

# Public Arts Commission

Ann Stokes  
Chairman

September 6, 2016

Taylor Gould  
Vice Chair

Dear Mayor Alexander and members of City Council,

Maizelle Brown

The Public Art Commission met with Mrs. McClellan and heard from Dr. Whibley to carefully review the history and circumstances of the padlocks attached to The Hague Bridge. We understand that some Norfolk citizens believe them to be unsightly and wish to have them removed. The Public Art Commission does not find the locks problematic. In fact, to the contrary, we enjoy the grass root effort by citizens to create a special place. These efforts help make Norfolk a vibrant waterfront community.

Peter Eudenberg

Susan Goode

Betty Hadfield

Dan Neumann

Craig Reilly

Jesse Scaccia

Stephanie Short

Each year as funding is designated, the commission drafts a work plan of projects and sites to produce public artwork. Our priority is to install art in the best locations for public viewing so it can benefit all citizens. We do not believe allocating taxpayer money and commissioning artwork to hold padlocks fits into these priorities.

Suzy Stelmaszek

However, if members of the community wish to raise private funds, we would be happy to manage a love locks public art project using our normal process. This process works with a committee made up of stakeholders. This committee works through the RFP, submission, selection, design approval and fabrication and installation. We recommend a budget of \$25,000 - \$30,000 in order to cover the cost of artist fees, foundation, engineering, fabrication and installation.

Karen Rudd  
Manager,  
Norfolk Arts

Thank you for requesting our opinion. And thank you for your continued support of the public art program.

Slover Library  
Room LL40  
235 East Plume Street  
Norfolk, Virginia  
23510

Best Wishes,

(757) 664-6883

Ann Stokes, Chair

[www.norfolkarts.net](http://www.norfolkarts.net)

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cc: Marcus Jones, City Manager  
Wynter Benda, Deputy City Manager

**NOTE: Nearly all the members of the City Planning Commission seemed uninterested in having any involvement with the “love locks,” but Andria McClellan ally and fervent love lock lover Jesse Scaccia pushed for the pro-lock verbage contained in this letter ad nauseam. The expressions “grass root effort” and “vibrant waterfront community” have his fingerprints all over them.**