

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION MEETING

A regular meeting of the Public Art Commission took place on Wednesday, April 16, 2011, at 5:30 P.M. at the Cambridge Arts Council.

The following members were present:

Miriam Stewart
Brent Ryan
Julie Graham
Cynthia Smith
Mags Harries

Staff present:

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

1) Laura Baring-Gould / Fresh Pond

Lillian reported that she, Jeremy Gaucher, and Laura met with members of the Water Department Sam Corda, Chip Norton, and Paul Robillard of the Board of the Water Dept on April 14 at the Fresh Pond water facility. Laura reiterated the four options she presented to the PAC at the March 23 meeting. Sam urged Laura to go back to the idea of the boulder with the basin and that she should identify one of the five sites previously agreed were on the table. He stated that if she would choose one of these sites, that he would help assist with the rest of the approval process through the city. The group walked the sites and Laura agreed that the site on the path north of Maher field would be an appropriate site for the boulder/basin.

Laura will look for an appropriate stone, and a local company with which to work. Chip suggested a base of 'rings' that is permeable for grass may be a good option for the siting.

PAC suggested that the PAC group should request an updated timeline and project budget. PAC asked Lillian to proceed with a formal contract extension upon receipt and review of these items from Laura. PAC strongly urged to request that the installation of the project to be completed by November 1, 2011.

PAC dictated the above letter to Lillian. Lillian will send to group for final edits.

2) Project Updates:

Mel Zeigler/CRLS: Mel met with city officials from City Manager's office, Law dept, and Finance and it was determined that solutions to create the scholarship funds had been exhausted and that there was no way to create this fund from the funding that commissioned it. Mel is very disappointed, and is currently 'back to the drawing board'.

Destination Riverbank: Lillian has a meeting with the committee on April 21 to discuss next steps and brainstorm about possible funding for at the least the artist selection and proposal phase of the project, which would need roughly \$20,000 to complete (5 teams of artist at 3k each and 5k to administer the process and exhibiton).

PAC recommends looking into Microsoft and MIT/Harvard offices for the arts as possible funders.

Flocks: installed over Patriot's Day weekend (4/16-4/18). The installation was successful. We are receiving very positive feedback through e-mails and phone calls. The installation is up through July 8, 2011. Events dates around the exhibition are:

- Flocks & Open Studios Press Event: Saturday, May 7 at 11:30am, Cambridge Public Library, Valente Branch, 826 Cambridge Street
- Cambridge Open Studios – East Cambridge: Saturday, May 7 & Sunday, May 8, 12 noon-6pm
- CAC Gallery Exhibition: Flocks - Art in the Schools, May 23-27, 344 Broadway 2nd Floor
- Flocks Public Presentation: Thursday, June 2 at 6:30PM at Cambridge Public Library, Main Branch, 449 Broadway

Cambridge Open Studios Dates:

COS East: May 7 & 8

COS Central: May 14 & 15

COS North/West: May 21 & 22

12 Noon - 6 p.m. each day

CAC Gallery: Brian Kane artist talk with George Fifield is Monday, May 2 at 6pm

CAC Public Art Tour Website: The database has been significantly 'cleaned' and the website is being populated currently with information and images. It is a google maps based site that will allow for easier navigation, more flexibility and unlimited updating. Jeremy will show the PAC the progress on the Website at the May PAC meeting.

Public Art Collection Database: While updating/cleaning the database, staff has found many cases where works that no longer exist or are on private property (and were never really 'ours') will need to be formally de-accessioned. Rika will be working on this over the summer and staff will present a list of these works and explanations to the PAC at a later date.

Gold Star Mother's Pool: the McKie murals are experiencing extreme failure due to the 'vinyl plaster' with which the building was sided. Rika and Lillian are looking into costs associated with having McKie redo the mural on wood or steel and re-attaching to the building. There is perhaps funding for this through the city due to the fact the siding is what is faulty.

Main St Bike Racks: we have received some preliminary sketches. Lillian shared a few with the PAC. More to come.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 18, 5:30

5) Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 7:35 P.M.