

HONORING THE PAST AND BUILDING THE FUTURE

BRUNSWICK, GA - September 21, 2022 - Join the city of Brunswick with International Photographic Artist Sheila Pree Bright and Nse Ufot, Chief Executive Officer of New Georgia Project, for a celebration of three historical murals titled 'Honoring The Past and Building the Future,' which recognize the radical history of Brunswick, Georgia, and envisions a transformational future for Georgia's Coastal Region.

New Georgia Project commissioned Photographic Artist Sheila Pree Bright to create the murals and production by the organization Living Walls in collaboration with muralists BK Foxx from New York City and Roderrick Davis from Brunswick, who are painting Bright's vision. The ribbon cutting and community celebration will occur on Saturday, September 24th, starting at 12:30 pm at 503 Mansfield Street, and continuing at the varying mural locations throughout the day, ending with a community BBQ at the newly renamed Ahmaud Arbery Park.

Bright's family hails from nearby Waycross, Georgia – home to Senator Reverend Raphael Warnock's family members. To prepare for this project, she spent several months in the community with the people of Brunswick – even discovering that her great Uncle in the 60s moved to the coastal city for his MD practice. Brunswick has long been a fixture in the history of Georgia's Black communities. However, the 2020 murder of resident Ahmaud Arbery shocked the national consciousness and spurred civil rights protests across the state and nation. New Georgia Project, Sheila Pree Bright, and Living Walls are honored to unveil the murals with the people of Brunswick; one of which is centered in the newly renamed Ahmaud Arbery Park, with the permission of the family who will be in attendance.

In 2020, pundits and journalists were shocked when organizers in Georgia delivered its 16 Electoral College votes for President Joe Biden. Despite that victory, the conventional narrative that victory in the South was a pipe-dream remained strong even into the January 5th, 2021 Senate Runoffs. Georgia voters delivered again. Today, the true swing voters of America's newest swing state, a 50/50 – evenly divided electorate, are Black and brown rural voters. Unfortunately, the term "rural" is often used in media as a euphemism for white voters. Continuing to play into that common logic, so easily disproved on the ground, amounts to "tipping your hand." It reveals a lack of understanding of this important battleground state and, more importantly, the people who live, work, and play here.

New Georgia Project would like for you to help us change that narrative. Join us on what is, indeed, hallowed ground in the neighborhoods with the most important voters in the country. If you are ready to eat some good BBQ with the neighborhood, meet community leaders, and report on the changing face of Georgia and The American South, we would be delighted to introduce you to Brunswick, Georgia.

New Georgia Project is a nonpartisan, nonprofit dedicated to building power with historically marginalized communities and creating “super-voters” – voters who cast their ballot in every election for which they are eligible.” Living Walls is a nonprofit aiming to create "inclusive, intentional, thought-provoking public art to inspire social change."

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Living Walls