# Bringing opportunity back

▶ 38TH AND SHERIDAN PROJECT ISSUE 9 | MAY 2022



### Amian Mims uses scattolding to reach the top of the mural sne painted in the entryway at the 38th and Sheridan Project manufacturing facility. For more photos of the creation of the mural, turn to pages 4-7.

### Art in the neighborhood

# Artist **Amiah Mims** brings murals to life at the **38th and Sheridan** facility

**Colors surrounded Amiah Mims** as a child. Growing up, Amiah encircled herself with a multi-hued array of crayons and markers. She was always coloring and drawing, and her creative talent blossomed early. She was also naturally athletic to the point where, Amiah described herself as a "busy body." Her parents first placed her in ballet. Finding that environment too structured for their imaginative daughter, they placed her in gymnastics. She excelled in the free form acrobatic sport, becoming a gifted gymnast.

Born and raised on the northwest side of Indianapolis, she left the area to pursue a degree at Kent State University. Carrying her vibrant creativity and athletic expertise with her to college, she was given a full-ride scholarship for gymnastics, and at first, majored in fashion design. After her first semester, she quickly realized that fashion design was not what she thought it would be. She switched her educational track to graphic design, which was a much better fit for her vivid imagination and her love of artistic ideas and creative problem solving. She graduated in 2015 with a major in visual communication design and a minor in photo illustration. Returning to Indianapolis, she immediately settled into a career as a graphic designer for the Indianapolis Motor Speedway (IMS).



### ▲ Amiah Mims takes a break from working on the mural she painted in the entryway at the 38th and Sheridan Project manufacturing facility.

### From gymnast to artist

Nurturing her creative art muse fell to the wayside as she focused on her gymnastics team, schooling, and social activities during college.

"Being a gymnast," Amiah said, "that was me for a really long time."

She just didn't have time to invest in the artistic side of herself, but now appreciates her transition from being focused on the athletic life to the artistic life.

"We've all got our jam," Amiah said. "We've all got things we're good at. It's been nice have the artistry to fall back on. I know a lot of other teammates and other athletes

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Just the facts

### A man with a desire to "do more"

# Corey Stein humbled by the opportunity to work on 38th and Sheridan Project

Lever since he was a young boy, Corey Stein has been driven by a desire to "do more." After starting off his career in the mechanical field with his father as a sheet metal worker, Corey's love and appreciation for working in the trades industry was founded.



"It makes me very proud," Corey said. "It's underrated and a very good path to build a life around, and I think the trades teach important life skills. I have a lot of family that works in this industry, and it was a good start for me, but I wanted to do more."

### A worthwhile pursuit

While pursuing an apprenticeship as a sheet metal worker in trade

school, Corey worked diligently during the night and on weekends for his bachelor's degree in construction project management from **IUPUI**.

"It was interesting, for sure, doing all of that, and it took me quite a while to get through it, but I finally did and it was worth it," Corey said with a smile.

With his degree in tow, Corey started working for **Sexson Mechanical**, an MBE certified (minority business

enterprise) and an Asian-American owned business started by **John Sexson**, as a project coordinator estimator.

He knew he was on the right career path–still working in trades and construction–but his curiosity and a passion for knowledge prompted him to return to school and pause his work with the company. With years of persistent effort and many nights of falling asleep to the sound of his own typing on the computer, Corey graduated from **Indiana Wesleyan** with his masters in business administration (MBA).

"I definitely enjoyed it, and it taught me a lot of things," Corey said. "My wife and I will laugh looking back because during the years I needed to get through it, we would get used to the sound of the computer typing, and it would be strange to fall asleep without it after I'd graduated."

### An advocate for education

Corey constantly reminds everyone in his life to not shy away from pursuing something they're passionate about or from putting in the hard work and "doing more" if it matters to them.

"I always tell people that you should get as much education as you can get," Corey said."A lot of apprentices start with some, and I want them to build on it, and get more.

"I even tell my two daughters that I support whatever they do as a career, and I want them to be happy and get as much education as they can and excel in their subjects. It's the same with the trades," he added, "If you want to be a carpenter or electrician, be a master carpenter or electrician. Seeing the value and making yourself valuable is how you make it."











#### A keen drive to do more

Now with years of serious studying under his belt, and a keen drive to "do more," Corey returned to Sexson Mechanical ready to do his part. Including his first stent with the company, he has proudly worked for Sexson

▲ John Sexson, founder and president of Sexson Mechanical

Mechanical for just about 10 years and now serves the role of vice president for the company.

Sexson was founded in 1999 and has grown into a full-service mechanical contractor that does commercial HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning), piping, and plumbing work. They have also recently started a small electrical division and a waste and water treatment work group.

With these key skills and

departments in tow, Sexson Mechanical has served as a mechanical contractor for the **Goodwill Commercial**Services manufacturing facility, which is part of the **38th**and Sheridan Project. In this role, they have focused on the mechanical, plumbing, and HVAC systems needed for the site development. This included building the plumbing for the restrooms, as well as putting storm drains off the roof, fitting air piping for the laboratories, setting up specialized heating, cooling, and temperature control for the building, and installing steam and hot water boilers, among many other key elements for the creation of the bones of the new building.

"As the mechanical contractor, we work on what I like to call the heartbeat of the building," Corey said.

### A breath of fresh air

It was through discussions with **Akilah Darden**, the founder of **Darden Group LLC**, Corey started to learn more about the efforts being put forward by Goodwill Commercial Services, **Cook Medical**, and the Darden Group with the 38th and Sheridan Project.

"These companies are helping the community, trying to revitalize it, bringing jobs back to the area, and just trying to help the people in the neighborhood," Corey said. "I think that it is great what they're doing to make a difference, to 'do more,' and to help the community get a breath of fresh air."

Corey discussed what a humbling experience it has been to be a part of this project.

"I like working in construction because whether we put something brand new somewhere or revitalize something, we get to create, and that's one of the reasons I love it," he said. "But when you're able to work with the teams like Goodwill Commercial Services, Cook Medical, and Darden Group, and there are projects with a bigger purpose, it makes it that more special.

"This project has reminded me that there are good people in the world that want to help and do good things, it puts the icing on the cake, because I love to help, and they do too, and I think that is really very special," he added.

"I think a lot of us in the construction trade, and just as human beings in general, get stuck in what we are doing and get in our own worlds and forget what it can be like," Corey said. "But with a project like this, you never know how many people this can affect and help, and I think that's kind of cool and an important thing to remember."











Continued from the front cover

### Art in the neighborhood

who experience a weird identity crisis once their sport is over. I feel like a lot of people who don't have something to fall back on have a tendency to struggle in figuring out what to do with themselves once that sport life is over. I'm very lucky to have this other category of talent because I do think that it's helped me a lot in that post-college, life-after-sport transition."

### Finding her inner artist

Recently, Amiah has had the opportunity to tap into what she calls her organic, artistic ability. She left her position at IMS almost a year ago to start her own creative services company. As a full-time freelancer, she offers graphic design services, has time for painting, and works as a commissioned muralist. The connections she made through her IMS work have proven to be a source of networking for her budding business.

"So far, I've been getting a pretty healthy dose of projects from different clientele I came in contact with at IMS," Amiah said. "IMS is affiliated with many businesses in the city, being the hub that it is of Indianapolis. I still stay in contact with them and still work with them on different projects."

Currently, she is serving as the guest curator for the *Sleek: The Art of the Helmet* exhibit at the **Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum**, helping to coordinate the exhibit opening in July 2022 during the **Brickyard 400** 

**NASCAR** weekend. The exhibit features the evolution of material usage and design of the racing helmet. A series of 27 helmets will be featured.

Amiah is also currently working with **The Arts Council of Indianapolis (Indy Arts Council)** on their upcoming *Art & Soul* speaker creative series, assisting with branding the event, along with miscellaneous graphics projects, often stemming from her contacts with people from the racing community.

A former colleague led Amiah to be the commissioned artist for two murals at the **Goodwill Commercial Services** manufacturing facility on the **38th and Sheridan Project**, which will produce devices for Bloomington-based **Cook Medical**.

"It sounded like an amazing experience and something I wanted to be a part of especially considering this whole project has been put together using minority businesses," she said.

### Seven murals, and counting

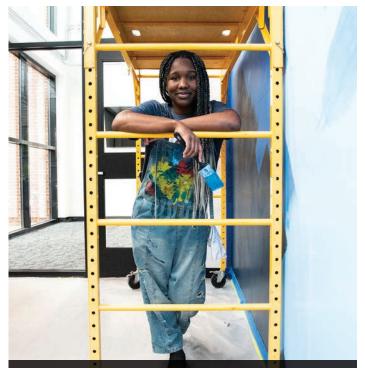
Amiah is a relatively new muralist. The murals for the 38th and Sheridan facility are only the sixth and seventh murals that she has completed. Her first mural was completed in 2020 as part of the Indy Arts Council's *Murals for Racial Justice* project. The project commissioned 24 Black artists, among them was Amiah.











▲ Good scaffolding is an essential tool for a mural painter. **Amiah** learned the ins and outs of proper scaffold use from her father, who has a background in commercial and industrial construction.

"They invited Black artists to come express ourselves truthfully and visually, to amplify the communities' cries for racial justice," she said. "That was really the kick start to an introspective journey I have been on with my art. That was a hard time for the Black community. At the time, it was so raw and heavy. I remember hearing about the call for artists for this project, and I thought, 'Oh, I need to do this.' It wasn't a 'want,' it was like a 'need.'"

Her second mural was the Indy Black Lives Matter (BLM) street mural on Indiana Avenue.

"I painted the first 'A'. That was my letter. I put everything I had into that. My mural was inspired by Maya Angelou's Still I Rise poem," said Amiah.

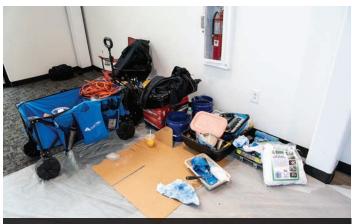
The next mural Amiah completed was her largest project. The Indianapolis Recorder newspaper hired her to design a mural on the side of their office building.

"That was huge," she said. "I tag teamed with my dad, who has a background in commercial and industrial construction for that one."

Her father helped her navigate the 20-foot ladders and scaffolding needed to complete the project.

"Now that I've done that, honestly, every other mural is like, 'Ok, I can do that,'" she added, laughing.

She also created a mural for an art walk at Clay Terrace in Carmel. The commission from that mural stemmed from an art collective of the 18 artists that participated in the Indiana Avenue street mural. The artists, known as



▲ Amiah painted both murals, using interior latex paint. Other supplies consisted of paint rollers, brushes, poles, trays, rulers, chalk, water buckets, ladders, and scaffolding. The wagon is there to make things easier when transporting materials from the storage room where they resided.

The Eighteen, were hired by Clay Terrace, who partnered with GangGang cultural agency, to design the art walk.

### Behind the mural scene

With her experience in community mural designs, Amiah was a natural fit as a muralist for the 38th Street and Sheridan facility. The project encompassed all the challenges and hurdles and lessons she learned from the Indianapolis Recorder mural project and her other projects.

She remembered her father's guidance about the use of scaffolding, how to raise the levels, and how to put the brakes on, so she was well prepared. Her process for her mural creations developed over time and experience. She normally sketches the art work first digitally and uses a projector to project the design that she traces with chalk and then fills in with paint.

With the Goodwill murals; however, she could not take her normal approach.

She was commissioned to design two murals-one in the entryway of the main entrance to the facility and one in the break room. It was almost a month-long process. She began the project on March 14 and finished it on April 8.

"I didn't have enough room in that entry way area to be able to project the way that I needed to, so I actually went 'old school' with that and used a good ol' grid, an inch-to-foot grid," Amiah said. "I used the grid and free handed it from there. It ended up turning out just fine, it added on a little extra time but it was all good. We have to make things work with what we've got."

Working closely with the creative department from Goodwill Commercial Services, she understood the goals

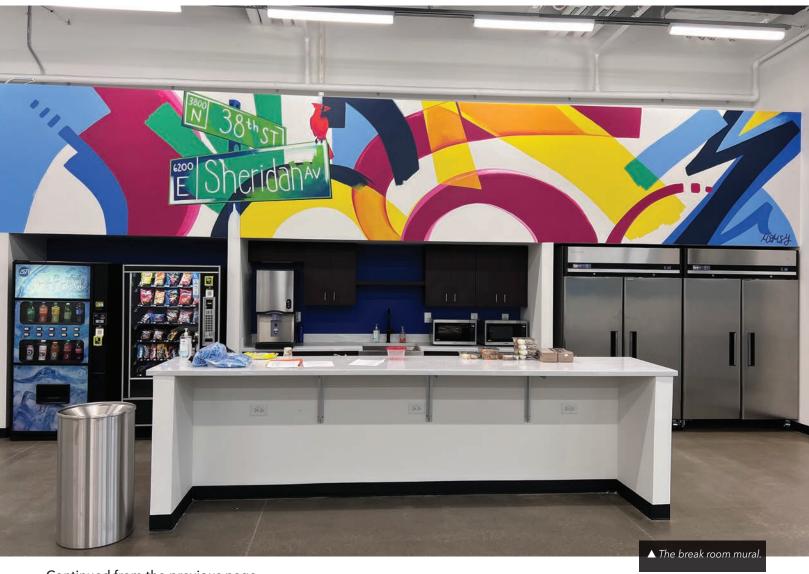
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### Art in the neighborhood

for each mural. The entryway mural needed to hint at what would be seen in the manufacturing facility, since tours would be common in the facility. The mural needed to give people a sneak peek, she said, of what people could expect to see during the tour.

"With it being a medical manufacturing building, we landed on a design with hands, since the manufacturing jobs are very hands on," Amiah said. "We went with a very close up composition of two gloved hands holding a catheter, one of the medical devices that is manufactured at the facility. I also added a little surreal hidden gem, a skyline of Indianapolis reflected in the shadow of the medical device to tie it back to the city."

For the break room mural design, Amiah decided upon a bold 38th and Sheridan street sign as the main element surrounded by bright colors. She painted a cardinal perched on the sign to bring in an Indiana theme.

"We wanted to design it so that it reflected a dash of civic pride," Amiah said. "When people enter this space, they know where they are. It brings in that pride. For the people who work there it's important for them to know where they are and to know it's theirs in a sense. We put it there for them. The building is built for them, for those workers, for the neighborhood, and to bring jobs to them."







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— Amiah Mims















# Scenes from the 38th & Sheridan job site













### Fighting food insecurity

Local programs help to ensure Indianapolis residents have enough to eat

**Several organizations** in Marion County are running programs to assist people who are facing a food shortage. For more information about a couple of those programs, see the information below and to the right.



We are in need of assistance during our weekly mobile food pantry. You may volunteer one event or the entire season.

Multiple volunteer positions are available We can never have too much help!

Wednesdays 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

> Get started today by contacting Jami Weirich at 317.549.9622 or veirich@indymca.org







### **Indy Parks Meal Service**

Presented by Indy Parks & Recreation

- Open to ALL children 18 and under!
- No registration necessary- and completely FREE!
- Second Helpings Grab & Go meals distributed at mobile sites!

### **MEAL SERVING SITES**

#### Monday - Friday

BROAD RIPPLE PARK 4.00- 4.30 PM 1550 BROAD RIPPLE AVE

GARFIELD PARK 4:00- 4:30 PM 2345 PAGODA DR WASHINGTON PARK 3:30- 4:00 PM 3130 E. 30TH ST.

CHRISTIAN PARK 4:00- 5:00 PM 4200 E. ENGLISH AVE. MUNICIPAL GARDENS 3:30- 4:30 PM 1831 LAFAYETTE RD.

WATKINS PARK 2360 MARTIN LUTHER KING ST.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS PARK 1616 F 25TH ST

RIVERSIDE PARK 4:30- 5:30 PM 2420 F PIVERSIDE DR WINDSOR VILLAGE PARK 5:00- 5:30 PM 6510 F 25TH ST

### MOBILE SERVING SITES

#### MOBILE UNIT 1

Monday - Thursday

3:30- 4:00 East 38th Street Library- 5420 E. 38th St. 4:30- 5:00 Brightwood Library- 2434 N. Sherman Dr.

2:30-3:00 Spades Library-1801 Nowland Ave.

3:30- 4:00 West Branch Library- 1216 Kappes St. 4:30- 5:00 Haughville Library- 2121 W. Michigan Rd



Times are subject to change. Please call Indy Parks Customer Service Center for more information at (317) 327-PARK, or go online at parks.indy.gov. This institution is an equal opportunity provider

### Servicio de Comidas de Indy Parks

Presentado por Indy Parks & Recreation

- · ¡Abierto a TODOS los niños menores de 18 años!
- No es necesario registrarse, jy completamente GRATIS!
- ¡Second Helpings Comidas para llevar distribuidas en sitios móviles!

### SITIOS DE SERVICIO DE COMIDAS

4:00- 4:30 PM 1550 BROAD RIPPLE AVE.

GARFIELD PARK 4:00- 4:30 PM 3:30- 4:00 PM 2345 PAGODA DR 3130 E. 30TH ST.

CHRISTIAN PARK 4200 E. ENGLISH AVE.

MUNICIPAL GARDENS 1831 LAFAYETTE RD.

WATKINS PARK 2360 MARTIN LUTHER KING ST.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS PARK 3:00-3:30 PM 1616 E. 25TH ST.

RIVERSIDE PARK 4:30-5:30 PM

WINDSOR VILLAGE PARK 5:00-5:30 PM 6510 E. 25TH ST.

### SITIOS DE SERVICIO MÓVIL lunes - jueves

#### ΠΝΙΒΑΒ ΜΟΎΙΙ 1

3:30- 4:00 East 38th Street Library- 5420 E. 38th St. 4:30- 5:00 Brightwood Library- 2434 N. Sherman Dr.

2:30- 3:00 Spades Library- 1801 Nowland Ave 3:30-4:00 West Branch Library-1216 Kappes St. 4:30-5:00 Haughville Library-2121 W. Michigan Rd.



Los horarios están sujetos a cambios. Llame al Centro de Atención al Cliente de Indy Parks para obtener más información al (317) 327-PARK, o ingrese en línea en parks.indy.gov. Esta institución es un proveedor de igualdad de oportunidades.









### Who's hiring?

A closer look at the companies hiring construction and manufacturing employees for the 38th and Sheridan Project.

he general contractor, Harmon Construction, and all of the subcontractors are currently hiring diverse talent for construction jobs for the 38th and Sheridan Project. Goodwill Commercial Services is also hiring manufacturing employees to work in the facility once it is completed. Residents from 38th and Sheridan area are strongly encouraged to apply!

If you see a job you are interested in, you can reach out directly to that company, visit www.38thandSheridan.com, or you can contact Akilah Darden from the Darden Group LLC at jobs@38thandSheridan.com or 317.385.8954.

### Construction jobs and training available





Hailee.Harmon@harmongroup.com

### The Carpenter's Son, LLC

10026 E 21st Street Indianapolis, IN 46229 317.348.1769



### **Fox Contracting**

**Hiring Equipment Operators** & Laborers

bkochersperger@foxcontractors.com 317.281.8963

### **Bobbitt Electrical**

Hiring electricians bernard@bobbittelectrical.com 317,797,6064



### **Sheet Metal Workers**

Hiring

S.M.A.R.T. Local 20-Apprenticeship Program (S.M.A.R.T.=Sheet Metal Air Rail

Transportation) Metal & Copper Roofs,

Metal Siding, Gutters

2828 E. 45th Street, Indianapolis 317.549.6013



### **Apagee Construction**

Hiring Local 19 Roofers & Waterproofers Apprenticeship Program Available www.indyroofers.com

317.484.8990



### **PCI Performance Contracting**

Hiring Indianapolis Insulators **Local 18 Apprenticeship Program** Available

> insulators18.org 317.786.3216



### Multicraft Fire Protection

Hiring Union 669-Sprinkler Fitter Apprenticeship Program Available

bfunk@multicraftdec.com 812.336.5005



### **Indiana Laborers' Training Institute**

Local 120-Laborers' Union **Apprenticeship Program** IndyRoofers.com

317.484.8990









### **Construction jobs and training available**



### **Sexson Mechanical**

Hiring Plumbers, Steamfitters, & HVACR Service Technician

Apprenticeship Program–Local 440 (ualocal 440.org)

Contact: Corey Stein cstein@sexsonmechanical.com 317.989.5486



### Price Construction Group, LLC

### Now hiring!

https://priceconstructiongroup.com/info@priceconstructiongroup.com 317.723.3201



### **City Wide Paving**

Hiring Laborers, Foreman-Asphalt & Concrete, Drivers

> cwpaving.com 317.244.2000



### **Ironworkers Local 22**

### Hiring Ironworks Apprenticeship Program Union Membership & Pension Program

(Will work onsite with HG Metals and Harmon Steel fabricating/erecting on the project)

> Ironworkers22.com 5600 Dividend Road, Indianapolis



### **HG Metals**

Hiring Fork Lift Drivers, Yardman, Welders, & Drivers

Contact: Lawrence Casey businessoffice@hgmetals.com 317.351.9500

### Community Development



### United Northeast Community Development Corporation

**Localized Support Programming** 

www.anuimpact.org
@anuimpactindy
ashley.gurvitz@anuimpact.org
317.546.6240

### How are we doing?

Below is the last diverse workforce reporting for the manufacturing facility with some of the closing highlights.

- ► The new hires on the construction of the 38th & Sheridan Project are coming up on their 1-year anniversaries.
- ▶ 76% of the hours worked in April 2022 were by diverse construction personnel.
- ▶ 42% of the total project workforce hours were by diverse construction personnel.

These statistics were compiled by **Akilah Darden**, president of **The Darden Group LLC**.

### Manufacturing jobs



COMMERCIAL SERVICES

## Goodwill Commercial Services

Hiring for 100 jobs in manufacturing goodwillindy.org/careers









## Learn more about the 38th and Sheridan Project-including job openings

There are a few different ways to do so.

Visit **www.38thandsheridan.com** (see graphic to the right)

Or

- Contact Akilah Darden from the Darden Group LLC by email at jobs@38thandSheridan.com or by phone at 317.385.8954
- ► Contact Mr. James Campbell from the SHANE NHA by email at Campbellmc1140@gmail.com or by phone at 317.223.5109

All subcontractors are currently hiring diverse talent.

Over 75 percent of the positions are still open.

Residents from 38th and Sheridan area are strongly encouraged to apply!

38TH STREET AND SHERIDAN AVENUE

Apply for a job

### Making medical devices



Interested in applying for a job? See below!



To apply for construction jobs, visit:

38thandSheridan.com

Select the "Construction Job Seekers" button at the bottom of the page to see current listings.

Complete the simple online form to see what construction job opportunities are available and get connected to a wide range of local sub-contractors.

Employees have access to comprehensive benefits programs and options for pension with the union contractors.

### Medical device manufacturing jobs

To apply for jobs in manufacturing, visit:

38thandSheridan.com

Select the "Manufacturing Job Seekers" button at the bottom of the page to see current listings.

No degree or credential requirements are needed to apply.

Full-time employees have access to a comprehensive benefits program that includes:

- Health, life, dental, and vision insurance
- Paid time off (PTO)
- Continuing education and leadership development



#### Questions?

Email Jobs@38thandSheridan.com

# We want to hear from you!

We want to hear your feedback about this project! Please send your questions, concerns, or thoughts to **community@cookmedical.com**.

# Follow us on Instagram!

Get regular updates and see the progress of the 38th and Sheridan Project at www.instagram.com/38thandsheridan







