



CITY OF RICHMOND
Department of Planning & Development Review
Staff Report

PAC 2021-002: Section 17.05 Review of a public art installation (Becoming Silt II) consisting of a temporary (1 week) sculpture to be placed by the James River on the site of the Huguenot Flatwater Park within the James River Park System

To: City Planning Commission
From: Public Art Commission
Date: May 3, 2021

PETITIONER

Christina Sadovnikov, artist

PROJECT LOCATION

Becoming Silt II, will be on a bare section of ground off of the Huguenot Woods' main trail located within the Huguenot Flatwater Park. It will be 15ft from the entrance to the Huguenot Woods Trails when coming from the intersection of Stratford Road and Riverside Drive. GPS coordinates of the site: 37°33'34.5"N 77°32'20.0"W; (Voting District #4)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Becoming Silt II will feature a three-yard long rust-dyed weaving strung with clay beads, broken brick gravel in piles on the ground, steel hourglass structures that hold broken bricks and vessels made of clay that was sourced from Richmond, VA. This work encourages the community to explore fruitful ways of developing new material relationships with the James River and the City of Richmond. *Becoming Silt II* encourages members of the Richmond community to explore our own bodies as not too different from the silt that is carried by a single water droplet. We, like silt in the river, come together as a collective of droplets continuously picking up sediment and redepositing it, therefore, shaping our physical surroundings and our material histories. Materials List: steel, rust-dyed cotton, ceramic beads, ceramic vessels, broken bricks, brick gravel

RATIONALE FOR PLACING THE WORK ON PUBLIC PROPERTY

The work was made after spending every day swimming out in the James River for a summer a couple of years ago. The foundation of the work is to draw the analogy that a person is not so different from a single water particle carrying silt. It is important that the work is in a place where people are continuously walking past it and that is in proximity to the river so the community can come closer to exploring the content of the work for themselves. Huguenot Flatwater Park offers a great location to show the work in an area off of a walking trail that has lower foot traffic than other trails in the James River Park System (as to not impede on other outdoor recreational activities) and the location is within view of the James River.

Artist Qualifications

The artist graduated with a BFA in Craft and Material Studies from Virginia Commonwealth University. She has been a resident at Mass MoCA for the Assets for Artists Residency Program. She has been awarded the Merit Scholarship through Oxbow School of Art, the Arrowmont School of Crafts Fellowship, and the Outstanding Student Award through the Surface Design Association. Her work has been featured in numerous exhibitions in places such as Studio Two Three, MOB Studio, Anderson Gallery, and VALLT Gallery. (<https://c-sadovnikov.com>)

Correlation to Public Art Master Plan

- Involves temporary art installations (p 8)
- Encourages community-based involvement in a public art project (p 7 & 8)
- Distributes public art equitably and delivers public art to more diverse communities (p 55)

Recommendation:

On April 22, 2021, the Public Art Commission voted to recommend approval of the project's conceptualization and location with the following conditions:

1. The petitioner shall be responsible for obtaining and adhering to all necessary permissions and permits for the project as required by the James River Parks System.
2. The petitioner will comply with the JRPS's "leave no trace principle" when dismantling the project.

Staff Contact:

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Susan Glasser, Secretary to the Public Art Commission, 804.646.7319

Attachments: Proposed art schematic, location, and JRPS letter of support