The Roots of Parkside's Legacy: Rooted in History. Growing Toward the Future.

"The Roots of Parkside's Legacy" reflects the deep connections between people, place, history, and community. Like the roots of a tree, the contributions of those who came before us provide the strength and foundation upon which future generations can grow and flourish.

The mural is both a tribute and an invitation: a tribute to those who have dedicated themselves to Parkside's survival, progress, and prosperity, and an invitation for today's residents, young people, artists, and emerging leaders to continue building upon that legacy.

As visitors walk along Haddon and Atlantic Avenue(s), "The Roots of Parkside's Legacy" mural offers an opportunity to reflect on the faces, names and stories that have shaped this neighborhood and to recognize that the true beauty of Parkside extends far beyond its physical landscape. It lives in its people, its history, its creativity, and its collective determination to thrive.

Art as a Catalyst for Community Revitalization

PBCIP believes that public art plays an important role in neighborhood revitalization. By transforming ordinary walls into powerful expressions of history, identity, and imagination, the Mural Arts Initiative contributes to a more welcoming, engaging, and culturally vibrant Haddon Avenue corridor.

The initiative also reinforces PBCIP's commitment to supporting local creative talent, celebrating neighborhood diversity, strengthening community pride, and ensuring that the stories of Parkside are preserved and shared with future generations.

As the mural collection continues to grow, each installation will contribute to a larger story, one that honors the past, celebrates the present, and inspires a future filled with opportunity.

Honoring the Faces and Stories of Parkside

The individuals featured in the "Roots of Parkside's Legacy" represent a remarkable tradition of service, leadership, and community stewardship. Brief biographies highlighting the lives, contributions, and enduring legacies of the individuals featured in the mural are presented below.

- **Dhmiri Council, Youth Sports and Mentorship**: Recognized for a longstanding commitment to developing youth sports programs, mentoring young people, and creating opportunities for generations of Parkside children to learn teamwork, discipline, leadership, and the value of community.
- **Colandus Francis, Staunch Community Leader and Advocate**: Honored for his unwavering dedication to community advocacy, civic engagement, and volunteerism throughout the City of Camden. A tireless champion for residents' rights, he faithfully attended every City Council meeting, prepared written briefs advocating on behalf of residents, and consistently challenged inequities to ensure that all Camden residents had a voice in decisions affecting their neighborhoods and quality of life. His steadfast commitment to justice, equity, and community empowerment helped strengthen the social, cultural, and economic fabric of Parkside and the broader Camden community.
- **Mayor Gwendolyn Faison, Former Mayor of Camden**: A trailblazing public servant and community leader, Mayor Gwendolyn Faison made history as the first woman to lead the City of Camden and the

first African American woman to serve as president of Camden City Council. Throughout her decades of public service, she demonstrated an unwavering commitment to Camden's residents, providing leadership, stability, and hope during some of the city's most challenging years. Her legacy continues to inspire generations of women, civic leaders, and community advocates.

- **John Hardy, Community Stewardship Champion**: Honored for his unwavering love for Parkside, his dedication to neighborhood beautification, and his genuine care for the people who called the community home. Affectionately known as "Cowboy," he was instrumental in establishing PBCIP's Clean Team, helping to create cleaner, safer, and more welcoming neighborhood streets. A devoted friend, neighbor, and steadfast supporter of Parkside residents, Cowboy embodied the true spirit of community service through his generosity, kindness, and willingness to lend a helping hand. His legacy lives on in the neighborhood he cherished and the countless lives he touched. Cowboy will forever be remembered for his love of Parkside, his love of people, and his belief in the power of community.
- **Mary Hodge, Community Pride and Beautification Steward:** Remembered for her unwavering dedication to neighborhood pride, beautification, and community service. As Block Captain Chairperson, she led by example, championing efforts to keep Parkside's streets clean and welcoming. She could often be found sweeping along the 1100 block of Kenwood Avenue, tending to neighbors' yards, and inspiring others to take pride in their community. Her tireless commitment reflected the true spirit of grassroots leadership and the belief that a stronger neighborhood begins with residents who care.
- **Dr. Granville R. Lewis, Health and Medical Champion:** Honored for his distinguished legacy of compassionate medical service and unwavering commitment to the health and well-being of Parkside residents. As a dedicated physician, he provided quality, accessible healthcare to generations of families, building lasting relationships rooted in trust, compassion, and genuine concern for his patients. His contributions extended beyond the practice of medicine, reflecting a deep commitment to the dignity, health, and vitality of the community he served. His enduring legacy is one of healing, service, and an extraordinary dedication to improving the lives of Parkside residents.
- **Doris & Delbert Nelson and Cleo & Elmer Winston, Founding Members of PBCIP**: Celebrated for their vision, determination, and grassroots leadership in establishing Parkside Business & Community In Partnership, Inc. (PBCIP) and advancing a resident-driven approach to neighborhood revitalization. These community pioneers championed public safety, forged partnerships between residents and law enforcement, and helped establish the Parkside Block Captains Network to promote community policing and civic engagement. Their collective efforts laid the foundation for a stronger, safer, and more connected Parkside, while advancing affordable housing, economic opportunity, and community empowerment.

Each honoree's story reflects a unique contribution to the neighborhood's history and a shared commitment to its future. "The Roots of Parkside's Legacy" is more than a mural. It is a living tribute to the people who planted the seeds, nurtured the community, and created a legacy that continues to grow.

Our Roots. Our Stories. Our Legacy.

About PBCIP

Parkside Business & Community In Partnership, Inc. (PBCIP) is a community-based nonprofit organization dedicated to expanding access to safe, high-quality, affordable housing and building sustainable communities that foster economic stability and long-term opportunity. Through housing development, neighborhood revitalization, small business support, resident engagement, food access initiatives and community-centered initiatives, PBCIP works to preserve and strengthen the Parkside neighborhood and City of Camden.

www.pbcip.org