



CITY OF RICHMOND

Department of Planning & Development Review Staff Report

A2018 – 3737: Section 17.05 Review to approve a temporary public art installation, Open Inbox, by artist Barry O'Keefe.

To: Planning Commission
From: Public Art Commission
Date: July 16, 2018

APPLICANT

Barry O' Keefe, artist

LOCATION

Roots of Woodville Community Garden (Tate Street and North 28th Street)

PURPOSE

Section 17.05 Review to approve a temporary public art installation, Open Inbox, by artist Barry O'Keefe.

SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATION

Background: *Open Inbox* is a series of hand carved wooden sculptures, each designed for a different neighborhood. These sculptures function both as reverent monuments to neighborhood history and identity, and as functional community message boards and meeting points. Each sculpture is paired with an edition of 100 handmade invitations. Following installation, these invitations will be distributed to neighbors surrounding each installation site, announcing the sculpture and inviting them to use it.

Maintenance:

All maintenance for these works will remain the responsibility of the artist for the full project duration. The artist will perform bi-monthly site visits to each piece for routine maintenance, and check for any damage or needed repairs. In the event that the sculptures are damaged or vandalized, it will be the responsibility of the artist to clean, repair, or remove the sculpture, if the damage is irreparable.

In the event that complaints are received about offensive or inappropriate postings in one of the message boards, it will be the responsibility of the artist, or a community sponsor, to remove these postings.

Following installation, the artist will seek community sponsors, through existing relationships with local neighborhood associations, to assume this responsibility.

INSTALLATION: It is the responsibility of the artist to work with a contractor that is fully licensed and insured to install the concrete bases properly per the standards of the Parks Department and City of Richmond code.

Durability: Each box is constructed of solid hardwoods with wood joinery designed to expand and contract with temperature and moisture. The wood is treated with stains, oils and marine-grade spar urethane that make it resistant to rot, U.V. damage and moisture. The sculptures have

watertight roofs which effectively shed water.

Recommendation:

The artist has found funding to complete this project on his own behalf and done extensive due diligence with both community members and city staff.

The Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities is supportive of this project.

On June 28, 2018, the Public Art Commission voted to recommend that the Planning Commission approve this Section 17.05 Review Item.

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