



April 3, 2019

Dear Neighbors,

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Visual Arts Center of Richmond. We're a 56-year-old nonprofit, and our mission is to celebrate and support the creative life of all people through art-making, exhibitions and community programs. We couldn't do it without friends like you.

As many of you know, we host Collectors' Night each March. It's a 300-person silent and live art auction that raises hundreds of thousands of dollars to support the programming we offer throughout the rest of the year. In 2019, the event marked its 33rd birthday. Many of you were in the audience, and for that we thank you.

About 10 years ago, Collectors' Night outgrew our building and we began hosting the live auction portion of the event in a large tent in our back parking lot. Most of you are familiar with the tent; each year, we distribute letters like this one, indicating the days the parking lot will be off-limits to guests.

After a recent review of our parking lot's zoning, the City of Richmond has determined that VisArts needs to apply for a special use permit if we are to continue using our parking lot for special events. An approved application will allow us to continue to install the Collectors' Night tent in the parking lot on an annual basis. This is extremely important to our organization's vitality because if we had to move the event to a different venue, Collectors' Night would become far less profitable. We also believe it's important for our guests to see, firsthand, what their support does for our studios, our building and our neighborhood.

The city's issuance of a special use permit won't change anything about the way Collectors' Night functions. We always try to get the tent up and down as quickly as possible—for your sake as well as the sake of our students and teachers.

If you have any questions about our application or would like to learn more about either Collectors' Night or the Visual Arts Center of Richmond, more generally, please reach out to any of us at (804) 353-0094. Thank you again for your ongoing support of your community arts center.

Stefanie Fedor
Executive Director

Rachel Beanland
Deputy Director

Lizzie Oliver
Director of Development