



CITY OF RICHMOND

Department of Planning & Development Review

Staff Report

PAC 2020-006: Section 17.05 Review of public art installations consisting of multiple storm drain murals adjacent to three Richmond Public Libraries.

To: Planning Commission
From: Public Art Commission
Date: December 7, 2020

PETITIONER

Jenn Clarke, Public Education and Outreach Coordinator, DPU

PROJECT LOCATIONS

Belmont Branch Library (Ellwood Ave and North Belmont Ave)
Ginter Park Branch Library (Brook Road and Westbrook Ave)
Hull Street Branch Library (Hull Street and East 14th St)

PROJECT PURPOSE

To increase awareness of stormwater pollution and celebrate native animal species that call the James River and Richmond region home through storm drain art.

SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATION

Background:

Stormwater pollution contributes to poor water quality in the James River and its tributaries. RVAH2O is currently working alongside the James River Association and Richmond Public Libraries to build awareness of stormwater and stormwater pollution through the Greening Richmond Public Libraries initiative. Art of Ripple the Library Otter and the message "your river starts here, only rain in the drain," that will be installed on storm drains around Richmond Public Libraries is intended to increase awareness of stormwater and reduce pollution entering storm drains.

The James River Association and Art on Wheels launched the Paint Out Pollution storm drain art project in 2017 and have worked in localities across the James River basin. James River Association staff members and volunteers most recently installed art of Ripple the Library Otter on storm drains around the East End Branch Library, Main Branch Library, and Westover Hills Branch Library in 2019. Artwork of Ripple the Library Otter was created by Kevin O'Malley and converted to wooden stencils by Kevin Orlosky.

The Department of Public Utilities is providing the funding for and overseeing the installation of this round of murals.

Correlation to Public Art Master Plan:

- Involves temporary "commissions" (p 8)
- Encourages community-based involvement in a public art project (p 7 & 8)
- Distributes public art equitably and delivers public art to more diverse communities (p 55)

Recommendation:

On November 19, 2020 the Public Art Commission voted to recommend approval of this item to the Planning Commission, with the following condition:

1. The petitioner shall be responsible for obtaining and adhering to all necessary permissions and permits for the project as required by the Department of Public Works.

Staff Contacts:

Matthew Ebinger, Secretary to the Planning Commission, 804.646.6308, matthew.ebinger@richmondgov.com
Susan Glasser, PAP Coordinator, and Secretary to the PAC, 804.646.7319, susan.glasser@richmondgov.com