



# City of Richmond

City Hall  
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## Meeting Minutes Public Art Commission

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Thursday, July 25, 2024

3:30 PM

5th Floor Conference Room of City Hall

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To access the meeting via Microsoft Teams use the following link:

[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_YWE1YmVIOTAtNTBhNy00ZjhkLTk0OTItODE3NDA3MWQ3OTJk%40thread.v2/0?](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YWE1YmVIOTAtNTBhNy00ZjhkLTk0OTItODE3NDA3MWQ3OTJk%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%223f56d663-141b-4418-b66c-326033ab9ce1%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%221e0c8c99-084c-40aa-be7f-b52602b32cb3%22%7d)

[context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%223f56d663-141b-4418-b66c-326033ab9ce1%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%221e0c8c99-084c-40aa-be7f-b52602b32cb3%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YWE1YmVIOTAtNTBhNy00ZjhkLTk0OTItODE3NDA3MWQ3OTJk%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%223f56d663-141b-4418-b66c-326033ab9ce1%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%221e0c8c99-084c-40aa-be7f-b52602b32cb3%22%7d)

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This meeting will be held in-person in the 5th Floor Conference Room of City Hall at 900 East Broad Street in Richmond, Virginia 23219. While all Public Art Commissioners and staff will attend the meeting in-person, citizens may participate in the meeting virtually.

### Special Guidelines for Public Access and Citizen Participation

To access and/or participate in the Public Art Commission meeting on Thursday, July 25, at 3:30 PM, you have several options:

1. Access the meeting by phone

You may listen to the meeting (audio only) from your phone by dialing +1 804-316-9457 and when prompted, enter conference ID 283 616 090 841

2. Access the meeting online by computer, tablet or smartphone (audio and video)

To access the meeting via Microsoft Teams use the following link:

[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_YWE1YmVIOTAtNTBhNy00ZjhkLTk0OTItODE3NDA3MWQ3OTJk%40thread.v2/0?](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YWE1YmVIOTAtNTBhNy00ZjhkLTk0OTItODE3NDA3MWQ3OTJk%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%223f56d663-141b-4418-b66c-326033ab9ce1%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%221e0c8c99-084c-40aa-be7f-b52602b32cb3%22%7d)

[context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%223f56d663-141b-4418-b66c-326033ab9ce1%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%221e0c8c99-084c-40aa-be7f-b52602b32cb3%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YWE1YmVIOTAtNTBhNy00ZjhkLTk0OTItODE3NDA3MWQ3OTJk%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%223f56d663-141b-4418-b66c-326033ab9ce1%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%221e0c8c99-084c-40aa-be7f-b52602b32cb3%22%7d)

3. Access the meeting online by computer, tablet or smartphone (audio only)

Audio of the meeting will be streamed via Legistar live online at the following web address:

<https://richmondva.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

To listen to the meeting's live stream at the web address provided, find and click the link that reads "In Progress" in the farthest right hand column entitled, "Video."

NOTE: This is a "listen only" option. Individuals accessing the meeting online via Legistar will not be able to participate in the meeting's public hearing.

**Participating in the Meeting/Providing Public Comment****1. Provide public comment regarding items on the agenda prior to the meeting**

Citizens are encouraged to provide their comments in writing to [monica.kinsey@rva.gov](mailto:monica.kinsey@rva.gov) in lieu of speaking through audio or video means during the meeting. All written comments received via email prior to 10:00 AM on Thursday, July 25, will be provided to all members of the Public Art Commission prior to the beginning of the meeting and will be included in the record of the meeting.

When submitting your comments by email, be sure to include in your email

(i) your full legal name;

(ii) any organizations you represent, and;

(iii) any economic or professional relationships that would be affected by the adoption of the legislation on which you are commenting.

The person responsible for receiving written comments is Monica Kinsey, Secretary, Public Art Commission.

**2. Provide public comment regarding items on the agenda during to the meeting**

If you are accessing the meeting by phone or via Microsoft Teams and you would like to speak during the meeting's public hearing, you will be asked to do so during the meeting at the appropriate time, and the applicable time limits will be enforced.

**Call to Order****Roll Call**

**Secretary Kinsey called roll.**

**Chair Ashley Kistler – present**

**Vice Chair Andrea Almond – present**

**Ana Edwards – present (online)**

**Leo Mantey – present**

**Matt Spahr – present**

**Maggie Bettin – absent**

**Charles Piper – absent**

**Vice Chair Almond motioned, and Commission Member Spahr seconded, to allow Commission Member Edwards to be present virtually.**

**Motion passed by the following vote:**

**Chair Kistler – Aye**

**Vice Chair Almond – Aye**

**Mantey – Aye**

**Spahr – Aye**

**Approval of Minutes**

PAC Minutes for April 2024

**Attachments:** [April 2024 Meeting Minutes](#)

**Vice Chair Almond motioned, and Commission Member Mantey seconded, to approve the Draft Minutes Document from 4/25/24.**

**Motion passed by the following vote:**

Chair Kistler – Aye  
Vice Chair Almond – Aye  
Mantey – Aye  
Spahr – Aye  
Edwards – Aye

PAC Minutes for June 2024

**Attachments:** [June 2024 Meeting Minutes](#)

Chair Kistler continued the Draft Minutes Document from 6/27/24 to the following meeting.

## Secretary's Report

### PAC Ordinance:

The ordinance draft is currently under review by the City Attorney's office. The final version is expected to be introduced to City Council this September; Secretary Kinsey will share the date with commission members when this is confirmed. Once in place, this ordinance will dissolve the current commission. Incumbent members are eligible for reappointment through the application process. Ultimately, Council will appoint eight members and the Mayor will appoint one. Kevin Vonck is checking with Council to confirm when we might put out the call for applicants; there will be a new application form, with submissions going to Council.

Commission Member Mantey shared that it's a priority to get the ordinance introduced to Council in August and that the process to appoint new commission members could take 6 to 8 weeks.

### Next PAC Meeting:

The PAC will not meet in August; the next meeting will take place September 26th, which could be the last time this current iteration of the PAC meets.

### Social Media:

Secretary Kinsey will meet with Ross Catrow, Deputy Director of the Office of Strategic Communications, regarding an Instagram presence for the PAC in the interest of better connecting the community with PAC projects, opportunities, the city's public art collection, and more.

### Temporary Art:

The PAC is aiming to release the RFP in the Fall, with installations unveiled in the Spring. Secretary Kinsey met with Asif Bhavnagri, the Mayor's Deputy Chief of Staff, who expressed interest in the project and in collaborating with various departments to make it happen. Secretary Kinsey is working with the City Attorney's Office on the temporary art contract. She is starting to develop the Request for Proposals and will present a final draft to the PAC at the September meeting.

### Projects:

#### Southside Community Center Skatepark

The Contract Modification to extend the project to the end of November from August is nearly complete; Secretary Kinsey is awaiting the signature of one last party. Once the contract is complete, the PAC will coordinate with VCUarts on a talk with artist Alexis Sablone at the ICA.

#### Southside Community Center Gateway

The artist's contract remains under review. Secretary Kinsey met with the City Attorney's Office to address contract edits proposed by the artist's lawyer; edits are moving forward, with an updated version going to the artist and their lawyer soon.

#### Broad Rock Community Garden

Installation is complete; Secretary Kinsey is reaching out to the Mayor's Office about scheduling a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Silly Genius. The Secretary will reach out to Emily Smith at 1708 Gallery to assist with promotion.

#### Alice Fitz Community Garden

Artist Ellanor Milkowski has been ill; Secretary Kinsey is awaiting their response on scheduling a time to meet to verify project completion.

#### Fire Station #12

Installation on A Gang of Three Plus One's sculpture is almost done; Secretary Kinsey is awaiting an expected completion date and will be reaching out to the Mayor's Office to schedule a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

#### Charles S. Gilpin Community Garden

There are traffic safety concerns affecting access to the garden. Councilmember Lambert has expressed support of expediting traffic safety updates. Neighborhood youth spoke at City Council on Monday to advocate for the changes. The Department of Public Works plans to implement improvement to the southwestern entrance; they'll be installing a raised crosswalk at that end. Secretary Kinsey is working to gather more details on DPW's plans and timeline. Improving safety for the community members is of immediate concern.

Barry O'Keefe, the artist constructing the archway for the garden, will install their piece at the southwestern end of the site instead of the northeastern end as initially discussed, since DPW will be focusing their safety and accessibility improvement efforts on that southwestern end. The DPW improvements will impact Barry's work at the site, so the timeline for this project will need to be adjusted accordingly.

#### Slave Trailhead

Due to errors discovered in SlideRoom, the evaluation and selection process has been delayed. Secretary Kinsey is working to correct these issues so that artist presentations may proceed and a finalist may be selected in August.

#### Bon Secours Gifts of Art

This gift of two street murals was approved by the PAC in the April meeting and scheduled to go to the Planning Commission in May for review and approval. However, this gift ended up not being reviewed by the Planning Commission. One of the elements that delayed progress there is that considerations around Government Speech must be included in the review process for this gift, as these street murals include text, so additional steps are required as a result. Secretary Kinsey is working with the Planning Commission and the City Attorney's Office to resolve this and get the process moving forward again.

#### April Banks Gift of Art

The gift was approved by the PAC in the April meeting. Relocation costs need to be negotiated and included as part of the ordinance for this sculpture. An early August meeting will be scheduled with the Black History Museum of Richmond regarding this piece and the potential for it to be installed at Abner Clay Park.

Commission Chair Kistler noted that Gary Flowers should receive an invite for the meeting with the Black History Museum.

Commission Chair Kistler requested that Secretary Kinsey check the status of the Hillside Court project with the RRHA.

## **Consideration of Continuances and Deletions from Agenda**

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **REGULAR AGENDA**

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Richmond Connects: Lighter/Quicker/Cheaper (Tactical Urbanism Program)

Richmond Connects:

Richmond Connects, a program within the Office of Equitable Transit and Mobility, is initiating a series of tactical urbanism projects under their Lighter, Quicker, Cheaper initiative to include street murals.

Richmond Connects created an RFP for one artist to complete a series of street murals in collaboration with community groups. They selected Sam Skrimpz (he/him) as the inaugural artist for the first round of this residency program.

Anna Bon-Harper from the Office of Equitable Transit and Mobility and the Department of Public Works was present to share about their plans and learn more about the Commission's role in reviewing and approving public art projects. We're excited to partner with them on this and future projects!

Tactical urbanism projects could include bike racks, sculpture, bus shelter designs, and street murals. Artist Sam Skrimpz has been hired by Bon-Harper's team for a year-long contract with an hourly wage. He will execute the first phase of the Lighter, Quicker, Cheaper program, which will include 12-13 street murals. Commission Chair Kistler recommended that Richmond Connects enlist a PAC member for future rounds of artist reviews.

Bon-Harper confirmed that DPW is up to speed on the Richmond Connect plans and stated that she is aware of government speech considerations relative to street murals. The artist plans to avoid text in his mural designs. The community will be involved in the design and installation process. Commission Chair Kistler recommended doing 3-4 designs at a time to encourage an efficient PAC review process; Bon-Harper agreed that staggering the designs would be a beneficial approach. Bon-Harper and Skrimpz plan to attend PAC Meetings each month, where they will present designs for the PAC's review.

Bon-Harper noted that the street murals will likely remain in place 1-3 years depending on whether permanent infrastructure has been put in place at that time. They will reinstall and repaint if/as needed; if timeline dictates or requires this. At this time, they are planning for non-permanent paint, but will explore other paint options if necessary. Bon-Harper is happy to discuss a maintenance plan in the future.

Bon-Harper noted that one artist was chosen in order to support efficient processes,

which is one of the goals of the LQC initiative. Commission Chair Kistler emphasized that it would be ideal to divide the opportunities amongst several artists. The PAC will help circulate future RFPs and with future artist selection. Commission Member Spahr noted a lot of designs can be created quickly when working with several artist versus a single artist.

Bon-Harper shared a map of potential LQC project locations, noting that the public can submit location requests directly to Richmond Connects. She mentioned the intent for one LQC project per district, including the VCUarts area. Secretary Kinsey noted the need for an LQC project by the Gilpin Community Garden and Calhoun Recreation Center area, which she had previously discussed with Bon-Harper. Bon-Harper's team is in contact with community members on the traffic safety concerns and the potential for Richmond Connects to address them through the LQC program. Commission Member Almond referenced the Public Art Master Plan and goals stipulated there regarding equitable distribution of public art projects. She noted Southside as an area to consider for the LQC initiative.

### Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground

Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground:

Commission member Ana Edwards presented about the Shockoe Hill African Burying Ground site and how PAC might be part of plans for that site.

Commission Member Edwards provided historical context, emphasizing the significance of the site on a national scale. The long history of desecration of the site has resulted in its invisibility within the landscape, despite being one of if not the largest urban African cemetery in the United States.

As part of the Shockoe Project, Baskervill will manage commemoration of the site. Any plans must engage and involve the community. There is potential for a public art component, with PAC's involvement similar to that of the Slave Trailhead project.

Kim Chen discussed challenges presented by the existing structures (an old gas station, the Lamar billboard), whose removal could further disrupt the burial ground. The sacred nature of the site and the presence of the existing structures demand creative memorialization solutions. Kim noted that due to the constraints and limitations, it may be necessary to focus any commemorative or public art endeavors to the perimeter of the site. She mentioned that it may be possible to plant a wildflower garden if adding sod to the top layer of the site is an option.

### Adjournment