



**Design Review Board (DRB)  
Staff Report**

Exterior Renovation

Case # 21-93: Mustard Seed, Inc.  
653 Mississippi Blvd.  
Memphis, TN 38126

Applicant / Owner: First Baptist Church Lauderdale  
682 S. Lauderdale St.  
Memphis, TN 38126

Background: DRB review is required for this project because it received a South City Good Neighbor Grant at the January 20, 2021, CCDC meeting.

The subject property is located on the northwest corner of Mississippi Blvd. and Georgia Ave. The site contains a 3,404 sq. ft. building, built in 1935, and provides commercial office space for three (3) tenants: Mustard Seed Inc., First Baptist Church – Lauderdale and the Corner Club.

Mustard Seed Inc., is a 501(c)(3) organization founded by members of First Baptist Church – Lauderdale. The non-profit provides on-site education, job training and life skills to youth, adult and senior members of the South City community and surrounding neighborhoods.

Project Description: The scope of work includes exterior repair with tuck-pointing and masonry work. The building will be entirely re-painted with a new mural along the northern side. The doors and windows will be replaced and new exterior lighting will be installed.

Staff Report: The South City Good Neighbor Grant aims to strengthen the character of important places within the South City community through enhancing the pedestrian experience.

The proposed exterior improvements help a community anchor better serve and provide for members of the South City Neighborhood and surrounding areas. The scope of work brings art, transparency, lighting, and character to a corner in much-need

of investment, through the use of high-quality materials. Staff is supportive of the proposed renovations.

**Staff Recommendation:**

**Staff recommends approval with two (2) conditions:**

- 1. Mural and lighting fixtures must be submitted as a separate DRB application.**
- 2. Signage must be submitted to staff for review.**