



Staff Report  
City of Richmond, Virginia  
Public Art Commission



Write legislation/ordinance number here.	Meeting Date: 5/2/2022
Applicant/Petitioner	Public Art Commission
Project Description	<p>Charles S. Gilpin 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 Barry O’Keefe consists of three key elements: a gateway, storage and seating. Each of these elements will be produced using hand carved patterns made in wood, and cast in iron: providing a visual link that unifies different functional elements of the garden. Implementation of the project includes extensive community engagement as well.</p>
Project Location	
1420 St. Peter Street	
Write project address here.	
Write site neighborhood here.	
Council District(s): <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input checked="" 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	
(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> </ul>

### RATIONAL FOR PLACING ON PUBLIC PROPERTY

% for Art and further the mission of the City’s Richmond Grows initiative. The \$30K budget is inclusive of artist’s fees, materials, insurance, fabrication, installation, travel and all other project-related expenses.

### ABOUT THE ARTIST

Barry O’Keefe is an artist from Richmond, Virginia working in printmaking, painting, and public art. Thematically, his work engages with cultural amnesia, neglected public spaces, and the design of the contemporary landscape. He is also an adjunct instructor in the Department of Communication Arts and the Art Foundation Program at VCU.

In 2016 he transformed a derelict boxcar into a mobile mural and performance stage for a national music festival. In 2017, *Open Inbox*, his series of functional public sculptures was installed in Richmond’s parks in partnership with Richmond’s Public Arts Commission. In 2019 he created a giant, rolling shadow-puppet theater for a collaborative project that won the *InLight* festival People’s Choice Award.

His work has been exhibited in five countries and seven states and can be found in many private and public collections, including the Valentine Museum, the Black History Museum of Virginia, and the Library of Virginia.

## 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.
- PUBLIC HOUSING SITES

## ATTACHMENT(S)

Artist's Proposal