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Betsy A. Pandora, MCRP  
Executive Director

June 17, 2014

Lori Baudro, AICP  
Project Coordinator  
Columbus Planning Division  
50 Gay Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Ms. Baudro and members of the Columbus Art Commission:

I am writing to share a proposal and project budget to support the Short North Alliance's application for removal of the public artwork it owns and maintains called "The Limestone Sofa" which it commissioned artist Robert Huff to create and install in 2004 in Greenwood Pocket Park on High Street between 5<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenues.

While enjoyed widely by many in the Short North, over the last 10 years, the artwork has sustained significant damage and has become a collector for vagrants and panhandlers. On an annual basis, the Short North Alliance estimates that it spends approximately \$10,000 on maintenance and security services for the artwork. In 2013, 12% of all incidents reported by the Short North Ambassador Team, the most of any single location in the district, occurred at the artwork. Thus far in 2014, 11% of all incidents reported by the Short North Ambassador Team have occurred at the artwork and we expect that number to only increase. We are now starting to see the incidents increase in severity from panhandling, public urination, illegal camping, public intoxication, open container, and intimidating behavior to criminal activity and assaults. The Short North Alliance simply cannot continue to allow this type of behavior to propagate at this location and be liable for what may result any longer. Nor can it allow a beloved public artwork to become damaged beyond repair or no longer fulfill its designated purpose as public art. which is to engage people in dialogue and celebrate our community's history and spirit.

In 2010, the Short North Special Improvement District began the process of trying to remove the artwork but faced some backlash from the community and ceased efforts. Since that time, the issues have only increased in severity and we believe that if efforts are ceased again we run the risk of irreparable damage to the artwork and the risk of visitors, employees, or others being put in harm's way.

Over the last month, the Short North Alliance has conducted public outreach regarding removal of the artwork. It has consulted with members of the original committee who commissioned the work, the artist, the City, art restoration company Art Related, the Short North Foundation, the Short North Civic Association, the Italian Village Society, and the Short North Special Improvement District and has their buy in to the proposed solution outlined below. Letters of support are attached.

The Short North Alliance proposes the following according to the specified timeline:

- June 2014: Remove the Sofa upon approval of Columbus Art Commission
- June 2014: Transport it to the University of Akron for storage and repairs
- July 2014-July 2015: Repairs made by original artist Robert Huff
- July 2014: Seek Approval of Victorian Village Commission for Greenwood Park Landscaping Plan to beautify area formerly occupied by Sofa

- July 2014: Convene meeting among social service groups, Columbus Police Department, and other community members to address issues of panhandling, vagrancy, and other systemic problems that the artwork has since become the collector
- August 2014: Implement Greenwood Park Landscaping Plan
- Winter 2015: City of Columbus Recreation & Parks Department bids site project to prepare location at Cultural Arts Center for Sofa
- Spring 2015: City of Columbus Recreation & Parks Department submits application for new location for Sofa at the Cultural Arts Center for approval by Columbus Art Commission
- Summer 2015: City of Columbus Recreation & Parks Department prepares site at Cultural Arts Center for Sofa and Sofa transported back to Columbus for semi-permanent placement at the Cultural Arts Center
- 2018: Should the right opportunity present itself (post streetscape project) City of Columbus Recreation & Parks Department and the Short North Alliance will explore a return to the Short North Arts District

The budget for this project is as follows:

<b>Income</b>	
Short North Special Improvement District	\$ 5,000.00
Short North Alliance	\$ 5,000.00
City of Columbus	\$ 1,500.00
Robert Huff	\$ 8,000.00
	<b>\$ 19,500.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Transportation to Akron	\$ 2,500.00
Transportation to Columbus	\$ 2,500.00
Restoration Work	\$ 1,000.00
Landscaping + Seat Proofing Greenwood Park	\$ 3,000.00
Cultural Arts Center Site Work	\$ 1,500.00
Robert Huff's Time (80 hours x 100 per hour)	\$ 8,000.00
Contingency	\$ 1,000.00
	<b>\$ 19,500.00</b>

The Short North Alliance would like to thank the Columbus Art Commission for its diligence in reviewing this matter and respectfully seeks its support for the removal of the artwork at the earliest possible date and of the restoration and relocation plans outlined above.

Sincerely,



Betsy A. Pandora, MCRP  
Executive Director

