



Staff Report  
City of Richmond, Virginia  
Public Art Commission



Write legislation/ordinance number here.	Meeting Date: 4/28/2022
Applicant/Petitioner	Community Gardens Artist Selection Panel
Project Description	<p>Alice Fitz Community Garden</p> <p>The vision for this project is an art installation that enhances the functionality and aesthetic impact of this community garden. The objective is to commission a work that simultaneously addresses a pressing infrastructure need for the gardener while also promoting the City’s commitment to public art.</p> <p>The recommended project concept submitted by Ellanor Dahlgren will have a primary role as a shelter, rain catchment and storage for the garden. The shed/storage design is spacious (8’x10’) and will have room for shelves and racks for tools.</p> <p>The shelter will be a six foot overhang extending from the shed supported by wooden beams (total 6’x10’ space). There are three benches within, enough to comfortably seat a gathering of about six people. The shelter will be open air with “walls” on either side, made up of floating shadow boxes with negative space between. The boxes will be filled with objects, writing and photographs displaying the narrative of the community. Placed among the boxes will be a little free food pantry and seed library. The extended roof of the shelter will serve as water catchment using a gutter on the longer side of the roof that feeds into a water cube.</p> <p>The theme tying the design together aesthetically is memory and community narrative through object assemblage, imagery and written statements that will result from an extensive community engagement process.</p>
Project Location	
Manchester	
1301 Perry Street	
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 8 <input 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@rva.gov
Conditions for Approval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet all terms of the City contract including necessary permits</li> <li>• Confirm that the plexi boxes will be sufficiently sealed/climate controlled to prevent the deterioration of inserts; consider using industrial plexi</li> </ul>

## RATIONAL FOR PLACING ON PUBLIC PROPERTY

% for Art and further the mission of the City's Richmond Grows initiative.

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Ellanor Milkowski Dahlgren is an up and coming artist relatively new to Richmond. She graduated from the Maine College of Art in 2017 with a BFA in Printmaking and a minor in Public Engagement. She is currently accessing studio space at the Visual Arts Center of Richmond.

## CORRELATION TO RICHMOND 300 AND THE PUBLIC ART MASTER PLAN

### Richmond 300 Master Plan

#### Goal 4: Urban Design (p. 99)

Public art is critical to showcase a place's uniqueness, culture, and history. . . . Future public art projects and improved streetscapes in all parts of the city set the tone for high-quality development and create pride for residents as they look forward to the future prosperity of their neighborhood and their personal household.

#### Objective 4.2 (p. 102)

Integrate public art into the built environment to acknowledge Richmond's unique history and neighborhood identity, and engage the creative community, focusing public art efforts in areas that do not have public art today.

### Public Art Master Plan

#### Distribute Public Art Equitably (p. 55)

. . . 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.

#### 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.

## ATTACHMENT(S)

Artist's Proposal