

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION MEETING

A regular meeting of the Public Art Commission took place on Wednesday, January 18, 2012, at 5:30 P.M. at the Cambridge Arts Council.

The following members were present:

Julie Graham, T.K. McClintock, Hubert Murray, Cynthia Smith

Staff present:

Jeremy Gaucher, Lillian Hsu

1) Board Term Expirations

Stephanie Boye, Aug-2011

Miriam Stewart, Aug-2011

Julie Graham, April-2012

T.K. McClintock, Nov-2012

Brent Ryan, Nov-2012

Cynthia Smith, Sept-2013

Mags Harries, Sept-2013

Candidates for new posts include Hubert Murray, Alex Van Praagh, Dina Deitsch

2) Mel Zeigler, CRLS Percent project

Mel joined the meeting via Skype. The original concept that Mel developed was based on creating a granting fund for future student projects. After much planning and coordination, it was found that this idea did not fit within the legal scope for the funds because they were tied to bonds that require 'deliverables' within a certain time-frame.

While visiting and researching for a new concept, Mel noticed that the revamped school has a lot of blank interior walls. During the visit he also enjoyed the visual results of teachers' information on blackboards as well as students notes and marks in their class notebooks. Mel is proposing a project called "Taking Note", with the idea of identifying a group of students that would agree to using pieces of their notes/drawings/markings from the books to convert them into 3D wall hangings and place them throughout the hallways on the available walls.

The technical details remain to be worked out, but the initial thought is to hire a sign company to enlarge and laser-cut replicas of the notes (perhaps silkscreen on plexiglass or 3/8" aluminum brushed or painted). Perhaps culling hundreds of samples into ten final pieces.

Mel also noted that he thinks the Main Entrance to the school also needs improvement and has considered addressing that space in some way.

Mel requests PAC to consider these initial ideas and give him approval to develop the ideas further if they deem this a good path.

PAC: Likes the idea of using the interior walls.

PAC: Asked if the plan is to pay the Students – Mel: Has not considered that, see's it more as a resume/college application extra-curricular activity. Would get permission from parents.

PAC: recommended looking into other products using students and the parameters that they used. Recommended artist access if there any possible legal issues associated with using the students work.

Mel indicated that he would be meeting with Elain Koury and CRLS staff next week to discuss further and will ask about these issues and past examples of artists collaborating with CRLS students.

Mel suggested that the timeline as of now is to select the students as soon as possible, have notes submitted and final expressions chosen by the end of the 2012 spring semester, and start fabrication and perhaps install in late summer while students are still on break (though this is a tight timeline). He is hoping to be able to discuss further with PAC in April perhaps.

3) 1% Percent Project and \$100,000 Cap

PAC is still working on language to the City Manager regarding the cap and budget/construction design process.

PAC asked if there is a pro-forma construction document that should include the Percent for Art line item. Staff is not aware of such a form. Lillian hears about capital projects from the annual budget meeting, other city staff, and in some cases the news. In cases other than the budget hearing she contacts Deputy City Manager to ascertain whether the project is eligible for Percent for Art funding.

4) Project Updates

King School Renovation will affect the existing MLK Mural. Staff is meeting with school officials and project team to determine the best way to remove the mural, store it, and reinstall it after construction.

Two former Alexandria parcels that were transferred to the city will be upcoming percent project.

Point Park in Kendall will be renovated, City is advising Boston Properties and CRA on the design of the renovation.

Cambridge Street Tunnel at Harvard will be repaired in the future and will be a Percent project.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 27, 5:30
Wednesday, March 14, 5:30
Wednesday, April 18, 5:30

5) Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.