

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION MEETING

A regular meeting of the Public Art Commission took place on Wednesday, December 8, 2010, at 5:30 P.M. at the Cambridge Arts Council.

The following members were present:

Cynthia Smith
Mags Harries
Julie Graham

Staff present:

Jeremy Gaucher, Public Art Administrator
Lillian Hsu, Director of Public Art

1) November Minutes

Tabled to January for approval due to lack of quorum.

2) Update on Charles River planning process

Lillian has spoken with Conrad Crawford of DCR about their Partnerships Matching Funds Program. This program would support permanent structures. DCR will match the applicant's funds 2:1 for applicant contributions up to \$25,000. After \$25,000 they will match 1:1. For example, if the City were to contribute \$20,000, we could do a \$60,000 project. The program funds projects of various sizes, from a few hundred dollars to several hundred thousand dollars. There are two deadlines. The December one is too soon for us, but we could submit a proposal in the spring. The applicant, or "partner", would pay DCR, and DCR would manage the project. The goal of this program which has been under the external affairs department for only a couple years, is to cement partnerships with DCR, provide greater transparency of the agency, and improve the properties. The funds would be spent within the fiscal year, but the projects can be multiple-year projects. The partnership with Harvard for the Weeks Footbridge is such a project. Karl may be able to give us information based on his knowledge of this program.

Destination Riverbank was conceived as a project that would bring only temporary or movable structures, but the possibility of using the Matching Funds program opens up the option of permanent structures.

There is a NEFA Planning grant (\$5,000-\$20,000) application due January 31, for which the CAC will apply.

The PAC suggests the planning grant be written to request funds for the following: Creating a framework for artist selection that involves an RFQ for Multi-Disciplinary teams led by an artist, a selection of five Finalist teams. The Finalists would be paid \$3,000 each to create and present specific proposals for activating the Riverbank (within the scope and goals of the project). Those proposals would be reviewed by the public, and one project will be selected by a site committee to be realized by the artists (with an implementation grant to be solicited from

NEFA as their planning grants have a second, implementation grant cycle), and use that to leverage the DCR matching funds.

The four other proposed projects could then also be presented to other organizations/companies for implementation funding.

3) Project Updates:

Western Ave: Matthew is drafting preliminary ideas with the goal to have more concrete proposal by mid-January.

Flocks: the first two ‘test’ installations at North Pointe have revealed flaws in the materials and design of the individual birds, resulting in lost birds. Carolina is resolving these problems and will re-install a third test flock later in December.

Laure Baring-Gould/Fresh Pond: Lillian has now met with Laura. They have worked out a schedule to see the project through to the creation of two bronze bowls embedded in boulders. Laura is scheduled to meet with FP Advisory January 26 and have a full proposal by February 15, and would present to PAC at the March meeting if approved by FP Advisory. Fabrication: April-May. June installation is target.

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