



CITY OF RICHMOND

Department of Planning & Development Review *Staff Report*

Section 17.05 Review: Approval of a public art installation consisting of seven “Community Cubes” used for seating at select bus stops around the City.

To: Planning Commission
From: Public Art Commission
Date: November 4, 2019

PETITIONER

Kevin Orlosky, Art on Wheels

PROJECT LOCATIONS

Multiple locations have been proposed. Seven final locations will be selected.

- Jackson Ward at 2nd& Broad (stop 3601)
- East End (Church Hill North, Union Hill, Peter Paul): Either stop 1377 at 23rd& Jefferson or stop 1965 at Oakwood & Q
- Southside (Bellemeade, Jeff Davis): Stop 1426 at Jeff David & Ruffin or stop 1435 at Jeff Davis & Terminal
- Downtown Area: Stop 352 at Broad&11th or stop 385 at Broad & Adams
- Near the River: Stop 3678 at Main at East Riverfront or stop 1627 at Main & 25th
- Southside (Manchester, Blackwell): Stop 792 at Cowardin & Bainbridge or 1287 at Hull & 9th
- Either any previously listed stop or stop 1263 At Hull & 14th

PROJECT PURPOSE

To provide auxiliary seating at bus stops developed through a community art project

SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATION

Background:

Art on Wheels, a local non-profit art organization that “brings comprehensive arts programming to communities with limited access to the arts,” believes the arts are a crucial tool to help transform and build happy and healthy communities. In early 2018, the organization asked the community to help choose its next community-wide public art project. Through a public voting process the Community Cubes was selected and has become the core of its community arts programming.

At many festivals and neighborhood events, Art on Wheels asked the people to use a personal object, something they carry every day, to make an impression in a slab of clay. Each object was gently pressed into the clay until hundreds of impressions were made. The slabs were taken back to the studio to be cast using a polymerized plaster and assembled into cubes.

The Community Cubes, funded in part by a grant from CultureWorks, will be placed at bus stops throughout the city to serve as benches and to represent the communities that helped make them. Each bench is a fascinating look at the daily ephemera of our lives, and simultaneously reflects our individuality and our shared experiences.

Correlation to Public Art Master Plan:

- Involves temporary “commissions” (p 8)
- Encourages community-based involvement in a public art project (p 7 & 8)

Recommendation: On October 24, 2019, the Public Art Commission voted to recommend approval of the project’s conceptualization and locations 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 Department of Public Works and (if necessary) GRTC.
2. The petitioner shall be responsible for the cost, maintenance, and installation of the Community Cubes.

Art on Wheels requested \$6,000 in support to cover installation costs and requested that the City accept the Community Cubes as gifts of art to be included in the City’s Public Art Collection. Both of these requests were tabled pending discussions with the City Attorney’s Office.

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