

Timeline of the Fight to Save the Painted Bride Mural

November 2017: The Painted Bride Art Center (PBAC) announces they are putting their building up for sale in order to better fulfill their mission.

<https://www.inquirer.com/philly/entertainment/arts/painted-bride-old-city-selling-its-vine-street-building-20171127.html>

March 16, 2018: Philadelphia's Magic Gardens (PMG) submits an application nominating the building at 230 Vine Street for historical significance.

<https://www.inquirer.com/philly/entertainment/arts/in-bid-to-save-isaiah-zagar-mural-painted-bride-building-nominated-for-citys-historic-register-20180322.html>

June 2018: In the first hearing of the Historical Commission they rule that the building does satisfy the following criteria for historical designation:

(e) Is the work of a designer, architect, landscape architect or designer, or engineer whose work has significantly influenced the historical, architectural, economic, social, or cultural development of the City, Commonwealth or Nation;

(f) Contains elements of design, detail, materials or craftsmanship which represent a significant innovation;

(h) Owing to its unique location or singular physical characteristic, represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood, community or City;

(j) Exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social or historical heritage of the community.

<https://www.inquirer.com/philly/entertainment/arts/painted-bride-and-its-zagar-murals-deserve-historic-designation-panel-finds-20180620.html>

September 2018: The full Historical Commission holds a second hearing, this time considering hardships from PBAC. The initial vote for historical significance is split 5-5, but in a revote, where the chair abstains, the designation does not pass.

<https://whyy.org/segments/painted-bride-denied-historic-status-removing-roadblock-to-iconic-buildings-sale/>

2019: The building is under contract with Groom Investments for \$4.8 million, but the case will go to Orphans Court to decide whether the sale may be completed.

<https://www.inquirer.com/arts/painted-bride-building-philadelphia-isaiah-zagar-magic-gardens-murals-20190515.html>

September 2019: A judge blocks the sale of the Painted Bride building in an appeal saying it would "all but ensure the destruction of what many individuals consider to be a true treasure."

<https://www.inquirer.com/arts/painted-bride-sale-blocked-isaiah-zagar-philadelphia-orphans-court-20190926.html>

September/October 2020: PBAC appeals the Orphans Court ruling, and the case goes before a Commonwealth Court panel of three judges. They rule that PBAC has no duty to preserve the mosaic and may sell the building to continue their mission.

<https://www.inquirer.com/arts/isaiah-zagar-murals-philadelphia-painted-bride-court-case-20201022.html>

January 2021: Developer and architect Shimi Zakin proposes a plan that would incorporate the mural as part of the building's new design. The Franklin Bridge North RCO votes overwhelming to block the zoning variance (building 20 feet higher) Zakin needs to complete the plan.

<https://www.inquirer.com/real-estate/inga-saffron/painted-bride-isaiah-zagar-mosaic-mural-architecture-old-city-philadelphia-franklin-bridge-north-inga-saffron-20210115.html>

August 2021: The Zoning Board of Adjustment rules that Zakin may build higher and slightly exceed density limits so his plan for the building can move forward, despite the neighbors' concerns.

<https://www.inquirer.com/real-estate/housing/painted-bride-mosaic-mural-isaiah-zagar-apartments-20210825.html>

March 29, 2022: The sale of the building is complete when Groom Investments buys 230 Vine Street for \$3.85 million.

<https://www.inquirer.com/real-estate/painted-bride-sale-mural-mosaic-isaiah-zagar-20220406.html>

June 2022: The Zoning Board decision allowing for the exceptions is overturned by a Philadelphia Common Pleas Court appeal brought by the neighbors. This forces Zakin to reconsider his design for the building.

<https://www.inquirer.com/real-estate/housing/painted-bride-mural-zoning-appeal-zagar-20220622.html>

February 2023: Zakin's new proposal that would destroy the mural and create a building with all short-term rental units is met with disapproval by the neighbors.

<https://www.inquirer.com/real-estate/painted-bride-mosaic-mural-old-city-short-term-rental-20230213.html>

June 2023: Black netting that shrouded the mural for years is finally removed.

July 2023: The mural is still slated for total demolition. Zakin unveils a new design that might incorporate small elements of the mosaic in the facade. He continues to work with PMG with the hopes of creating a new work to memorialize the original piece.

<https://www.inquirer.com/real-estate/housing/isaiah-zagar-mosaic-painted-bride-philadelphia-short-term-rental-20230724.html>