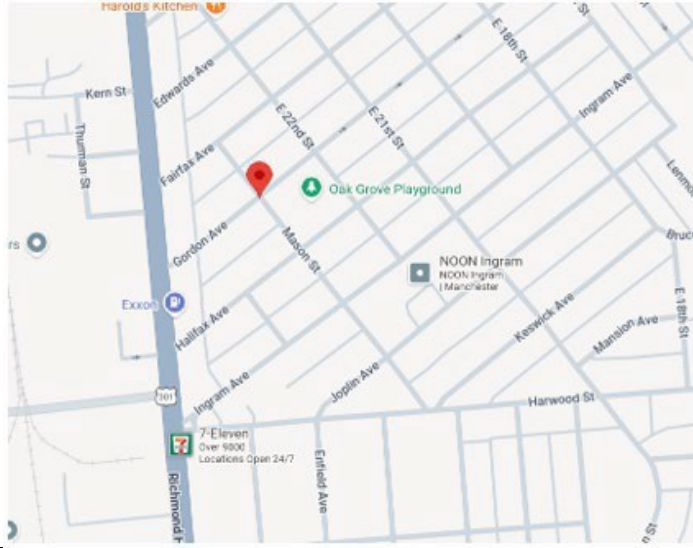
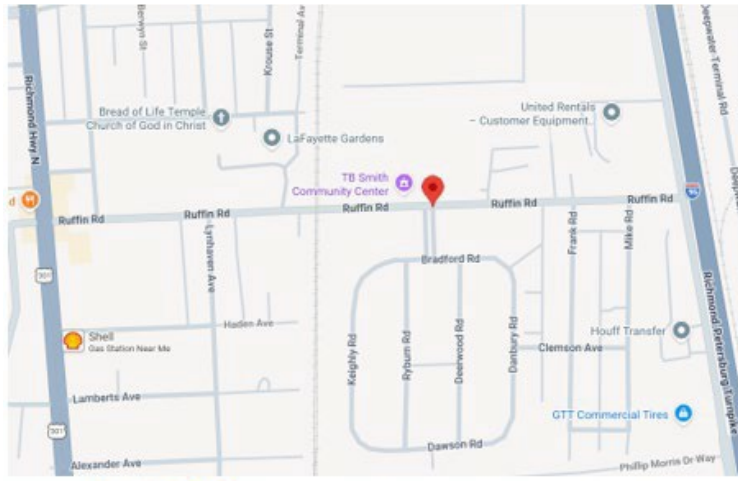




Staff Report
 City of Richmond, Virginia
 Public Art Commission

PAC 2026-003	Meeting Date: 5/5/2026
Applicant/Petitioner	Monica Kinsey, Planner/Secretary, Public Art Commission
Project Description	<p>The City is seeking design and location approval of a work of art that Virginia Community Voice (VACV) desires to gift to the city. The proposed art will consist of two murals that will be installed on City streets in the Oak Grove neighborhood. The sites are at the intersections of Davee and Ruffin Roads by T.B. Smith Community Center, and East 22nd Street and Gordon Avenue by Oak Grove Playground.</p> <p>VACV surveyed the community on locations for the project and designs, and nearby residents voiced support for the intended street murals. The aim of the street art, titled <i>Art for Safer Streets</i>, is to slow down traffic at these intersections, providing safer pedestrian access to T.B. Smith Community Center and Oak Grove Playground and supporting the city's efforts to improve pedestrian and vehicular safety. The street murals will also serve to enhance community-building and placemaking in the neighborhood.</p> <p>The mural designs are by artist Hamilton Glass. The artist will adhere to guidelines outlined in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, using anti-slip paint and selecting paint colors that align with the requirements outlined there.</p> <p>The street murals, which feature the word <i>unity</i> surrounded by outstretched hands, reflect Richmond's core values and serve as a reminder of the city's commitment to inclusivity and community support.</p> <p>Representatives from the Department of Transportation and Department of Public Works have reviewed this project and have no concerns about the installation of the two street murals.</p>
Davee & Ruffin Road East 22 nd & Gordon Avenue	
Virginia Community Voice (VACV)	

Council District(s): 1 2
 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
 City-Wide



PAC Recommendation	Approval
Staff Contact	Monica Kinsey, Planner/Secretary, Public Art Commission, (804) 646-3303, monica.kinsey@rva.gov

BASIS FOR DESIGN AND LOCATION

The street mural installations outside T.B. Smith Community Center and Oak Grove Playground will slow down vehicular traffic, increase pedestrian safety, and enhance a sense of community around busy gathering sites that provide integral amenities to the children and families of the surrounding neighborhoods. The street murals, which feature the word *unity* surrounded by outstretched hands, reflect Richmond's core values and serve as a reminder of the city's commitment to inclusivity and community support.

The proposed murals also further Objective 4.2 of the *Richmond 300 Master Plan*, which seeks to “Integrate public art into the built environment to acknowledge Richmond’s unique history and neighborhood identity, and engage the creative community, focusing public art efforts in areas that do not have public art today.”

MAINTENANCE

The intersection murals will be painted with anti-slip paint for asphalt art that typically lasts 2-5 years. Depending on the traffic volume of the street, there is a possibility that the ground mural may need to be touched up during that time. As part of the proposed gift to the city, VACV has offered to provide maintenance of this mural in the next 2-5 years to the extent it is able to raise funds for that purpose.

ARTIST BIO

Hamilton Glass started his art career as an architect, and after working in the field for seven years discovered his true passion was painting. His paintings, however, are reminiscent of his past as an architect through technique and style. He often utilizes geometric shapes, line, and color to create bold, graphic murals that work with the existing architecture or landscape to create site-specific works of art. Glass is honored to be a frequent collaborator with organizations who are focused on community growth and outreach. This part of his practice offers him the opportunity to give back to the community through his art and is a huge inspiration in itself.

Glass is a founder of *Mending Walls*, whose mission is to advance social justice by connecting community members from different backgrounds in conversation to foster empathy, understanding, and healing using art as a major vehicle. *Mending Walls* was featured in an Emmy award-winning documentary on PBS. Glass has completed street murals on City property in the past, including street murals for the Bon Secours Richmond Community Hospital as part of its *Community Today, Community Tomorrow: Pathway to Wellness in the East End* strategy.

CORRELATION TO THE PUBLIC ART MASTER PLAN

Distribute Public Art Equitably (p. 55)

. . . To engender interest and enthusiasm about public art in the city, the program must be active in neighborhoods outside of the downtown core to engage more citizens. Smaller-scale projects created by artists that interact with neighborhood residents can contribute to the texture and identity of an area and help provide a sense of community by adding landmarks, touchstones, and a unique character.

Local Artists and Projects (p.58)

This plan strongly recommends that the Public Art Program . . . support high quality public art projects by local artists.

Priority Sites & Projects (p. 63-69)

Community Gathering Sites

CORRELATION TO RICHMOND 300 MASTER PLAN

Goal 4: Urban Design (p. 99)

Public art is critical to showcase a place’s uniqueness, culture, and history . . . Future public art projects and improved streetscapes in all parts of the city set the tone for high-quality development and create pride for residents as they look forward to the future prosperity of their neighborhood and their personal household.

Objective 4.2 (p. 102)

Integrate public art into the built environment to acknowledge Richmond’s unique history and neighborhood identity, and engage the creative community, focusing public art efforts in areas that do not have public art today.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Mural designs, Gift of Art Form, letters of support

