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District restores Fulton Industrial gateway sculpture

by Neighbor Staff

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The Fulton Industrial Community Improvement District recently renovated Peter Forakis' 1967 sculpture "The Atlanta Gateway," including returning its color to its original Sunrise Red, and plans a ribbon-cutting ceremony in June.

"The revitalization of the Gateway is symbolic of the CID's efforts to return Fulton Industrial Boulevard to its stature as a catalyst for economic development, both regionally and internationally," Kent Walker, district board secretary and Selig Enterprises vice

president, said in a statement.

According to district spokesman André Ledgister, the work of art is one of the largest examples of modern geometric sculpture in the world, measuring 180 feet by 90 feet by 90 feet.

It was installed as part of an industrial park, designed by Six Flags Over Georgia developer Angus Gilchrist Wynne Jr., when the Fulton Industrial Boulevard area was first established in the 1960s.

Ledgister said according to newspaper articles from 1981, the park included the sculpture and 30 other works by notable artists creating "the largest public collection of monumental contemporary sculptures in the world."

"Due to economic decline, most of the 30 sculptures have found their way into private collections or simply vanished," Ledgister said in a statement. "The Gateway sculpture is the only piece that remains of the area's vibrant past."

The restoration is part of the district's long-term master plan to turn Fulton Industrial Boulevard into "an economic powerhouse surrounded by a vibrant community," Gil Prado, district executive director, said in a statement.

Prado said the original developer "was innovative because he sought to differentiate his project from the competition and create a public amenity by incorporating public art."

"Today, we are utilizing the same principles he used in the '60s, this time, part of a comprehensive revitalization effort to make the industrial district clean, safe, beautiful and vibrant and announce to the world Fulton Industrial is back once again," Prado said.

The district, also known as the Boulevard CID, was established in 2010 as self-taxing organization to revitalize the Fulton Industrial Boulevard corridor – which has more than 553 warehouses and 46 million square feet of industrial space – through public safety, landscaping and beautification, transportation infrastructure improvement and economic development.

Upcoming projects include a \$1 million intersection improvement at I-285.

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