

Email from Jay White, 1.10.2022:

Hi Mary,

Would you have a few minutes tomorrow before or after the DAB meeting when we could discuss a few design issues and how I might get involved with resolving them? I'm willing to volunteer to write letters on behalf of the City in these matters if it would help.

The issue is added items on projects that were not in the approved design and how these issues should be addressed:

77 Pine has several 6" diameter, 20' high angled bright yellow pipes acting as a "sculpture" of some kind in the front walk. Please drive by and look at it on your way in tomorrow. I was not on the committee when 77 Pine was approved, but I find it difficult that these sloping bright yellow pipes would have been approved, or that they meet seismic structural or ADA standards. Blind people will hit their heads on them. I think the City should require these tall, sloping yellow pipes to be removed or included in a new permit if they were not in the approved design.

Arts Riot indicated they would remove their ugly cow-watering troughs they used as planters with their tall 6x6 posts coming out of the "planters" when they came before DAB and showed their new wood elevations that we approved. Instead of removing them, they put them all on the sidewalk, blocking needed pedestrian space. Last summer they were still using them as planters (although mostly with weeds) and the cow watering troughs are conflicting with the newly approved wall dividers and are blocking needed pedestrian access. Drive by that project too. They look terrible and add clutter. Can the City ask that they be removed or that they apply for a permit to keep them?

The State Arts Council is sponsoring what I think I remember is a \$20,000 "Art in Public Buildings" project on the **John Zampieri Courthouse** on the Cherry Street side. But they are treating it as an Arts **On** Public Buildings.

Finalists include: 2-story wall sculptures: one with about six, 10 foot high vertical signs projecting signs on the east wall near Cherry Street advertising a dozen or so social programs — and the other one with several bright 3-foot diameter "flowers" made of three dimensional fiberglass combined with brightly painted lime green "leaves" and "stems" painted directly on the red bricks and concrete bands, "growing" nearly all the way to the roof on the left side of the Cherry Street entrance — to new stained glass walls blocking off both major alcoves. Lots of clear glass in that one that will kill hundreds of birds if it wins the competition.

Doesn't this kind of "graffiti" have to go through DAB before this landmark building is seriously and permanently damaged? The original architect of the Zampieri Building would be aghast. And as you know as a preservationist, paint on red brick is not reversible.

I love Burlington and how strong our permit system is with your team's significant skill.

But I think some areas are in distress and some important areas are needing stronger control to reduce unnecessary clutter and with little regard for historic preservation or design consistency with the surrounding character of historic neighborhoods. I'm not sure what to do about it, so I'm asking for help so I perhaps can become less frustrated about it and the sense of uncontrolled clutter can get more tame with more class.

Jay White, AIA
(DAB Member)