



HYATTSVILLE

Community Development Corp

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Date: 5/22/2018

To Whom It May Concern,

Craig Berube-Gray has exhibited with the Riverdale Park Public Art Initiative for two consecutive years.

The Initiative is a collaborative program sponsored and enabled by the Town of Riverdale Park, facilitated and implemented by the Hyattsville Community Development Corporation. The Initiative offers the Riverdale Park community with a rotating, year-round outdoor, town-wide sculpture gallery to bring high-quality public artwork to delight and enliven the Town, its residents and its visitors. In addition, the Initiative emphasizes the creation of promotional opportunities for local artists to extend their audience and their boundaries.

Riverdale Park is a community rich with history and support for the visual and performing arts. As an historic inner-beltway suburb of Washington, DC in Prince George's County, Maryland, the Town of Riverdale Park is also now gaining recognition as an emergent development market, with forthcoming private investments and revitalization activity.

Mr. Berube-Gray's sculptures, *Slices of Heaven* and *Sweet-Hearts*, have been and continue to be a driving attraction for the Initiative. As his works exhibit playful delight, they also deliver artwork that are colorful, compact, and easily-identifiable. Each year's jury have specifically chosen Mr. Berube-Gray's artwork to act as landmarks for two popular parks, the Riverdale Recreation Park, and Beale Circle, because his works are so iconic and thematically relevant to the Town's character.

In addition to speaking to the content of the work, Mr. Berube-Gray has been a pleasure with whom to work. While the Initiative is designed for local Maryland sculptors, as a Florida-based artist seeking exhibition opportunities throughout the region, Mr. Berube-Gray has swiftly and without issue transported his artworks and installed them as instructed. To emphasize this, I must say that as an arts manager facilitating the installation of 5 sculptures to 5 sites with 5 different sculptures, each work with its own needs, the fact that Mr. Berube-Gray, being an outlier to our program, has been so self-directing, communicative and reliable, is outstanding.

From the many engaged, arts-enthused residents who continue to invite their guests to tour the Initiative, I have heard a choice appreciation for the impact that *Slices of Heaven* and *Sweet-Hearts* have made. My team and Town staff will miss *Sweet-Hearts* when this year's exhibition concludes this November.

The Hyattsville CDC is proud to work with Mr. Berube-Gray on public art projects delivering revitalization and improvements to our community. We hope Mr. Berube-Gray will stay active in the Initiative's future.

Regards,

Justin Fair, Economic Development Coordinator
Hyattsville Community Development Corporation