

The Branch

Museum of Architecture and Design

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(Re)Framing Protest: Design + Hope

*Photography by Richmond Free Press Photojournalists
Regina H. Boone and Sandra Sellars*
On View June 17–September 11, 2022
at The Branch Museum of Architecture and Design

RICHMOND, VA, July 7, 2022 – *(Re)Framing Protest: Design + Hope*, a new exhibition that opened at The Branch Museum of Architecture and Design on June 17, examines the direct and indirect ways design and other forms of creative expression influenced Richmond activists, artists, organizers, and others who mobilized during the summer of 2020 to collectively respond to the murders of George Floyd, **Marcus David Peters** and countless others amplifying the national Black Lives Matter movement.

Photographs by Richmond Free Press photojournalists Regina H. Boone and Sandra Sellars serve as the exhibition's focal point and reframe the way we see design and art in protest. The exhibition offers an opportunity to explore how both strategically and organically created works such as graffiti art, graphic design, and performance can give voice to traumatic social unrest while also becoming a transformative blueprint for unexpected community building, even healing.

In the art and design of activists, we witnessed the anger and anguish of a city but also the vibrant and visceral hope for more. *(Re)Framing Protest: Design + Hope* welcomes visitors into an immersive remembrance and respectful reimagining through art, design, and public events, specifically centered on civic wellness and social healing. As the only public cultural institution on Monument Avenue, The Branch is honored to join Richmond in this moment of community reflection.

Individuals will have the opportunity to respond directly to the photographs and creative work captured by Boone and Sellars by leaving signed and/or anonymous remembrances and ideas and

visions for Richmond. Much like the experiences of Boone and Sellars, who spent 65 consecutive days documenting the 2020 protests, exhibition visitors will be asked to (re)enter the moment to recall their view of what “We Saw” and then invited to step back to reflect and to share, privately or in writing, on what “I See” now, and going forward. Through this intentional and focused community engagement, the exhibition sets forth the belief that the voices of the people have the power to uniquely reframe the narrative of Monument Avenue into a more daring vision that includes hope for a safe community centered common ground shaped by, and reimagined for, all.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a series of public programs and events, including: teen photography workshops in partnership with Oakwood Arts, artist talks, and other exhibition-related programs to be announced.

Credits

All photographs in *(Re)Framing Protest: Design + Hope* are the work of Richmond Free Press photojournalists Regina H. Boone and Sandra Sellars while on assignment for the Richmond Free Press. The exhibition team thanks: The Richmond Free Press; Richmond Protest Press and Drew Rollo for the use of all posters in the show; the Society for Professional Journalists, Virginia Pro Chapter, for lending the video content; Scott Elmquist, Style Weekly Editor/Photographer, for the use of his photo of Boone and Sellars. *(Re)Framing Protest: Design + Hope* is generously supported by Frances Broaddus-Crutchfield, Robbin and Bob Steele, and John and Bucci Zeugner.

Image Captions (l to r)

1. A Black Power fist on a t-shirt worn by a protester who goes by the name of Queen during the Reclamation Revival protest, July 15, 2020. *Regina H. Boone, Richmond Free Press*
2. Demonstrators march to support Black Lives Matter and Richmond's LGBTQ+ community, June 19, 2020. *Sandra Sellars, Richmond Free Press*
3. Posters by Richmond Protest Press and Drew Rollo in the Carytown Kroger parking lot, June 11, 2020. *Regina H. Boone, Richmond Free Press*

The Branch Museum of Architecture and Design

Founded in 2005 as the Virginia Center for Architecture, The Branch Museum of Architecture and Design evolved to include all design in 2017. Housed in a 1919 John Russell Pope building on the National Register of Historic Places, The Branch explores the impact of design in everyday life, working with individuals and communities to create a more equitable, beautiful, joyful, and productive future.

General Information

The Branch Museum of Architecture and Design is located at 2501 Monument Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23220. For general information, please call 804-655-6055 or visit the website at branchmuseum.org.

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