



CITY OF RICHMOND
INTRACITY CORRESPONDENCE

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION



CITY OF RICHMOND

DONATING GIFTS OF ART TO THE CITY

DONOR INFORMATION CHECKLIST

Anyone wishing to donate art for public display to the City of Richmond must follow the City's policies and procedures for "Gifts of Works of Art." The gift will be reviewed in accordance with uniform criteria used for all art in the City's Public Art Collection. This criteria includes:

- 1) Artistic merit and context in the City's art collection
- 2) Site appropriateness
- 3) Fabrication, handling, and installation
- 4) Oversight responsibility
- 5) City liability and maintenance requirements
- 6) Community endorsement
- 7) Budget and guarantee of funding source
- 8) Educational, cultural, and historical value; and contribution to the identity of a neighborhood or district

All art offered to any agency, department or office of the City shall be referred to the Public Art Commission (PAC) for consideration.

For art valued at less than \$2000, the PAC will review the work according to the criteria listed above and make a recommendation to the Planning Commission for final approval.

For art valued above \$2000, the PAC will appoint a "Gift Review Team" (GRT) to review the art according to that same criteria. The GRT shall consist of:

- 1) a representative of the community,
- 2) a representative of the City's user agency responsible for the artwork's care, placement or disposition, and
- 3) at least one member of the PAC.

The GRT will prepare a report for the full PAC who in turn will forward their recommendation to the Planning Commission. Following their assessment, a final recommendation will be presented to City Council for a vote. The Office of the Chief Administrative Officer will inform the donor of the art's final acceptance or rejection.

Attached are a set of forms (A-C) that must be completed in full and submitted along with a written request for consideration of the donated art to the PAC. Send to (susan.glasser@rva.gov). Please indicate if the donor will pay for relocation costs for the work and be sure to attach all requested additional materials to the forms (if applicable). These forms are necessary to provide full documentation of the gift and pertinent

information necessary for its care in the future.

Your cooperation with these procedures is appreciated.



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CITY OF RICHMOND

DONATING GIFTS OF ART TO THE CITY FORM A

ARTIST INFORMATION

Artist's Name : April Banks

Address: 852 S Lucerne Blvd #9, Los Angeles, CA 90005

Phone: 213-270-4838

Email: aprilbanks.art@gmail.com

Dealer or Agent's Name: Dashboard Co-Op INC (Partnering Non-Profit) + The Nicolson Project (Partnering Non-Profit)

Dashboard Co-Op INC

Address: 245 North Highland Ave. Suite 230-242, Atlanta, GA 30307

Phone: 646-755-5229

Email: oshun@dashboard.us

The Nicolson Project

Address: 2310 Nicholson St SE, Washington, DC 20020

Phone: 703-615-1824

Email: allison@thenicholsonproject.org

In addition, please provide the following information:

Artist's website and/or other social media platforms

April Banks

Website: <https://www.aprilbanks.com/>

Instagram: @aprilbanks_art

Dashboard

Website: www.dashboard.us

Instagram: @dashboard_us

The Nicholson Project

Website: <https://www.thenicholsonproject.org/>

Instagram: @thenicholsonproject

FORM B

WORK OF ART SPECIFICATIONS

Identification

Title of Work: *Elevate (Freedom is a Place)*

Date Executed: September 2022

Location and Description of Signature and Edition Markings:

The Nicholson Project, Washington DC; Public Art Installation; Original Artwork

Specifications

Dimensions (without pedestal): See Drawing for Dimensions

Height (in inches):	84"	
Width (in inches):	Front 109"	Back 72"
Depth (in inches):	87"	

Weight (in pounds): >1500

Pedestal Dimensions: N/A

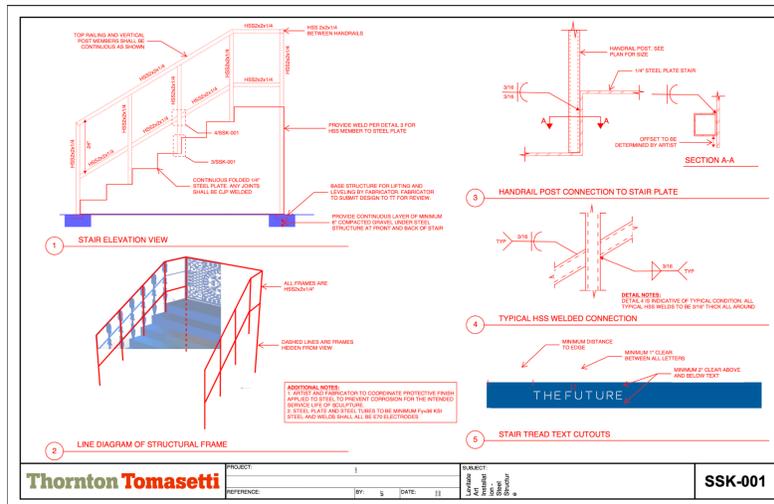
Height (in inches):	Width (in inches):	Depth (in inches):
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Weight (in pounds):

Elevate Dimensions



Included a copy of the structural drawing done by Thornton Tomasetti Engineers.



Material

List each type of fabrication material used (including welding or joining materials if applicable).

Welded Steel and Automobile Paint

Fabrication (if applicable)

Name of Fabricator(s): John Rais Studio

Address: 1436 W Lycoming St, Philadelphia, PA 19140

Phone: 570-228-1029

Primary Construction Technique(s): Metal Work and Installation

Maintenance

If the work was designed to include the weathering process as a part of its overall visual impact, please describe the type of environment for which the work was designed.

This work was designed for outdoor public spaces, urban environment, park space, garden space. Because the public is invited to sit and interact with it, a shady spot should be considered to avoid an excessively hot surface. It is not weather proofed for a marine climate.

Is the donor planning to establish a maintenance fund for the future care of the art? If so, please indicate the amount of funding to be provided and whether it is a one-time or annual contribution.

No

Additional Archival Information

Please indicate all notable public viewings, exhibitions and/or collections in which this work has been included.

In September 2022, The Nicholson Project presented *Elevate (Freedom is a Place)*, as a new public artwork by artist April Banks. Taking inspiration from the stoop, a common architectural feature in Southeast DC and throughout other parts of the City, *Elevate* serves as a pedestal, a functional piece of public art, as stage or seating, for performance or for rest.

The artwork was installed at The Nicholson Project's garden under our beautiful old oak tree facing Nicholson Street SE., and was unveiled at our third anniversary celebration on Saturday, September 17th, 2022, and will remain on view through the Spring 2024.

Elevate was curated by [Dashboard](#), and was made possible through a Public Art Building Communities grant from [DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities](#).

If this work is a limited edition, please indicate the locations of other editions.

This work is an original work of art and no other editions exist.

Please provide bibliographic information on any publications that have either reproduced or carried articles pertaining to this work.

N/A

If there is any other relevant information about the work that you feel should be presented to the Art Commission during its review, please attach it to this form.

Elevate is an echo, a re-imagining of tradition. From the side view, it is a line drawing, a ghost structure, a metaphor for weightlessness, a resistance to enclosure. From the front and top views, words and patterns cut into the structure are an archive of collective memory. The base is constructed as a single piece of metal,

folding time into place.

During the recent public art and community engagement work that April Banks has been doing around Black erasure, the subject of reparations always comes up. How does making art repair these systematic and institutional removals? Are you (the artist) really making a difference? Are you being used by organizations that want to appear on the right side of the conversation? These are difficult questions. What April does know is that public art is/should be accessible and has the power to provoke ideas, conversations, and actions. Public art is a marker, a reminder, and ideally, a truth-teller. With all of this in mind, April has been examining why she does this work and if/how it matters.

This line of questioning led her to dig into the root of reparations. Of this she says, ***“For me, it would be psychological, spiritual, and somatic as well as financial. It would be the absence of the burden. To be free of the weight of American history. To not be defined by and continually needing to navigate or respond to racism and all the isms. Can I just make something beautiful or ugly without it having to speak to identity or the political? That to me is true freedom and the reparations that I imagine. We can’t change the past but I can imagine what it might FEEL like to not have the trauma attached to my DNA. So I think about the sensation of floating, of flying. To be weightless, light. And that is how I approached this concept. How can I talk about the siting and sitting of black bodies in public space, and what a radical act Black leisure seems to be and how can these intersect?”***

April is educated as an architect and lately, her work has been considering how the construction of space and how we move through it affects how we feel. She is interested in interstitial spaces like doorways, thresholds, stairs, bridges, and porches. The stoop is a common architectural feature in the region and the neighborhood The Nicholson Project is based. The decorative metalwork that frames the stoop and the porch harkens back to another time and writes its own history into the urban landscape.

If the narrative written into the built space directly reflected the people who lived there, what might the form language be? Considering ownership verse rental and who is constructing the built space around us, brings April back to concepts around erasure, eminent domain, and historically unfair lending practices that shape who owns land and property in America. How that property is valued. The generational wealth that it produces and the legacies we inherit.

April pairs these two concepts: this idea of weightlessness with inscribing a chosen narrative into one’s own architecture. This is what she anatomizing in *Elevate (Freedom is a Place)* for The Nicholson Project.

Site Selection

If the donor has a preferred City-owned property site in which to place this work, please identify the proposed site, describe the reasons why the site was selected, and how the site will be improved or enhanced by the installation of this work.

Discussion Needed

List two alternate sites that would be acceptable to the donor. (The Public Art Commission cannot guarantee that any suggested sites will receive final approval from the City.)

FORM C

DONOR PROFILE

Donor or Donor Organization

Name: April Banks

Address:

Phone: 213-270-4838

Email: aprilbanks.art@gmail.com

Donor Liaison (if applicable)

Dashboard Co-Op INC

Address: 245 North Highland Ave. Suite 230-242, Atlanta, GA 30307

Phone: 646-755-5229

Email: oshun@dashboard.us

The Nicholson Project

Address: 2310 Nicholson St SE, Washington, DC 20020

Phone: 703-615-1824

Email: allison@thenicholsonproject.org

Please describe the circumstances under which the gift is being proposed:

Elevate (Freedom is a Place) was made possible through a Public Art Building Communities grant from [DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities](#). The grant noted that the artwork would be displayed at The Nicholson Project for up to two years. We are approaching this timeline and would like to find a second home for the artwork. Due to this we would like to donate the artwork to the City of Richmond Public Art Commission. The artist is originally from the state of VA and we believe this partnership would be an opportunity to share her story and practice.

Valuation

Appraised value: This work has not been appraised but a total of \$150,000 in funding was provided for the build out of the artwork.

Date of appraisal: N/A

Appraiser's Name: N/A

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Please attached the appraiser's report if available.