



Staff Report City of Richmond, Virginia Public Art Commission

PAC 2026-004	Meeting Date: 5/5/2026
Applicant/Petitioner	Monica Kinsey, Planner/Secretary, Public Art Commission
Project Description	<p>The City is seeking design and location approval of a work of art that the Fan District Association (FDA) desires to give to the city. The proposed art will consist of new murals on the concrete play structures at Paradise Park in the Fan. The pocket park is located between Floyd and Grove Avenues, and Vine and Allen Streets.</p> <p>Following recommendations from neighbors interested in new mural designs for the park, the park steward polled visitors with small children about the art on the concrete play structures. This resulted in the suggestion of a fairy tale-inspired theme with elements from nature. The mural designs by artist Rick Cassidy include imagery of small animals, insects, flowers, castle turrets, and related architectural elements that complement the shapes of the play structures where the murals will be installed. The Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Facilities has reviewed the proposed art and desires that the City accept it.</p>
Pocket park between Grove, Floyd, Vine, & Allen	
Fan District Association (FDA)	
Council District(s): <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 9 <input type="checkbox"/> City-Wide	

PAC Recommendation	Approval
Staff Contact	Monica Kinsey, Planner/Secretary, Public Art Commission, (804) 646-3303, monica.kinsey@rva.gov

BASIS FOR DESIGN AND LOCATION

Also known as Geometry Park, Paradise Park was designed by artist and architect Carlton Abbott in 1968 and completed in 1973. The concrete play structures have seen many murals over the years, contributing to the unique experience of the space. The proposed designs feature a cohesive, whimsical theme that will infuse the play area with new energy and enhance the overall experience of the park for families, neighbors, and visitors alike.

MAINTENANCE

Outdoor paint with a clear anti-graffiti varnish will be used. The Fan District Association will assume any repair or maintenance associated with the mural.

ARTIST BIO

Rick Cassidy is a local artist and muralist whose work has been seen on the Cary Street Cafe, local restaurants, Colesville Nursery, and Scuffletown Park. A tabletop painting featuring insects and plant life at Scuffletown Park was commissioned to combat graffiti and garnered the most views and likes on the park’s Instagram page and is reflective of the style of painting that will be introduced to Paradise Park.

CORRELATION TO THE PUBLIC ART MASTER PLAN

Local Artists and Projects (p.58)

This plan strongly recommends that the Public Art Program . . . support high quality public art projects by local artists.

Priority Sites & Projects (p. 63-69)

Community Gathering Sites

CORRELATION TO 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.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Site images, mural designs, Gift of Art Form