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City Lights

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# Sculpture Restoration Boosts Fulton Industrial Art Revival

By WABE STAFF



The recently restored Atlanta Gateway Sculpture is the only remaining piece of 1960s-era public art in the Fulton Industrial Boulevard area.

*Credit Courtesy Community Improvement District / boulevardcid.org*



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*Gil Prado and Jeffry Loy detail public art revival efforts in the Fulton Industrial Boulevard corridor.*

In the 1960s and 1970s, Atlanta's Fulton Industrial Boulevard -- a corridor lined with warehouses and manufacturing centers -- was also home to dozens of sculptures.

That's because world-renowned sculptor Peter Forakis was asked to create the centerpiece for what was hailed as the world's largest collection of contemporary sculptures.

Forakis delivered with the gigantic minimalist structure called the Atlanta Gateway Sculpture. By 1981, Fulton Industrial Boulevard was deep in decline; most of the sculptures were sold off -- except for the giant Gateway.

Today, the corridor is experiencing a revival; officials are tracking down some of the old sculptures. Restoration of the Atlanta Gateway Sculpture concluded earlier this month.

"City Lights" producer Erin Wright spoke with Gil Prado, the executive director of the Boulevard Community Improvement District, and public art conservator Jeffry Loy about the restoration and other endeavors to bring back public art to the area.

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