

**CAMBRIDGE ARTS COUNCIL**  
**MEETING: Tuesday, May 8, 2012**

**BEGIN:** 6:19 PM  
**END:** 7:45 PM

**MINUTES**

Aliyah moved, Ann L. seconded and all members voted approval of March minutes.

**MCC CIP SITE VISIT**

Jason summarized the purpose and status of the upcoming site visit by MCC CIP on 5/10/12 and reviewed the organization's approach to its Cultural Investment Portfolio. As part of the program, Anita Walker, MCC Executive Director, has annual in-depth site visits for organizations that receive support. The visits have no bearing on funding; rather the intent is to learn in detail about the key people, organization, and staff of each organization in person. A key component is finding the staffing components and organizational structure that keeps an arts organization alive and thriving, not just organized. CAC has a sustained record of good work with funding every year, although down this year due to statewide budget cuts. CAC has played a key role in all types of programs, especially pilot programs. Jason clarified that CAC has been involved as direct advocates for funding of over \$1.5 million dollars over several funding cycles of the Cultural Facilities Fund (CFF) connected to local organizations such as CCTV, Mt Auburn Cemetery, Maud Morgan Arts, Multicultural Arts Center, José Mateo Ballet Theater, etc. Jason added that he and other Board members have participated in several site visits that give insights not only as CAC board members, but also as MA residents offering new experiences with many different activities.

Bob Hurlbut offered recommendations on strategies to make the most of the site visit. He highly recommended that Anita get more paperwork ahead of time and make sure that the state has all of the information for review. He recommended that key direct questions be prepared for Anita rather than just answering questions from her during the meetings. Board members to contact Jason with questions and recommendations.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Cambridge Creativity Commons**

Bob Hurlbut reviewed the origins of CCC with Dorothy and David Arnold's initiative to offer their 3,000 sf art studio to benefit Cambridge and a much larger entity through education in the arts. They looked at models in New York Schools and assembled a strong partnership of key people in Cambridge for the project. Bob brought in Martha McKenna, University Professor and Director of the Creativity Commons at Lesley University who sees the site as a "field station" of extraordinary opportunities. In alignment with the CPS Innovation Agenda planning, Dr. Jeff Young, CPS Superintendent was invited with Dr. Elaine Koury, Director of Visual and Performing Arts at CPSD. With the timely efforts for AIB's relocation to Cambridge, Stan Trecker, Dean of AIB was added. Jason Weeks, CAC, was included as a key player with extensive experience in fundraising for the arts and development of collaborative partnerships in Cambridge, along with Bob. Kyle Browne was hired as Project Director & Teaching Artist to work with CPS teachers in creating and teaching the programs.

As the first year of programming moves forward, Bob noted that the initiative is getting to something significant for teachers and students. He said the most interesting part is the connections people make with Doffie's work and her mentoring inspiration. She has powerful art journals kept since 1940 in fireproof storage. Her focus on youth in Cambridge has brought renewed energy to the studio and

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extensive enthusiasm by the students. There have been CCF Tuesday Talks with different agencies across the city and excitement about potential connections and collaborations. There are some challenges in bringing the space up to code with restrooms and egress, but programmatically the space is working very well. Kyle is bringing in both in school and out of school time programs.

Bob clarified that the location of CCC is closest to the existing Kennedy-Longfellow School, which will serve as a key 'swing' space for various school populations during the development and renovation of new Upper School facilities in the city as part of the Innovation Agenda. The first school that will be at K-Lo starting this fall, for a period of two years is the Putnam Ave School.

Bob is excited about working toward an endowment in the arts for this unique project, and key donors could also offer advisory roles. He noted the long standing fundraising challenges of key Cambridge donors that continue strong ties to Boston's institutions such as the MFA and Boston Symphony, and is looking for new ways to address supporting art institutions in Cambridge.

Kyle Browne reviewed the programs and activities to date. As a practicing artist as well a graduate in education at Lesley, Kyle has been creating a sample curriculum and working with CPS teachers, staff, students, and out of school time programs. She described the studio space with images of the front half and loft as Doffie's studio and one third as used for CCC.

She clarified that the work is intended to tie in with what the students are already doing in their curriculum, but need to be improved or accessible and exciting to a broad range of learners. Kyle is seen as a facilitator exploring concepts in the curriculum that works with the teachers and complements their goals. She added that the experience is a powerful way at breaking down barriers of students with disabilities.

Kyle summarized that Martha had created CCC at Lesley for faculty and students after reading David Edwards, "The Lab". It is not meant to be a meeting room, but rather a place to share imaginative ideas. CCC takes the philosophy of learning through the arts and engages teachers in creative projects. She said the program is mostly focused on middle school students when students typically lose interest in the arts. Kyle identified the four main objectives for each project is to experience to "Imagine, Create, Critique, and Exhibit".

Kyle identified the distinction of the group as "partners' and not "board" and they will be working with CAC to get teaching artists and grant funded individuals. Other arts in addition to visual artists are encouraged. KB has been going to CC meetings at Lesley to find options of faculty for teacher training and interns to work with students. To date, CCC has had all of the CPS art teachers visit the space and a workshop with key arts administrators across the city.

Phyllis suggested City Council and School Committee be invited to participate in a work session. Jason mentioned that he had already been in touch with Mayor Davis about CCC and to discuss was to partner with the Mayor's office related to the program. Diane suggested 6/7/8 teaching partnerships be invited to a workshop early next fall. Lori D. offered that work sessions can be expanded to other locations such as the CAC gallery.

Diane N. reviewed an update on the CCC School Council. Martha and Diane made a presentation to the Citywide School Advisory Group with Dr. Young and Carolyn Turk in attendance on April 25. This was a

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way to have citywide parent representation from all of the 12 elementary schools and key staffs to introduce CCC, answer questions, and get volunteers for the CCC School Council. Diane also announced that she is working toward a collaborative community building art project at CCC among three schools for 6<sup>th</sup> graders who will be going to Vassal lane in the fall. She is working with Amy Grady, the new Vassal Lane art teacher, Kyle, and teachers to coordinate four sessions of approx. 30 students for a total of 117 sixth graders.

Matt W. added input on his experience in working with youth at the Cloud Foundation through space grants. He found that there was a problem with underserved youth in art school being too idealistic and not getting a strong foundation to be employable after art school. He found the best practice is to have a strong internship program to give interns the most responsibility to really encourage innovation and invention on their own.

Lori L. recommended a connection with Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program to connect youth to paid work opportunities connected to the CCC.

Lori D. said she was excited by the CCC location near MIT/Tech Center and the Broad Institute and the opportunity to bring in leading tech adults for creativity leadership workshops.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Next meeting is Tuesday, September 11, 2012, 6:00 PM

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ann Lawson, Aliyah Gary, Kiera Wilhelm, Lori Lander, Phyllis Bretholtz, Lori Damon, Matt Weinberg, Diane Norris, Jason Weeks, Executive Director

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Absent: Andrew Mroczek, Barbara Baker, Diana Lempel

**GUESTS:**

Bob Hurlbut, Executive Director, Cambridge Community Foundation (CCF)  
Kyle Browne, Director & Teaching Artist, Cambridge Creativity Commons (CCC)

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Norris, Secretary, CAC