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August 27, 2019

To whom it may concern:

Re: Craig Gray

Arts Orange County (ArtsOC) is the officially designated nonprofit local arts agency for the County of Orange, California. Its mission is to build appreciation of, participation in, and support for the arts and arts education in our community. ArtsOC regularly works with organizations and cities to manage the selection and installation of temporary and permanent art exhibitions.

We became acquainted with the work of Craig Gray through the City of Newport Beach's rotating Sculpture Exhibition in Civic Center Park, which ArtsOC has managed since 2015.

Craig's sculptures add an immediate burst of color, humor, and delight to outdoor environments, so it is little wonder that his work has twice found a home in this exhibition.

Our selection process includes an empaneled jury of outside art experts, members of the City Arts Commission, and an online public poll, followed by review and approval by the elected City Council.

Although he is based on the opposite end of the country, Craig's work has had an uncanny resonance with Orange County, topping the public polling for works under consideration not just once, but both times he has submitted works. Our community has had the good fortune to provide temporary homes to his sculptures "Popsicles" and "Slices of Heaven," the latter of which stands in Civic Center Park at this very moment.

Craig's works possess the power to create a direct, immediate, and positive connection with viewers of all ages due to their imaginative, whimsical and popular themes. Because of their durable construction they are also well-suited for long-term outdoor installation.

We wholeheartedly recommend that you consider include Craig Gray's works for public display.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard Stein", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard Stein
President & CEO