



Staff Report City of Richmond, Virginia Public Art Commission



Write legislation/ordinance number here.	Meeting Date: 9/23/2021
Applicant/Petitioner	Artist Selection Panel, Southside Community Center Skatepark
Project Description	<p>Richmond’s Public Art Commission is commissioning a permanent public art installation at the Southside Community Center Skate Park currently under construction. The skatepark is being conceived as a regional (and potentially national) skatepark destination.</p> <p>The vision for this project is a place-making landmark that defines a unique characteristic of the skatepark adjacent to the Southside Community Center. Rather than limit artists to a particular footprint or single theme, the Public Art Commission is opting to provide a menu of possible approaches that artists might consider.</p> <p>Enhance the skatepark with a distinctive aesthetic experience Highlight the importance of the site as a community facility Ensure durability and easy maintenance Meet at least one functional need of skatepark visitors including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Shade structure (for skaters and/or observers) *Seating *Open storage/cubby solution for skateboarders *Skate-able feature *Gateway into the skatepark *Community gathering space <p>Thirty-three artists from around the country responded to the RFQ. Four artists were invited to submit a full proposal and, after reviewing the proposals, the Artist Selection Panel made its final selection: Alexis Sablone.</p>
Project Location	
Southside Community Center Skatepark, 6255 Old Warwick Road North	
Write site neighborhood here.	
Council District(s): <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 9 <input type="checkbox"/> City-Wide	
(Recommending body) Recommendation	Approval, with Conditions
Staff Contact	Susan Glasser, Secretary, Public Art Commission, 804.644.7319, susan.glasser@richmondgov.com
Conditions for Approval	The artist shall be responsible for meeting all the terms of the City contract as well as making minor alterations to the final design based on requests from the Artist Selection Panel, including but not limited to, treating surfaces for ease of graffiti cleaning, landscaping along bump path to minimize mowing damage, altering orientation of the structure to integrated more with the skatepark itself.

RATIONAL FOR PLACING ON PUBLIC PROPERTY

% for Art CIP project.

ARTIST'S QUALIFICATIONS

Alexis Sablone has a Bachelor's degree from Barnard College and a Master's degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, both in architecture. She received her first signature pro deck in 2017 as the first female member of the WKND Skateboards team. She also created graphics for the "Sir Palmer" video released by WKND in 2018 and illustrated some of board graphics for the company.

In 2018, she was invited to design a skate-able sculpture for a public square in Malmö, Sweden. 'Lady In The Square' is an artistic interpretation of a woman's face from an aerial view, but up close it forms a grouping of skate obstacles set on top of a three-stair square. This project is an example of a perfect incorporation of skateboarding and fine art into public space.

In June 2019, Sablone collaborated with Converse to release her first pro model sneakers: white suede low-top One Star Pros with an ochre star. *Vogue* explained the significance of Sablone's accomplishment in May 2019 article: "Beyond being a symbol of athletic achievement, pro model merchandise offers female skaters an important opportunity to monetize their success. It was only last year that Sablone and her peers were able to make a living wage off of their sport." She was a member of the USA Olympic Women's Skateboard team in 2021 and came in fourth.

More about the artist's aesthetic output can be found at alexissablone.com.

CORRELATION TO PUBLIC ART MASTER PLAN

% for Art CIP project.

This will be the first PAC in the 9th Ward

The PA Master Plan states: p. 55: Distribute Public Art Equitably

. . . 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.

The location of this project corresponds with multiple "priority" locations outlined in the PA Master Plan

Priority Sites & Projects (pp. 83-89)

- SITES THAT ADDRESS AREAS OF THE CITY NEEDING ATTENTION: . . . Strategic decision-making about where public art is best sited on the south side will be crucial.
- NATURAL SITES
- HEALTH-FOCUSED SITES
- YOUTH-FOCUSED SITES

ATTACHMENT(S)

Alexis Sablone's Proposal