

## **KROG TUNNEL BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **Background**

When the Seaboard Rail Systems built a retaining wall around a new piggyback facility in 1986, the City of Atlanta Bureau of Cultural Affairs selected local artists to create large ceramic mosaic installations depicting life in Cabbagetown & Reynoldstown. The new facility was one of many promises to return vitality to the area after the closure of the Fulton Cotton Mill circa 1977. After an unsuccessful project installing murals inside Krog Tunnel (September 2001), Cabbagetown activists petitioned City of Atlanta officials to protect freedom of expression inside the Krog Tunnel.

The work of Cabbagetown neighbors resulted in suspended citations, and decriminalized the area as a “Free Wall”. In 2003, the neighborhood hired local mural artist Totem to paint the tunnel’s south entrance, and invited local writers to up the ante in the tunnel. After some nuisance vandalism (toy tagging of cars, mailboxes, & historically black churches) in 2008, Cabbagetown Initiative 501c3 formed the Wallkeepers Committee to energize public spaces, and enhance pedestrian experiences. Cabbagetown negotiated control of landscaping and maintenance from CSX Railroad, which had been operating on an unreliable schedule, allowing planting to grow uncontrollably, and haphazardly buffing.

By 2012, Cabbagetown partnered with Monica Campana of Living Walls Conference, for two inaugural murals (La Pandilla & Trek Matthews) along Wylie Street, and began engaging other artists to create work for Wylie Street. In 2014, Peter Ferrari of Forward Warrior, succeeded Sam Parker as curator for the surface from Carroll to Pearl Street.

Community leaders continue to nurture art & promote access both in Krog and on Wylie.

In 2019, Arthur Rudick of StreetArtMap.org, a retired engineer who counts and documents murals in Atlanta, proposed a celebration in honor of Atlanta reaching one thousand murals. ATL1000 was formed with the advice and consultation of local arts leaders, in hopes of thanking Atlanta’s muralists and promoting the city itself as an arts destination.

In addition to supporting a public process for a new mural at Krog Street, ATL1000 will also include a conventional and social media campaign, display artwork by Atlanta’s muralists on digital billboards, offer street art walking tours, and a mural painting workshop for youth in cooperation with PowerHaus Creative. An Artist Appreciation party, and a Calendar of Autumn mural events is planned, but likely postponed due to COVID-19.

## **CELEBRATING 1000 MURALS IN ATLANTA (#ATL1000)**

### **ATL1000 Goals**

- Honor Atlanta's 1000 murals with intentional conversations about how the City reached this milestone, and the people who supported the movement
  - Honor the strong legacy of civil rights, social justice, & hip-hop culture which has made Atlanta a true leader in thoughtful, progressive street art
  - Amplify black & brown voices, & artists whose work is reflected on walls across the city
  - Use our resources to support communities & facilitate participation in creative projects
  - Offer learning opportunities to at-risk youth; teaching arts management & creative skills
  - Conduct meaningful outreach, including underserved populations & access to the arts
- 
- Promote and thank Atlanta's individual muralists with real economic connections
  - Promote Atlanta as one of America's top cities for street artists
  - Promote the artistic heritage of Atlanta's neighborhoods
  - Promote the Atlanta creative arts in general
  - Involve Atlanta's residents and visitors in accessible street-art related experiences