



July 9, 2024

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Kerry Kennedy  
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VIA EMAIL: [kerry.kennedy@dc.gov](mailto:kerry.kennedy@dc.gov)

Re: ANC 6B Letter of Support for Capitol Riverfront BID PABC Grant Proposal for the 2nd Street Underpass Artmaking Project

Dear Ms. Kennedy:

*At a properly noticed general meeting on July 9, 2024, with a quorum present, Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6B voted 8-0-0, based on the unanimous recommendation of its Public Parks & Recreation Spaces Task Force and the recommendation of SMD 6B01 Commissioner Frank Avery, to submit the following letter of support for the Capitol Riverfront Business Improvement District's (BID's) FY25 Public Arts Building Communities (PABC) grant application.*

ANC 6B is pleased to submit this letter of support for the Capitol Riverfront BID's application for the FY 25 PABC Grant to launch its proposed 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Underpass Artmaking Project.

Garfield Park serves as an active playground for families and sports enthusiasts, offering a space for community members to gather and enjoy outdoor activities. The adjacent 2nd Street underpass represents an extended functional area that can provide additional opportunities for recreational and cultural engagement. Improving the 2nd Street underpass will enhance Garfield Park, making it more accessible and vibrant and will further enhance the area part of larger forthcoming \$3.6M initiative to establish the [Garfield Park Connector](#).

Garfield Park is a cherished neighborhood asset for recreation, community gatherings, and cultural events. Over the past five years, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) and Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) have recognized the importance of enhancing this neighborhood park and have actively engaged residents and park users to identify necessary improvements. This collaboration led to the Garfield Park Connector project.

During the planning stages, both the community leaders, members, and planners acknowledged the critical connection to the 2nd Street underpass and its significance

for sports court users, local content creators, and neighbors. Consequently, the scope of the Connector project includes basic infrastructural improvements at the 2nd Street underpass.

To complement these forthcoming infrastructure enhancements, the BID evaluated this under-utilized public space and engaged with the community to reimagine the underpass for public gatherings and programming. The result was a refreshed strategy to channel interest in the underpass into proactive beautification efforts with local artists.

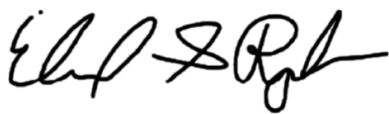
The Garfield Park Connector project, scheduled to begin summer 2024, will serve as the first step in revitalizing the area. The BID seeks to use PABC funding to launch a public art project that will capitalize and sustain the success of the Garfield Park Connector.

The 2nd Street Underpass Artmaking Project is essential for activating the site and increasing connectivity between the two neighborhoods separated by the highway. As the elected commission responsible for represent the views of area neighbors and advising D.C. and federal agencies of neighborhood perspectives, we believe the project aligns with the community's vision and our mission to promote the enjoyment and appreciation of Garfield Park and the broader “connector” vision. The proposed functional public art, including wayfinding structures, artistic lighting, and seating, will improve pedestrian access and safety, ensuring our park users feel secure and can comfortably explore the expanded area. We also anticipate increased visitation from the Capitol Riverfront neighborhood, enriching their experience and making the park and underpass area more inviting and exciting.

The concepts have been presented to the SMD 6B01 Commissioner for ANC 6B, Frank Avery who has expressed his support and connected the BID with supportive nearby neighbors. They have also been shared through the ANC 6B Public Parks & Recreation Spaces Task Force on its Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. To date, neighbors, the Commissioner, and the Task Force are supportive, and all stakeholders appreciate the BID’s approach to a collaborative process that will foster shared decision-making on the forthcoming public art.

Therefore, ANC 6B offers its support for this artmaking project and look forward to its positive impact on the residents, park users, and visitors. We encourage you to support the BID’s application to the PABC fund to bring this project to fruition.

Sincerely,



Edward Ryder,

Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6B

CC:

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