



# City of Richmond

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## Meeting Minutes Public Art Commission

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Thursday, July 25, 2019

4:30 PM

5th Floor Confernece Room of City Hall

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### Call to Order

### Roll Call

**Present (9): Commission Chair Ashley Kistler, Vice-Chair Anne Fletcher, Commissioners Andrea Almond, Ana Edwards, Gary Flowers, Charles Piper, Matt Spahr, and Non-voting Staff Members Matthew Ebinger and Susan Glasser**

**Absent (3): Commissioners Amber Esseiva, Vik Murthy, and Mark Olinger**

### Approval of Minutes

**A motion was made by Matt Spahr to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Anne Fletcher, and unanimously approved by the Commissioners.**

### Secretary's Report

Noted eight more names were added to the Artist Advisory List by Matt; Anne requested that information on this list be fleshed out to highlight the specific skill sets each advisor possesses as the PAC starts evaluating individuals on the list for participation in future searches.

Preparatory research and plans to meet with Directors of assorted City Agencies will be underway this fall in an effort to educate stewards of CIP appropriations of the myriad ways public art can enhance their future CIP projects (in preparation for FY21 budget discussions).

### Consideration of Continuances and Deletions from Agenda

Ashley provided a status report on recruitment for a new Commissioner; one candidate with a background in performing arts is currently under consideration.

Plans for the exhibition of Brian Palmer's portrait photographs of Richmond Civic Leaders in the lobby of City Hall are underway. The exhibition will run from September 4 through the end of November. Commissioners were asked to pencil in Sept 23, 24, and 25, one of which will be a reception for the exhibition.

### REGULAR AGENDA

1.

Artist Mac Wood presented his proposal for a mural on the 21st Street Tower of the James River Park System. The project is being coordinated with the Park System and is funded by a grant from CultureWorks. Significant discussion followed concerning the overall condition of the Tower and the appropriateness of producing a mural on a

deteriorating structure.

**A motion was made by Gary Flowers followed by Anne to approve the design with the condition that the “most egregious damage” on the Tower be fixed by the Park System before the project can advance; seconded by Ashley, and unanimously approved by the Commissioners.**

## 2. FUTURE PAC PROJECTS DISCUSSION

### Scale of Project(s)/Budget

Ashley provided an overview of key upcoming decisions: (1) defining the scale (the size/scope/complexity of a project); (2) selecting projects that are “conceptually relevant” (e.g. Shockoe Bottom Heritage Site which fits the Master Plan’s emphasis on “authenticity” and projects that “grapple with Richmond’s . . . difficult history”); (3) initiating projects that support local artists (e.g., working with underserved neighborhoods or instituting a Mayor’s Public Art Award); and 4) determining budgets and when to apply for supplemental grants and donations (e.g., NEA’s Our Town grants or something from Bloomberg Philanthropies).

### Process/Timeframes

Anne provided an overview of varying project timeframes starting with The Path Untraveled project by the riverfront which took 2 ½ years from start to finish and provided details about the various procedures needed. Basic process phases include: (1) project initiation (approx. 2-4 months); (2) artist selection (approx. 2-4 months); (3) preliminary design (approx. 3-6 months); (4) final design (approx. 3-9 months); and (5) project fabrication and unveiling (approx. 2-18 months). Time frames vary greatly contingent on the scale of the project.

### Locations

This portion of the agenda, which was to be led by Mark Olinger, will be moved to the PAC September 26 meeting since Mark was unable to attend July meeting.

### Overview of “Project Considerations” from Master Plan

Ashley asked Ana Edwards (who is Chair of the Sacred Ground Historical Reclamation Project) to update the PAC on the Shockoe Bottom Small Area Master Plan. Ana emphasized that the African American Historical resources are being understood as the “heart and soul” of plans for Shockoe Bottom. Current efforts include finishing the Shockoe Bottom Small Area Plan (targeted for completion this year), and conceptualizing an historic heritage district centered on the Devil’s Half Acre/Lumpkins Jail site, the African Burial Ground, a “memorial park” concept that would cover the scale and ubiquitous nature of the slave trade, resistance, and achievement history, and connect with other cultural histories represented by the area. Preservation Virginia and the Sacred Ground Project anticipate completing a Shockoe Bottom Economic Impact and Benefits Study report on the project by the end of August. The study was funded by the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund. Ashley asked when it would be best for the PAC to express an interest in the project, to which Ana said now and recommended starting a conversation with Sal Musarra from Kimley-Horn, the planning and design consultants who are working with the City on the Shockoe Bottom Small Area Master Plan.

Other observations re moving forward with defining the next PAC projects included:

- Recognizing the need for several projects that operate on different timeframes
- Moving forward expeditiously on a project that will reinforce our presence in the City;

Mark's presentation on upcoming CIP projects at the September meeting might provide possible suggestions for such a project

- Ensuring large scale project is about RVA history in a transformative and significant way
- Using next project(s) to reinforce who we are as the PAC and RVA
- Needing to let City know we have plans for funds currently appropriated to the PAC
- Remember that we also have a radio platform to promote the PAC as needed

## **Adjournment**

Commission Chair Kistler "gently gaveled out" the meeting at 5:56 PM