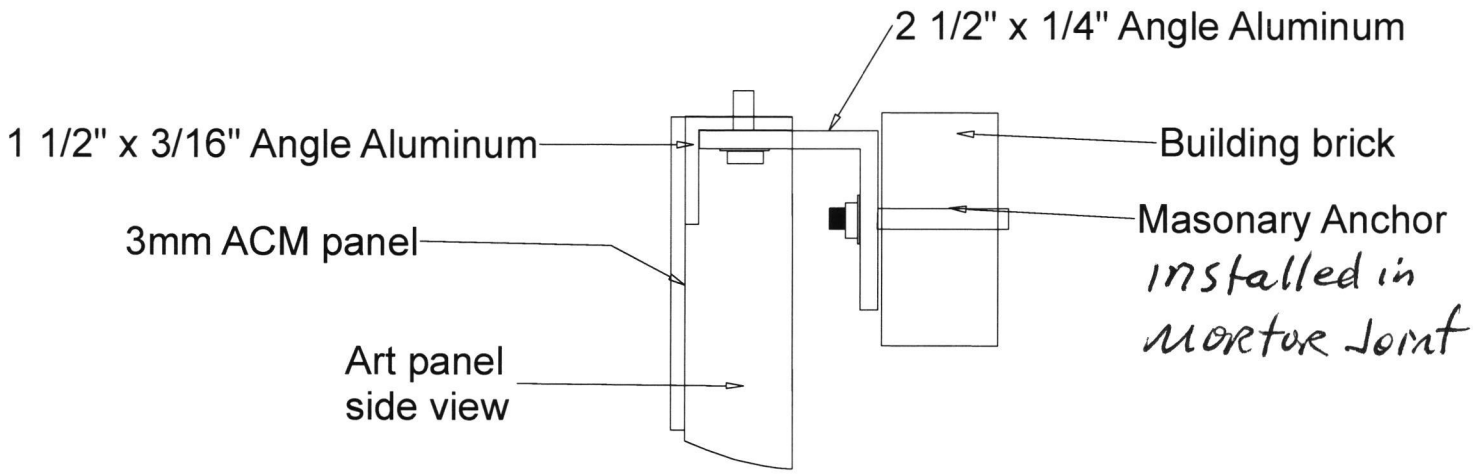
Materials/durability/maintenance. The artist will use spray paint over an acrylic or latex masonry paint finished by a clear coat seal—similar to the material used in other murals with a life before "touch up" of approximately 10 years. The Black Heritage Trail and the artist take responsibility for arranging for "touch ups" that may become necessary with wear. PARC recommends considering an anti-graffiti coating of the artist's choosing.

Aesthetics/design. PARC has been able to review the image from which the artist will develop the mural; it is as historically accurate as possible given what is known about Ona Judge's arrival in Portsmouth. The image depicts a confident and well-dressed Ona Judge with a backdrop based on the Philadelphia waterfront from which she sailed to Portsmouth in 1796. The Black Heritage Trail has consulted with historians on appropriate appearance and dress. PARC members highlighted the cohesiveness of the artwork, noting that the beauty and muted/soft colors of the image are especially appropriate given the scale of the work, its placement in context, the importance of Ona Judge's story in the context of Black history and the history of Portsmouth, and the subject—the total effect is expressive of the era and Judge's character and story.

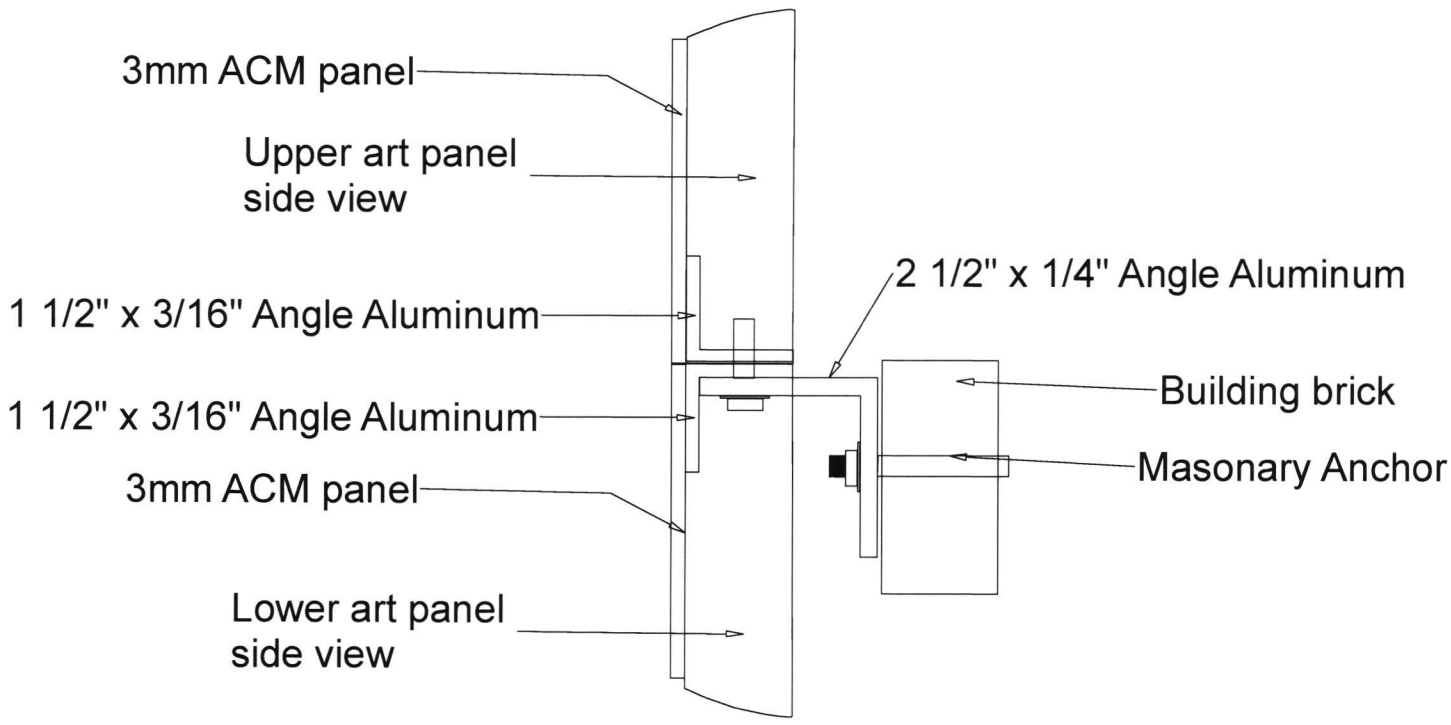
Artist. Through Positive Street Art based in Nashua, Manuel Ramirez has created approximately 100 murals in NH and other locales over the past twelve years, including in Nashua, Manchester, Lancaster, Hudson, and Salem. He is experienced in working in urban environments, in the New England climate, and with the types of materials proposed for the Ona Judge mural.


TOP FRAME ATTACHMENT
SEE EXPANDED
5' x 12' x 3mm ACM Panels
UPPER PANEL
12'H X 15' W
CENTER UNION
SEE EXPANDED
5' x 5' x 3mm ACM Panels
LOWER PANEL
5'HX 15'W
BOTTOM FRAME ATTACHMENT
SEE EXPANDED
17 feet
12 feet
5 feet
15 feet

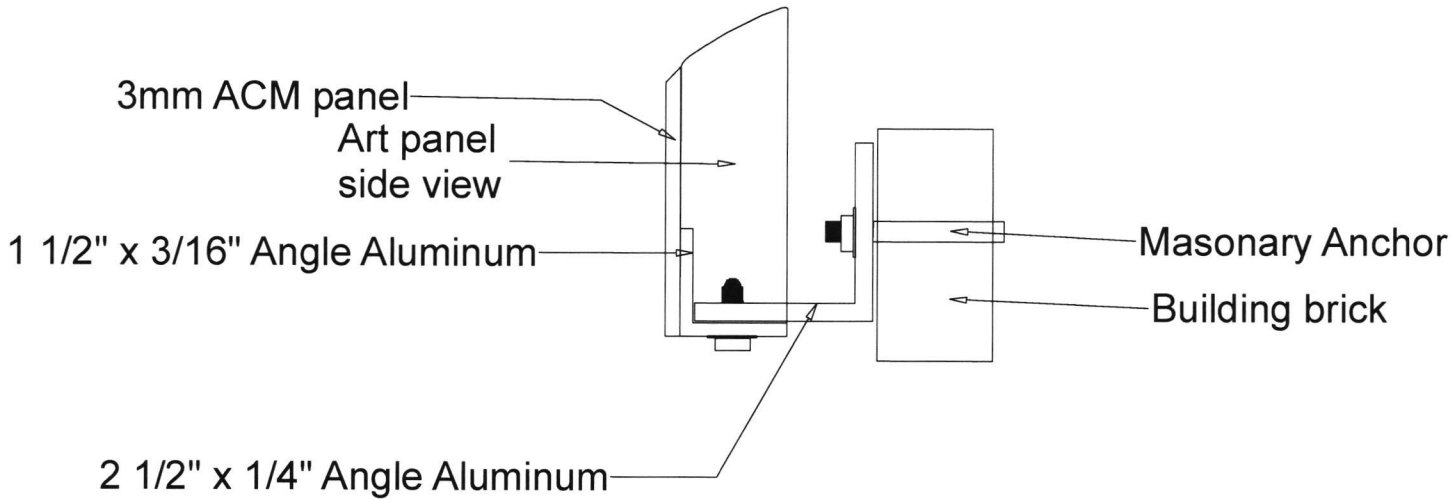
TOP FRAME ATTACHMENT EXPANDED



CENTER UNION-EXPANDED



BOTTOM FRAME ATTACHMENT EXPANDED



6061 Aluminum Angle:

- **Density:** 0.1 lb/in^3
- **Ultimate Tensile Strength:** 45,000 psi
- **Yield Tensile Strength:** 40,000 psi
- **Fatigue Strength:** 14,000 psi
- **Modulus of Elasticity:** 10,000 ksi
- **Shear Modulus:** 3,800 ksi
- **Shear Strength:** 30,000 psi
- **Melting Point:** 1,080-1,205 °F

Aluminum Composite Panels

ACM, A LIGHTWEIGHT, DURABLE, AND CORROSION-RESISTANT MATERIAL.

Aluminum composite materials (ACM) are a three-layer sandwich panel comprising two pre-painted aluminum sheets bonded to a polyethylene (PE) core for durability and good dimensional stability. Both sides, and the ornamental surface of the product, is covered with decorative and protective coating. In recent years, ACM building materials have grown in popularity. ACM panels, are commonly used for architectural cladding,facades, **aluminum composite panel signs**. They are also used in interior design applications such as wall partitions, ceiling panels, and decorative signage. The panels are popular due to their lightweight, durability, and versatility in design.

When compared to a single-layer aluminum plate, an aluminum-plastic composite panel has a higher elastic limit, is less likely to bend, and maintains good flatness in its natural state for a long time without excessive external force. The aluminum-plastic composite panel is produced of aluminum and a light-density plastic core material. Since it weighs less than a comparable aluminum panel or other metals, ACM has the same rigidity and thickness as those materials but is smaller and less weighty. Fabricating ACM panels involves working with specialized tools and equipment to shape, cut, and bond the panels according to specific design requirements. ACM panels can be cut to size using appropriate cutting tools. The cutting method and tools used will depend on the thickness and type of panel being cut. For example, a circular saw with a fine-toothed blade can be used to cut thinner ACM panels, while thicker panels may require a specialized cutting tool, such as a panel saw or a CNC router. ACM continues to be a popular product due to its versatility, To learn more about the specifications and benefits of aluminum composite panel details for signage and other applications, contact your local Laird Plastics sales rep today! Click Here for more information on ACM Material.

Product Specification Data

maxmetal™

Description

MAXMETAL is an aluminum composite material comprised of two, pre-painted .15mm aluminum panels bonded to a solid polyethylene core. It's lighter in weight and more durable than both MDO and aluminum, plus it resists scratching and denting better than wood panels. The finish is ready for vinyl, screen print inks, paint, cutting, or routing.

Product Properties

Weight (Kg/m2)	3.55
Sound Absorbtion NRC	0.05
Sound Attenuation Rw db	24
Water Absorbtion % by volume	0.01
Thermal Performance R Values	0.0057
Core Composition	Polyethylene
Flammability BS476	Part 6: Class 0, Part 7: Class 1

Panel Dimensions

Panel Thickness (mm)	3
Aluminum Thickness (mm)	0.15
Standard Sizes:	4' x 8', 4' x 10', 5' x 10'

Product Code

MM843MW
MM843MW1S

Dimensional Tolerances

Thickness (mm)	-0 + 0.2
Width (mm)	±2
Length (mm)	±3
Diagonal (mm)	±5
Thermal Expansion	2.4mm/m @ 100°C Temp Difference
Aluminum Thickness (mm)	±0.02

Surface Properties

Paint Thickness (micron)	20
Pencil Hardness	>HB
Toughness of Coating	3T
Temperature Resistance	-50°C to +90°C
Impact Strength (kg cm2)	42
Boiling Water Resistance	Boiling for 2 hours without change
Acid Resistance	Immersed surface in 2% HC1 for 24hrs without change
Alkali Resistance	Immersed surface in 2% NaOH for 24hrs without change
Oil Resistance	Immersed surface in 20# engine oil for 24hrs without change
Solvent Resistance	Cleaned 100 times with Dimethylbenzene without change
Cleaning Resistance	>1000 times without change
Peel Strength	>5 Newton/mm

Strike-It™ Center Pin Drive Anchors

wej-it
HIGH-PERFORMANCE ANCHORS

Description

The Strike-It™ Center Pin Drive Anchor is an impact expansion anchor designed for medium and heavy duty anchoring into concrete and grout-filled block. With its unique **all-in-one serrated nut and washer**, the Strike-It offers superior holding and vibration resistance.

USA ENGINEERED

Key Features & Benefits

- Easy to install
  - Just hammer the center pin and it's set
  - Anchor tensions itself automatically, no wrench needed
- The integrated nut and washer can be pre-set for the optimal embedment - flush at the top or screwed to the bottom for a stud-type application
- Easy to inspect
  - Anchor is set when center pin is hammered down to meet the threads and is flush with top of the bolt.
- Depth of hole not critical
  - No depth gauge required
- Actual diameter of the anchor is the same as its nominal diameter
  - No templates required
- Serrations on nut/washer provide vibration resistance
- Yellow dichromate finish provides superior corrosion resistance

Specifications, Listings and Approvals

Diameters: 1/4" – 3/4"

Materials:
Anchor Body: Hot Rolled Steel
Pin: Hot Wrought Iron

Finish: Yellow Dichromate Coating

Federal Specifications:
– QQZ-325Z, Type II Class 3 (yellow dichromate added)
– GSA FFS-325 Group II Type 4 Class I

Applications

- Steel & Wood Plates
- Machine Anchoring
- Water & Gas Meters
- Conveyor Belt Mounts
- Bracing
- Hand & Guard Rails