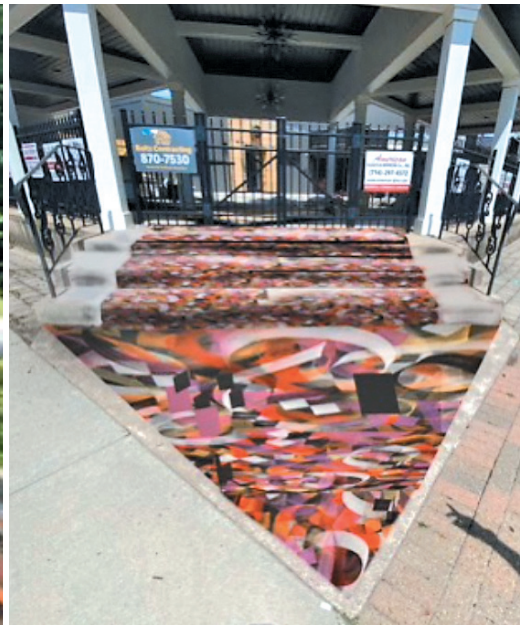


# Artpark seeks to tie in South Fourth Street with new mural

Grant received for Lewiston community project



Images by Muhammad Zaman/  
provided by the Village of Lewiston



Artpark & Company presented these conceptual images to the Village of Lewiston as part of discussions for a mural connecting the venue with South Fourth Street. Board members were told the colors and design are likely to change.

the artist community met here to decide to have public art in the village – whether it's in Academy Park (or) along Center Street connecting to Artpark. So, this is kind of part of what we have been talking about. And because Artpark wants to be included in the village – and to show that we have a connection – this came up as a way of connecting

like it's drawing a crowd to or from Gallo to Artpark.”

Village of Lewiston Mayor Anne Welch explained, “Before COVID,

SEE ARTPARK, on Page 18

**BY JOSHUA MALONI**  
GM/Managing Editor

Artpark & Company is looking to connect the state park to the Village of Lewiston, creating both a dynamic artwork and clearer pathway to the visual and performing arts center.

Curatorial Projects Manager David Seide appeared before the Village of Lewiston Historic Preservation and Planning commissions boards on Monday. Accompanied by Gallo Restaurants proprietor Michael Hibbard, Seide explained Artpark received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and The John R. Oishei Foundation to create a mural titled “You Will Never Walk Alone” by artist Muhammad Zaman.

“Every year for the last few years, we’ve had an artist in residence. And this one, we decided on a visual artist,” Seide said. “And similar to the ‘Painted Parking Lot’ and similar to The Solo Roths project where they painted the big, huge parking lot, this is also a mural that would be on the ground. And originally it was just within the boundaries of Artpark, because it’s kind of hard to get from the booth, if you’re walking. If you’re a pedestrian. If you’re walking from Fourth into the park, there’s no sidewalk. So, he’s basically going to create a sidewalk.

“The idea was we want to do a wayfinding project that’s public art, that doesn’t put signs everywhere – because everybody knows signage has just been a real issue. ... This is a nice way to tie in Center Street to Artpark.

“It would be on the east side of the street. And it would start at Michael’s restaurant, and it kind of forms an arrow on that one corner, so you’re kind of guided that way. The artist, Muhammad Zaman, is a well-known artist in Buffalo. He’s done some stuff in the Falls at the Heritage Museum.

“So, we’ll start with just basically large-scale calligraphy, is what it is; it’s beautiful, handmade etchings on the ground. And the title of his piece is ‘You Will Never Walk Alone.’ It’s going to start with two letters, and then it’ll keep getting more dense as it gets towards the park until it becomes a full-length sidewalk.”

In a letter of intent Artpark submitted to the Village of Lewiston, Zaman explained his work is “based on the concept that sharing

a path is connecting people.”

“The surface I would paint is the path starting from 4th & Center St with threads (couple letters) and gets more dense as it approaches the park and then once in the park it is an actual ‘carpet,’” he wrote. “From Center to Cayuga it might only be 2 letters/symbols every in 2-3 yards, Cayuga to Seneca it might be 3-4 letters in every 2-3 yards, Seneca to Tuscarora it could be 4 letters in 6 spots, then after Tuscarora as it enters the park grounds it gets more and more dense until it’s a full carpet on the inner road that’ll act as a new pedestrian sidewalk, then it turns right onto the actual sidewalk as it approaches the flagpoles.

“It would be an abstract juxtaposition of lettering in different colors, most of the large path will be entirely painted and some other points would be lightly decorated with the same colors and style to pursue continuity and a playful essence as you can see in the pics ... (although the colors in the photos may not represent the final colors of the project).

“The colorful and joyful nature of my abstract painting is suitable for different ages, cultures, ethnicity, and the materials I will use are weather-resistant and easy to maintain.”

Both boards were asked to listen to the presentation and give feedback. At a meeting this Mon-

day, the Board of Trustees is expected to make a final decision on whether this artwork will be permitted along South Fourth Street.

Planning Board member Savana Bevacqua said Artpark’s idea is good, but expressed concern the mural would serve as a promotion for the new Gallo Coal Fire Kitchen at North Fourth and Center.

“I looked over this and I immediately saw an advertisement that’s for Gallo. It seems specific to draw the crowds from Artpark directly to Gallo,” she said.

Hibbard noted, “It’s actually going the other way. It’s starting at Fourth Street and Center, and then moving to Artpark.”

Bevacqua said, “This really feels

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