

O-16. The Foundry and STEAM: There are not enough enrichment and mentoring programs in Cambridge, either city-funded or otherwise, to meet the needs of our youth. The Foundry is located close to a neighborhood with a great need for youth mentoring. Furthermore, it is not clear whether existing programs are engaging our youth or even improving their educational outcomes. The STEAM program potentially would provide programs that would engage our youth, provide mentoring, and put them on the college track. On Saturday, I attended a figure skating exhibition at MIT. MIT provides skating training for any member of the MIT community free of charge for as many years as one wishes to participate. Many of the skaters have won state and national competitions. It would be great if, in the same spirit, MIT provided unlimited, free enriching educational STEAM programs at the Foundry for Cambridge residents. But, it is essential that the colleges and universities in Cambridge, as well as the many commercial entities provide the money and staffing for the proposed STEAM program at the Foundry.

O-13. The Courthouse in East Cambridge: Without a citywide master plan that looks at traffic impacts and other quality of life issues for Cambridge residents, no decision should be made on the petition to alter considerably the ugly, immense former courthouse. In addition, is there an answer to the question regarding what the impact would be of leasing the ⁴²⁵~~42~~ city parking spaces for use by the commercial tenants? Is it fair to deny use of these parking spaces by Cambridge residents?

Sheathing the building in glass would be disastrous to the surrounding environment. In Dallas, the Nasser Sculpture Center and Woodall Rogers roof deck park were seriously affected by the construction of a 42-story glass sheathed building nearby. The museum's computer modeling

//

found that the reflectivity of the glass creates patches of radiation that are 150 percent more intense than normal direct sunlight. Imagine the sun growing to two and a half times its size. Direct measurements taken on a cloudless, 78-degree March day showed that the reflected light raised the lawn's temperature to 103 degrees. For most plants, 115 degrees is lethal. Even at much lower temperatures, they can sustain damage if temperatures fluctuate too quickly for them to adjust. The sun's reflection from the 42-story building entering the museum necessitated moving a Picasso and other art treasures away from windows in order to prevent damage to the artwork. How will the sun reflecting off the courthouse glass affect residences and commercial buildings nearby? Please consider these impacts in your deliberations.

Proposed Sheathing

as well as trees + plants