



CITY OF RICHMOND

Department of Planning & Development Review Staff Report

To: City Planning Commission
From: Ellyn Parker, Public Art Commission Secretary
Date: September 5, 2017

APPLICANT

Barry O' Keefe, artist

LOCATION

- 1) SW corner of McDonough Community Garden
- 2) E end of Jefferson Park at Clay Street
- 3) SW corner of S 2nd St at Oregon Hill Linear Park

PURPOSE

Section 17.05 Review to approve a temporary public art installation: Open Inbox by artist Barry O'Keefe

SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATION

Background: *Open Inbox* is a series of hand carved wooden sculptures, each designed for a different neighborhood. These sculptures function both as reverent monuments to neighborhood history and identity, and as functional community message boards and meeting points. Each sculpture is paired with an edition of 100 handmade invitations. Following installation, these invitations will be distributed to neighbors surrounding each installation site, announcing the sculpture and inviting them to use it. The artist has found funding to complete this project on his own behalf and done extensive due diligence with both community members and city staff.

Maintenance:

All maintenance for these works will remain the responsibility of the artist for the full project duration. The artist will perform bi-monthly site visits to each piece for routine maintenance, and check for any damage or needed repairs. In the event that the sculptures are damaged or vandalized, it will be the responsibility of the artist to clean, repair, or remove the sculpture, if the damage is irreparable. In the event that complaints are received about offensive or inappropriate postings in one of the message boards, it will be the responsibility of the artist, or a community sponsor, to remove these postings. Following installation, the artist will seek community sponsors, through my existing relationship with local neighborhood associations, to assume this responsibility.

INSTALLATION: It is the responsibility of the artist to work with a contractor that is fully licensed and insured to install the concrete bases properly per the standards of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities and City of Richmond code.

Durability: Each box is constructed of solid hardwoods with wood joinery designed to expand and contract with temperature and moisture. The wood is treated with stains, oils and marine-grade spar urethane that make it resistant to rot, U.V. damage and moisture. The sculptures have watertight roofs which effectively shed water.

Recommendation: The Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities supports the project. The Public Art Commission recommends approval of the project as presented.

Attachments: Letter of Support, Locations, Proposed Art

Staff Contact: Ellyn Parker, Public Art Commission Secretary 804-646-1110