

STUDIO TWO THREE

June 21, 2021

To the members of the Richmond City Planning Commission and Richmond City Council,

I am writing to request that you pause further action on Ordinance No. 2020-154 until:

1. The city has amended the draft "Monuments Criteria Evaluation Spreadsheet," ensuring that the monuments will not be transferred to openly racist groups or entities seeking to glorify confederate histories. We request that the city amend the scoresheet language to explicitly prohibit transfer of the monuments to institutions or individuals aiming to elevate racism or lost cause mythology.
2. There is a public, in-person community forum on the future of Richmond monuments and platforms (at locations 0 N. 29th St.; the intersection of Hermitage Road and Laburnum Avenue; 499 Stuart Circle; 2395 Monument Avenue; 2399 Monument Avenue; 2799 Monument Avenue; 3099 Monument Avenue; 3499 Monument Avenue; 15 N Laurel Street).

The monument platforms should be handled on a case-by-case basis rather than being unilaterally demolished or removed. Over the summer of 2020, Richmond citizens rapidly recontextualized several of the monument's bases, transforming them into powerful platforms for shared voice and civic demonstration. We want a process that honors these efforts and envisions these platforms as sites for healing, historical recontextualization, and/or spaces for new works of art.

There are individuals and organizations, including our own, Studio Two Three, with the ideas and capacity to envision the potential of these platforms to create historically accountable and inclusive installations. We should be involved in the decision-making process.

Thank you for your consideration.

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