



DR. MLK, JR. BLVD. MURALS

Cultural Enhancement

Before: Ground View

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*"How sweet the music sounded
that summer long ago
When you were by my side, love
To list its gentle flow"*
Paul Laurence Dunbar

After: Ground View

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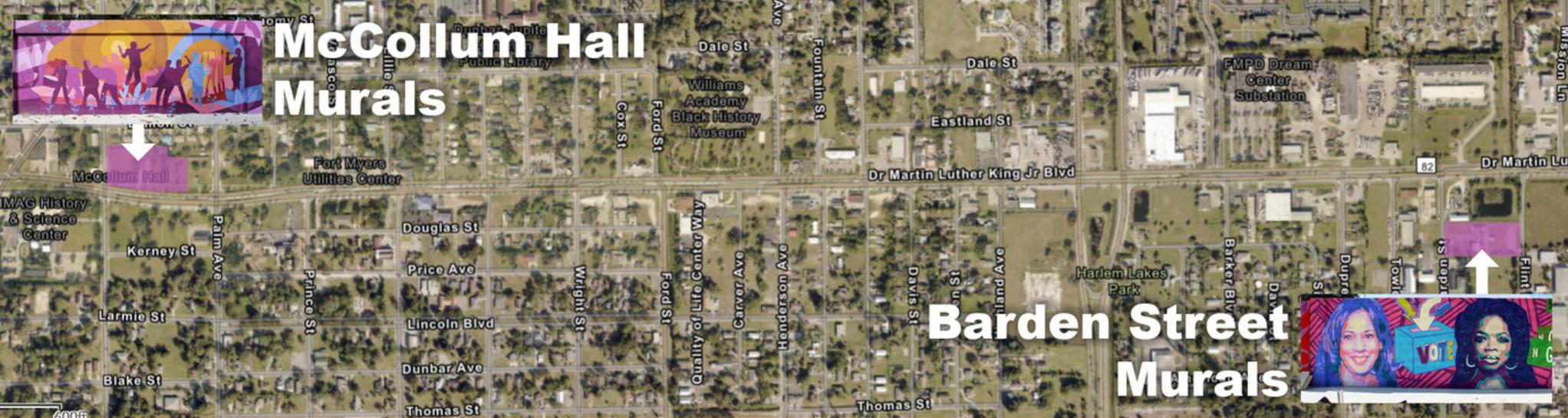
Before: Barden Street Community Garden Learning Center Murals
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After: Barden Street Community
Garden Learning Center Murals

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Reunited a Culturally-Bisected Community

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- Fort Myers' historic black community was culturally bisected in 1991 when its main thoroughfare was widened by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).
- Much of its rich history was lost to a younger generation as shops were razed and commercial parcels reduced to unbuildable sizes.
- Two new mural projects on opposite sides of the corridor – in McCollum Hall's "Buck's Backyard" and in the Barden Street Community Garden Learning Center—have reunited these disconnected neighborhoods by visually celebrating their significant stories and inspirational leaders.



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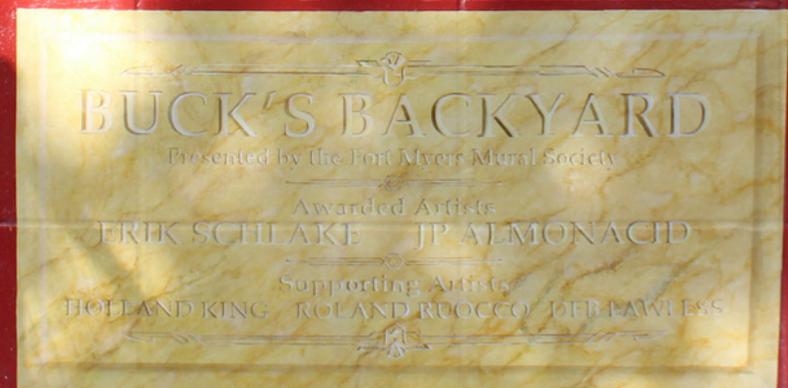
McCollum Hall Murals "Buck's Backyard"

These murals were designed to promote pride in the Fort Myers Dunbar community, as well as a way to support economic growth with aesthetic enhancement.

Also known as the "Bucks Backyard" Murals, consisted of painting the concrete barrier wall behind McCollum Hall features 17 concrete panels measuring 7' x 18' each, with 16" columns between.

The theme of the mural collection is a "wall" that symbolizes the positive influences of diversity, not division.

Inspiration for the actual mural subjects will originate with McCollum Hall's rich history as an entertainment stop on the Chitlin' Circuit.





McCollum Hall Murals
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McCollum Hall Murals
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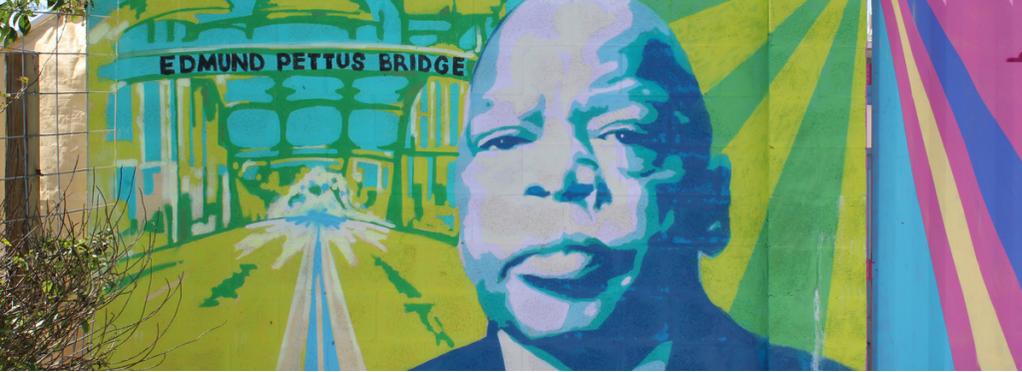
Barden Street Community Garden Learning Center Murals

The murals reflect inspirational figures from the local community, artists and creatives, scientists, historic educators, and national and international leaders.

They are painted as one continuous mural to the left and right of a center entrance gate from the other side of the garden property.

The gate itself is painted with a decorative heart.





Barden Street Murals

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