

From: **L Brongo**

Date: Tue, May 14, 2024 at 6:30 PM

Subject: Sculpture Pier C Public Comments

To: <jgonzalez@hobokennj.gov>

Cc: <jengiattino6@gmail.com>

Dear Ms. Gonzalez,

I am writing to register my opposition to the large sculpture, by artist Harmke Datema Chang, that is being proposed for Pier C. The sketches and design examples are attractive and I appreciate the thought that has been put into the process. But I strongly reject the project for many reasons. My main objection is placement. I walk along the waterfront daily. The natural beauty of the river and unobstructed views are priceless. The proposed sculpture is large, arches over heads and includes reflective glass. It directly competes with the simple, natural environment. I walk out along the pier to be closer to the river, not to stand under a shiny, distracting structure.

Rather than promoting conversations with historic and environmental perspectives, I believe the “Instagram worthy” and “must-see tourist destination” descriptions speak more to visitors than Hoboken residents. I also wonder what impact the sculpture would have on birds. In another section, it is claimed that “The piece will also attract well-known artists from around the world to Hoboken as a place to show and make their art...” But we already have a thriving art community here and Hoboken would benefit more by supporting its local artists.

Finally, the maintenance and repair described is minimal. But we’ve all seen here in Hoboken just how long it takes to remove graffiti, replace missing pavers, repair park benches and secure safety issues. I don’t have high hopes for someone replacing cracked glass or power washing the sculpture in a timely fashion.

There is a huge price tag attached to this project. I would prefer that it be spent elsewhere or on smaller projects that benefit a number of public spaces. The previous rotating short-term art works such as the stained glass houses and the electric dandelions have been successful and not obstructed views. The natural beauty of our waterfront does not need to be “enhanced” in any way. People just need access to it and the Hudson River’s calming influence.

Warmly,

Laurie Brongo

Hoboken resident for 34 years

PS- I'm attaching a picture of the public notice on display at Pier C park. As you can see, much of the pertinent information concerning the sculpture project is unreadable. But thankfully, your email address for public comment was visible.