



EMERGENT SAVANNAH

CULTURE. COMMUNITY. CONVERSATION.

Emergent Savannah is a collaboration of local activists who believe that Savannah is capable of evolving into a more intentional community where citizens are empowered to shape the future while continuing to honor the past.

We are dedicated to educating people and advocating for the local Savannah community by providing information to create thoughtful conversation and personal action. We strengthen connections and creativity in our community by promoting civic involvement through unexpected ways.

Our vision is simple:

Culture. Community. Conversation.

Founded on the floor of a studio apartment in 2015 through a series of conversations, Emergent Savannah started as a group of citizens that decided there had to be a better way of engaging community and working against apathy. Through conversation, art and community engagement, Emergent Savannah is local activism with heart and works to engage all citizens of Savannah.

Our first events were held at The Sentient Bean in January 2015, where we kicked off our LOVE/DREAM project and our first ever Monday Means Community, where we invited City Attorney Brooks Stillwell to be interviewed by Art Rise Executive Director, Clinton Edminster.



What do you LOVE about Savannah?

Well FED is honored to take part in fostering this positive and important conversation throughout Savannah. Here's how we hope you will jump in and be part of Emergent Savannah:

We are asking you to spend a few minutes thinking about *two simple questions* and share your thoughts. We will be spending the months of January, February and March, inviting people to share their thoughts and asking them to invite people they know to share their thoughts as well. This will lead to the creation of a citizen based positive vision for Savannah during the month of April, when an even wider community conversation begins.

So we ask, what do you want for your Emergent Savannah?
What do you love about Savannah? What do you dream for Savannah?

Most importantly, how are you going to be a part of it?

"The Beloved Community is not a utopia, but a place where the barriers between people gradually come down and where citizens make a constant effort to address even the most difficult problems of ordinary people. It is above all, an idealistic community."

— Rev. Jim Lawson



What do you DREAM for Savannah?

Here are several ways your LOVE and DREAM can become part of a community-wide conversation:

- Share your thoughts on our website EmergentSavannah.org and invite your friends, classmates, co-workers, to also share their thoughts.
- Leave a comment on our Facebook page: facebook.com/emergentsavannah - like the page and share your comments with everyone you know.
- Email your love and dream to: info@emergentsavannah.com
You can also email us for cards to handout or let us know how you can help spread these questions to even more people.
- Turn to the back of the next page and write your thoughts directly on to the page. You can tear it out and put it up anywhere you like: a public bulletin board, your bathroom mirror, give it to a friend or complete stranger, or you can even leave it right in the magazine and leave it for someone else to discover.
- Come to the Sentient Bean Coffee Shop at 13 E Park Avenue, where you can participate in a public installation and use the materials provided there, to write/draw your LOVE/DREAM's for Savannah. This collaborative project will be open to the public throughout the month of January.

Turn the page to share your thoughts now.



What We Do

Monday Means Community

Monday Means Community is a collaborative event series that promotes discussion and access to information on civic and cultural life. The series highlights both local and non-local figures, current events and ultimately aims to give people the means to take action and become more connected to those working on any given cause.

World Cafe

Drawing on seven principles, the World Café methodology is a simple, effective, and flexible format for hosting large group dialogue. World Café can be modified to meet a wide variety of needs. Specifics of context, numbers, purpose, location, and other circumstances are factored into each event's unique invitation, design, and question choice.

Graphic Facilitations

Emergent Savannah works with Brittany Curry, who specializes in graphic recording/graphic facilitation, a visual tool that is used for organizational development, meetings and discussion forums. As the recorder, Curry stands at the back of the room with a long piece of wall chart paper and listens to the conversation, working to capture the words and metaphors people use in graphic images, give it some color, and let people see their ideas come to life.

The Love/Dream Project

Half mobile art-project and half community conversation generator, the LOVE/DREAM project asked citizens of Savannah what it they LOVE about Savannah and DREAM for Savannah. Drawing on quick and easy ways of communication, the LOVE/DREAM project took a few sticky notes and pens and went to all sections and public places in Savannah

for one year—from the A-Town Festival, Art March and Earth Day, to West Savannah, Elementary school classrooms and the Savannah Youth Ambassadors program.

Turning The Tables

It wasn't a debate, it wasn't a panel and definitely wasn't a Q and A. It was a guided conversation where candidates and voters formed conversation circles and listened to and learned from each other. With Turning the Tables, we were asking candidates, incumbents and citizens to participate in thoughtful dialogue. One-two candidates and 8 voters were in each circle and everyone had to talk about—and listen to—what was important to Savannah citizens. We had participation from 26 out of the 28 candidates including all four mayoral candidates.

Creative Collaborations

Emergent Savannah believes that creative collaboration can lead to solutions, to connections and to opportunity. Over the 2015 year we collaborated with four different organizations and businesses to bring socially aware art projects to life. These included: Emergent Savannah and Sulfur Studios present: *Voting Bloc: Artists Look At The Political Process*, Emergent Savannah, East Taylor Creative and Starlandia Present: *The World We Want* and Emergent Savannah and Art Rise Present: *The Artists of Social Change*



During Emergent Savannah's "If I Were Mayor" event, locals were asked how they would prioritize running the city of Savannah.



Local artists merged onstage for a conversation about arts impact on our community during a Monday Means Community event.



Candidates for the 2015 City Council election gathered together for a round-table at the Creative Coast's Creators Foundry hosted by Emergent Savannah.



Graphic facilitator Brittany Curry provided dazzling visuals for many of the events Emergent Savannah held at the Sentient Bean and other locations.



Community members tackle tough questions at one of the World-Cafe style conversations hosted by Emergent Savannah.



Emergent Savannah set up “The World We Want” an interactive exhibit at locations throughout Savannah.



The Love/Dream Project has become an iconic statement of Emergent Savannah's dedication to the future of Savannah. Participants around Savannah have posted thousands of loves and dreams since the project began.

“ Like many movements with noble intentions, this one was birthed by people who are on the outside looking in, not insiders looking for special treatment.

Emergent Savannah says on its website that it was founded on the floor of a studio apartment in 2015....You’ve got to like a group with such goals and humble origins. The last time I sat on an apartment floor and discussed anything of import, I was a student at the University of Georgia, and the topic was whether a flush beat a straight (it does and was worth 10 bucks) and who should make the next beer run (me because I was sober and had the dough).”

- Tom Barton, Savannah Morning News

“Emergent Savannah’s events are optimistic and focused on the future. The organization has already established a track record of looking for common-sense solutions to recognized problems and has given a new platform for community engagement for young adults.”

- Bill Dawers, CITYTALK, Savannah Business Insider

Who We Are

Emergent Savannah is a collaboration of local activists who believe that Savannah is capable of evolving into a more intentional community, empowered to create its own future, while continuing to honor its past.



Courtney Papy-Lead Organizer

Betsy Bull-Organizer/The Details

Tom Kohler-The Gatekeeper

AJ Perez-Creative Production

Emily Earl-Photographer/Voice of Reason

Alex Raffray- Organizer

Contact Information

For more information on Emergent Savannah please visit our website at

<http://emergentsavannah.org/>

or on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/emergentsavannah/>

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