

'Permission wall' for art?



DAVID SANDELL/THE CAPITAL TIMES

Don Wettach's spunky little Statue of Liberty graces the west-facing wall of Mother Fool's Coffeehouse, 1101 Williamson St. He and a group will approach the Plan Commission about making the east-facing wall a regulated "permission wall" for local muralists.

Graffiti group seeks an outdoor canvas

By Kathryn Kingsbury

The Capital Times

Graffiti has been tagged by the Madison business community as one of its worst headaches. It costs the city \$250,000 a year to remove tagging, not counting the bus shelters.

One alderman, Tim Bruer, has proposed a "Graffiti Stoppers" hotline with cash rewards.

But tonight, a group of graffiti artists and friends will approach the city with a proposal for a regulated, revolving art show on a wall on Williamson Street — a "permission wall."

"Basically, we just want to paint," says Don Wettach, a 28-year-old self-identified graffiti artist.

He believes that art belongs in public spaces,

where anyone can see it for free, he said. That idea is what inspired him to approach local businesses this summer with the idea of creating permission walls where painting is not only legal, but encouraged.

"I wanted to create a place where we can do graffiti type art in a rotating setting, almost like an outdoor art gallery," he said.

Along with a group from the Marquette neighborhood, he will approach the Madison Plan Commission tonight with a proposal for what would be the first neighborhood-sanctioned, public spot in Madison: the east-facing wall of Mother Fool's Coffeehouse at 1101 Williamson St.

(In June, New Orleans Takeout restaurant

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