

“The River That Flows Two Ways,”

Dear Director Gonzalez, City Council President and All Council members,

My name is Tony Soares, former Councilman and former council president when we commissioned the Pier C Park design.

In 2001, soon after the loss of 50 plus Hobokenites on 9/11, I was tasked as head of the council committee along with Director Cass Wilday, Council VP Ramos and many members of the public who volunteered time and input to find a new design for PierC which due to budget could not be as large as Pier A. And was to be the “recreational” pier whereas Pier A was the passive park for resting and calm.

Lead by Mayor David Roberts we selected world renown designer Michael Van Valkenburgh and his team (<https://www.mvvainc.com/who-we-are>)

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/cassandra-wilday-ba2a5511/>

We can all agree the final and existing design is a magical park, an island, an oasis floating on the Hudson.

Like all great designs, parks any change should compliment that design. Not overwhelm it, not redesign it and most importantly not destroy it.

Pier C was designed to be a natural feeling space, raw wood materials, sloping hills, timber frame play spaces, raw metal and steel. No bright colors or busy graphics.

Most importantly we wanted sightlines to the city to be preserved

It seems to me a great artist should always take into account the context and venue where their sculpture and installation will sit

Looking at this very rough and honestly quite remedial rendering it's so hard to support this piece at THIS LOCATION.

Questions

1. Has the artist visited the site?

2. Has a structural engineer examined the site and structure?

3. How will it be anchored? Into the pier, railing or down into the riverbed?

4. Is it strong enough to sustain winds similar and stronger than we faced during Superstorm Sandy.

I do not come to this with lack of art and design expertise

At age 16 I was a High School Student with invited to study fine art at Pratt Institute in NYC. At 18, I was accepted to School of Visual Arts with a Presidential merit Scholarship to study fine art, graduating in 1981 with an BFA. Post Graduate, I have studied landscape design at NYU, Art History and 3D design classes at FIT.

I don't believe in politicians selecting art either, I support the committee process, but just can't support this curiously timed selection on these 3 pieces only – especially when we have the art masterplan

It feels equal to supporting a out of scale building that doesn't comply with the masterplan, but a push to forge ahead anyway. Why? Have other areas ever been considered? Why not Maritime Park?

Great Art must work with nature or the museums and galleries it is displayed. This piece does neither in it's proposed location.

Sincerely Anthony Soares