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Contemporary Art
Museum St. Louis

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GatewayGIS Neighborhood Banner Project: Learning North St. Louis History Through Design, now open



Images (left to right): *James "Cool Papa" Bell*, 2021. Vinyl, 60 x 30 inches. Courtesy the artists of Herbert Hoover Boys and Girls Club and Kevin McCoy. *Josephine Baker*, 2022. Vinyl, 60 x 30 inches. Courtesy the artists of Cardinal Ritter College Prep & Jaryn Blackshear-Bryant. *Lois Conley*, 2022. Vinyl, 60 x 30 inches. Courtesy the artists of Carr Lane Middle School and L.M. Flowers. *Maxine Waters*, 2022. Vinyl, 60 x 30 inches. Courtesy the artists of Vashon High School and Jayvn Solomon.

June 30, 2022 (St. Louis, MO) - The GatewayGIS Neighborhood Banner Project celebrates a new collaboration between CAM's Learning & Engagement department and [GatewayGIS](http://GatewayGIS.org). The exhibition features a selection of eight banners on the museum's west facade that honor four St. Louis heroes of the past and present and three north St. Louis neighborhoods: JeffVanderLou, Covenant Blu Grand Center and Carr Square. The banners are the result of two years of planning, teaching, and collaboration with local organizations and schools near the new NGA (National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency) west campus. Visitors can view the students' work on the outside of the museum, facing North Spring Avenue, through September 18, 2022.

The project was conceived by GatewayGIS founder Dr. Rosalind (Roz) Norman, with the support of CAM's education team, as an opportunity for students to not only learn about past and present African American leaders and neighborhood landmarks but also to celebrate them through digital graphic design. At the end of the exhibition, one set of banners will be gifted to the classrooms of the student artists who created them, and one set will be handed over to the St. Louis Third Ward Alderman, Brandon Bosley, for future public display.

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CAM is free. Visit often!

The Banners:

James “Cool Papa” Bell

JeffVanderLou Neighborhood

Designed by the artists of Herbert Hoover Boys and Girls Club; Tamara Jackson, Jayden Land, and Aaliyah Perkins

Resident Teaching Artist: Kevin McCoy

James “Cool Papa” Bell (1903–1991) was a left-handed center fielder who began his career with the St. Louis Stars of the Negro National League after moving to the area at age 17. He was renowned for his speed running and stealing bases as well as his “cool” demeanor during his stint as pitcher earlier in his career. He was added to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1974 and a street in the JeffVanderLou neighborhood is now named for him.

Josephine Baker

Midtown Neighborhood

Designed by the artists of Cardinal Ritter College Prep; Jordan Baker, Ariana Bennett, Asia Brantley, Janelle Briggs, Aidan Cotton, Tramond Dukes, Yashaun Harris, Jayden Heitz, Ashton Henderson, Jadah Holly, Jaylon Holmes, Mary Taylor Lee, Ailana Lewis, Keon Morris, Jalia Mosby, Natasha Phiri, Jusza Pryor, Taylor Richardson, Torri Richardson, Gekirah Rivera, Alonzo Smith, Jr., Jaylan Williams, and Dallas Winner-Johnson

Resident Teaching Artist: Jaryn Blackshear-Bryant

Josephine Baker (1906–1975) was an entertainer and activist who was born in what is now Midtown. Her talents in singing and dancing took her to New York City and eventually to Paris where she found fame for her trademark dancing style and eye-catching costumes. Baker is also known for her work with the civil rights movement and the French resistance during WWII.

Lois Conley

St. Louis Place Neighborhood

Designed by the artists of Carr Lane Middle School; Danny Asaro, Tya Carthen, Anissa Covington, Cameron Crosby, Denijah Curtis, Stanley Flowers, Jeremiah Green, Ta’niah Hicks, Keith Jacobs, Mika Jones, Kentraveon Joseph Heavon Kazimir, Airiyanna Knox Bradshaw, Kenya Love, Destiny Nash, Zariyah Portis, Landon Ruffin, Makaylah Smith, D’Kyra Terry, and Maurel Turner

Resident Teaching Artist: L.M. Flowers

Lois Conley (b. 1946) is the founder/President and CEO of the Griot Museum of Black History, the second oldest African American history and wax museum in the country, which is located in St. Louis Place. A Vashon High School graduate, Conley has dedicated her life to researching and promoting the awareness of African American history. She also has lectured throughout the United States and received numerous honors for her work.

Maxine Waters

JeffVanderLou Neighborhood

Designed by the artists of Vashon High School; Jamel Anderson, Andreanisha Arnold, Jeseseca Calhoun, Charlisa Chatman, David Cosey, Lonzell Griffin, Samuel

Holbrook-Williams, Jameer Johnson, Jordan Johnson, Romeo Jones, Lisandra Manley, Iyana McCurry, Geremiah McLucas, Tyler Morris, Dorian Phillips, Omarion Pruitt, Nicholas Randall, Miesha Robinson, Omarion Roper, Mykeal Sanders, Jasmine Smith, Shadae Survillion, Ri naya Sutton, Jordan Watson, MacKenzi Watson-Schulte, Jadai West, Siara White, Ariel Williams, and Na'Tavyah Williams
Resident Teaching Artist: Jayvn Solomon

Congresswoman Maxine Waters represents California's 43rd congressional district and is serving her 15th term of office. A St. Louis native, she graduated from Vashon High School before moving with her family to Los Angeles. She is the most senior African American woman in Congress and was named as one of Time magazine's 100 Most Influential People of 2018.

GatewayGIS Neighborhood Banner Project: Learning North St. Louis History Through Design will be exhibited on the museum building's west facade, facing North Spring Avenue, from June 30 through September 18, 2022.

To schedule an interview with one of the resident teaching artists or program organizers, contact CAM's Director of Marketing and Communications, Karol Stewart at kstewart@camstl.org or 314.535.0770 ext. 203.



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Dana Brown
CHARITABLE TRUST



GatewayGIS



GatewayGIS Neighborhood Banner Project is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by Miriam Ruiz, School and Community Partnership Manager, initiated and guided by Dr. Rosalind Norman, GatewayGIS Founder.



About the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis

The Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis creates meaningful engagement with the most relevant and innovative art being made today. Founded by civic and cultural leaders in 1980, the Museum transformed from a small gallery into an internationally recognized arts institution, now permanently housed in a flexible, open, and inviting building designed by renowned American architect Brad Cloepfil. CAM's distinct architecture reflects the organization's values and supports a dynamic range of exhibitions, public programs, educational initiatives, and community collaborations. The only museum in the region solely dedicated to contemporary art, CAM is one of the preeminent non-collecting institutions of its kind in the United States. We are a site for discovery, a welcoming space, free and open to all. For more information, visit camstl.org.

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