

To the Parks Arts Culture Standing Committee of City Council:

Council has voted 11-1 to remove the parade panels by Aug 31. The phrase "or cover up" had been added to the resolution, and now BCA wants to cover the racist parade mural with a billboard map advertising marketplace stores. The building owner wants the parade panels removed, the wall repaired, and the Carrera mural restored.

Enough of covering up racism. Council has admitted harm, now they need to apologize (to our multicultural community), do the work to deconstruct racism (literally the parade panels can be removed and stored, to be displayed in a white supremacy museum someday), and restore the mural of the artist (a woman of color) whose work was covered without her permission. The parade artist agrees, in fact he respected the Carrera mural "underneath" and pointed out in a letter to the City that he did not damage it and his mural was installed to be removable.

Gina Carrera is available to refresh and update her mural, and she is supported by a cadre of local artists. It is a good example of reparative justice\* -- this time required of the City, not by the City.

\*In Burlington, the concept of restorative and reparative justice is based on the premise that a misdeed represents a debt owed not only to the state, but to the victim, the victim's family and to the community as a whole. In addition, the offender is to acknowledge responsibility for the harm that has been done.

Lea Terhune  
63 Appletree Point Lane

ADDENDUM:

Here are links to pertinent information I ask you to consider regarding removal of the parade mural.

The focus of the Press Conference is on Gina's artist rights and voices from the community who urge the City to honor Gina's rights. The focus of the film, recently released, is on vandalism and restorative justice, both very timely in that we are petitioning the City to grant restorative justice to Gina Carrera, a party directly harmed by the City's installation of the parade mural covering her mural.

Press Conference Aug 6. 2020. <https://www.cctv.org/watch-tv/programs/press-conference-removal-everyone-loves-parade-mural>

**Film: Matt Kelly Debuts 'ELAP' Documentary**

First-time documentary filmmaker Matt Kelly has debuted a feature length documentary film on the 'Everyone Loves A Parade' mural painted by Pierre Hardy [**and Mary Angelina\***]. The film is available for public viewing on Youtube: <https://youtu.be/u43WoSbHQP4>

Over a year in the making and made possible by a grant from Burlington City Arts and the Vermont Community Foundation, "The Mural" traces the history of the downtown Burlington, VT artwork from its inception to the recent acts of vandalism and calls for its removal amid cries of racism and white supremacy.

Featuring figures at the heart of the controversy, the film explores the subjective nature of art, the history of art vandalism, VARA rights, public vs. private art, how a community heals after acts of violence, and includes a strong focus on the benefits of Restorative Justice.

Ending with what should happen next to the mural, participants contextualize the controversy in their own words. "There is unity and understanding with Restorative Justice, rather than denial and polarization," said behavior expert Dr. Neil Marinello, in responding to the benefit Restorative Justice has to the community. Art Professor Ellery Foutch noted that "Perhaps...this...has...brought people together to have these conversations about community inclusion and arts role in that," while Rabbi Amy Small believes "This is a moment for us to learn about it, just as I learned about it...I think we should add another mural that depicts the complete inclusion of everybody and helps to elevate the message of inclusivity and mutuality in our society." Plessy v Ferguson aside, the Mural Task Force explicitly rejected a separate mural in lieu of removal of the parade mural.

\*Note: The parade mural was painted by Pierre Hardy **and** local artist Mary Angelina. Mary testified before the Mural Task Force that she painted everything but the faces, that she worked long hours (in the livable wage, fair trade city) for "a little more than \$8 an hour," and that although promised that it would advance her reputation as an artist, she never received any public recognition for her work. At the dedication, when Hardy called "his assistant" to the stage, he was referring to a clown prop representing Sam Champlain who proceeded to mimic French Canadiens, make tacky jokes, and pitch the sale of signed mural 'maps' for \$4 each. Mary Angelina looked on, never thanked or even acknowledged. The City can right this wrong as well, with recognition of --and an apology to -- local artist Mary Angelina for her skill.

Respectfully submitted,

Lea Terhune  
63 Appletree Point Lane  
Burlington, VT 05408