



JUSTICE DELAYED IS JUSTICE DENIED

Delay in removing the parade mural compounds the hurt of exclusion and leads to compounding of the original error, like this NEA grant submitted by BCA Foundation, after the mural task force called for removal of the mural and rejected the separate but equal artwork option:

Applicant Information: Tracking Number: GRANT12916945, Application #: 1863168 Date: 08-19-2019

Category: Our Town / Name: **Burlington City Arts Foundation** / Primary Partner: **Department of Public Works.**

The City of Burlington's Department of Public Works will provide the location for the permanent public art work, input for the Call to Artists, access to the site for art creation, and local match for this grant. [p2]

Project Description

To support the creation of a new public art work in the heart of Burlington's downtown in the aftermath of community conflict surrounding a controversial mural. ... **The new work will connect a downtown parking structure to the Church Street Marketplace, Burlington's pedestrian marketplace. [p4]**

Major Project Activities (This serves as the project narrative) * Funding is requested to support arts-based engagement that will contribute to a **permanent public artwork installed on and within the Marketplace Garage. [p5]**

3) **Commission a lead artist/artist team for the Marketplace Parking Garage** ... The RFP will encourage applicants to consider and incorporate content from engagement sessions in the work, as well as include **a form of public participation into the creation/installation of the work in the Marketplace Garage. [p5]**

Improving the physical and aesthetic experience in the Marketplace Garage [p6]

Have the intended beneficiaries been consulted in the development of this project?
Yes No **[p7]**

...benefit the underserved community by ensuring that their voices and stories are expressed and symbolized in a permanent work of art. [p8]

This project will be installed in proximity to an existing mural, Everyone Loves a Parade, commissioned by the Church St Marketplace in 2009. The location is also a pedestrian entrance to the Marketplace Garage and gateway to the Church Street Marketplace. [p9]

COMPOUNDING ERROR: Foundations were responsible for the controversial parade mural with a colonist, racist narrative and for that NEA grant to put multicultural art in the parking garage in response to community conflict surrounding the controversial parade mural. These foundations have no public oversight, and do not have the same public transparency and record-keeping requirements as City. In the future, Council must require that any grant application that obligates City property, staff, ongoing maintenance, or matching funds MUST be warned for public hearing and approved by City Council.



Regarding the parade mural: there is no signed contract with the artists, but the RFP clearly states that City has no obligation to display the mural in Leahy Alley. Council must cease delays, remove the mural now, and put it in storage until City decides what to do with it. DPW has pledged \$40,00 in kind and matching funds - we don't need the NEA grant to follow through with that, now. DPW staff, tools, and truck -- and surely they can do it for much less than \$25,000! Storage, there is space in Memorial Auditorium, or maybe the airport has an empty hangar.

But the problem is that the parade mural has a racist narrative wherever it goes. Schools are raising the **BLM flag**; **I Am Vermont Too** will be in Burlington soon; **White Caucus of BLM** is meeting monthly; **Toxic Whiteness** meets monthly; **Off the Wall** is a member of a growing activists' alliance. It's only a matter of time before the parade mural is driven out, wherever you put it. But

singly, the panels are kitschy, and dispersed among donors' restaurants, stores, and offices they would make a fun geocache game. If artist objects, give him 90 days notice to remove the mural, at his expense.

Honor the love and courage of the **Edmunds students**, acknowledge the pride of **I Am Vermont Too**, demonstrate the growing awareness of **White Caucus** and **Toxic Whiteness**, and join **Off the Wall** in calling for the City to remove the parade mural, now. Nothing trumps racism as the primary concern of council here -- no obligation to a commissioned artist with no contract, no anecdotal promises to donors, and no imagined fear of angry white supremacists marching on City Hall. You have an opportunity to deconstruct racism in our city, literally, sending a signal to everyone in our multicultural community and beyond, that **WE ALL BELONG.**

Lea Terhune, 63 Appletree Point Lane, Ward 4, North District. City Council. 2.18.20.





6 days ago