

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

ARLINGTON CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Arlington Cultural Council (ACC) is a local council of the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC), and consists of volunteers appointed by the Arlington Board of Selectmen for a three-year term. The board's main function is to support and encourage the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences in Arlington by dispersing state funds to deserving applicants.

The ACC meets once a month at a public place, generally the Cyrus E. Dallin House or the Robbins Library. All meetings are announced in advance and open to the general public. During 2005, Shari Craig and Cheryl Hemenway resigned from the ACC but agreed to continue serving in an ex-officio capacity. Two new members joined the ACC this year, Tom Formicola and Margaret Ryder.

Though much of the Council's business is related to grant cycle activities, occurring September through December, it is active year-round. Last February, the ACC held its second reception for grant recipients at the Whittemore Robbins House. Awardees and members of the general public gathered to hear about funded projects and celebrate culture in Arlington. In March, members of the ACC attended the MCC Convening at the State House in Boston where they shared ideas and met with other local cultural council delegates from around the state. The Council regularly submits articles to the Arlington Advocate -- soliciting grant applications, publicizing funded projects, and encouraging participation in the Council.

At Arlington Town Day in September, the ACC hosted a booth where general information, as well as applications, and guidelines were distributed. In addition, the ACC's participation in these festivities included the coordination of a chalk art event that attracted more than 70 artists of all ages.

Our October 17, 2005 application deadline was promoted in several announcements in the Arlington Advocate. Two coaching sessions were conducted at Robbins Library for those seeking help in completing their applications. Following the deadline, applicants were invited to two public sessions that provided opportunity for them to elaborate on their projects. Soon thereafter, the council held a voting meeting to decide which applications would be funded. Applicants not receiving funds were notified in November, and those receiving funds were notified of their awards in December.

In the most recently completed grant cycle, thirty-four applications were received from schools, individual artists, and cultural groups. These applications included requests from residents of Arlington as well as other towns and cities in Massachusetts. After deliberations, the Council awarded sixteen applicants a total of \$9,110 allocated by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Awards for the fiscal year 2006 grant cycle include the following:

ARLINGTON ARTS COUNCIL GRANTS 2005	
Awardee / Project	Amount
Arlington Children's Theatre	\$500
Arlington Historical Society	\$490
Arlington Intergenerational Book Club	\$540
Arlington PTO Townwide Enrichment	\$1,400
Liz Buchanan	\$1,000
Community Intervention Program	\$525
Karen Dillon	\$800
Cathy Garnett	\$1,100
Steve Henderson	\$350
Pierce Elementary School	\$300
The Cyrus E. Dallin Art Museum	\$290
Thompson Elementary School	\$310
Three Apples Storytelling Festival	\$250
True Story Theater	\$500
Alson Vannah	\$100
Andrea Anisha Desai	\$500

In addition to our ongoing meetings, the ACC plans to present its third annual reception celebrating grant recipients and local culture in April.

Other goals for the upcoming year include recruiting new council members, gathering community input, and increasing awareness of the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences in Arlington.

The ACC welcomes prospective new members at our monthly meetings. Those who are interested may contact the Council at arlington@mass-culture.org.

ARLINGTON PRESERVATION FUND

Arlington Preservation Fund Inc. is a non-profit corporation of nine members appointed by the Board of Selectmen, and initially funded by Community Development Block Grant money. The principal purpose of the Fund is to make low-interest loans for historic preservation projects in the Town. The interest rate continues at 2.5%.

These low cost home improvement loans (which are given without regard to financial need) make it more feasible for property owners to have work done correctly according to historical standards whether the properties are in one of the Town's seven historic districts, or listed on the Town's inventory of historically or architecturally significant buildings.

Two loans were granted during 2005: an 1840 house on Spring Street, for restoration of the clapboards, and an old farm house in the Mount Gilboa/Crescent Hill Historic District, for restoration of the porch, basement walls, and window frames.

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Thomas Wray Falwell, the attorney member of the board, resigned as a director and vice-president. Thus, the attorney position, and the position normally held by a professional in the real estate area remain vacant as of this writing.

Officers continued as in the past several years: John L. Worden III, President, Harold L. Goldsmith, Treasurer, and Charlene Lemnios, Secretary.

ARLINGTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Arlington Historical Commission (AHC) was established in 1970 to preserve and protect significant buildings within the Town that constitute or reflect distinctive features of the architectural, cultural, political, economic or social history of the Town. This work is described in the By-Laws of the Town of Arlington, Title VI, Article 6. To accomplish these goals, the Commission maintains an Inventory of Historically and/or Architecturally Significant Properties and administers the demolition delay bylaw through formal public hearings and informal meetings with owners of inventoried properties. The Commission is an advocate for historic preservation in Arlington. The AHC usually meets on the first Tuesday of each month at the Whittemore-Robbins House and all meetings are open to the public.

The Commission continues to maintain and improve its own web site that describes its work at www.arlingtonhistoricalcommission.org.

Hearings

The Commission conducted hearings on nine inventoried properties in 2005. In June it voted to allow the demolition of 197 Lake Street, the former St. Jerome's Church; however, it voted that the former St. Jerome's Rectory at 201 Lake Street be designated as "preferably preserved." The former rectory became subject to a 12-month demolition delay as provided for under the by-law and the former Rectory has been actively marketed for sale. Oversight on other properties from 2005 hearings, plus work continued from 2004, included: 26 Academy St., 58 Brantwood Rd., 3-5 Brattle St., 171 Franklin St., 248 Gray St.; 91 Hemlock St. ("Knowles Farmhouse"), 75 Jason St., 85 Jason St., 449 Massachusetts Ave., 821 Massachusetts Ave., 1331 Massachusetts Ave., 23 Maple St., 58-60 Mystic St., 91-95 North Union St., 45 Spring St., 24 Stony Brook Rd., 57 Summer St., the former Symmes Hospital and the Robbins Memorial Library. The Commission also monitors the property of the inventoried structure that was illegally demolished at 193-195 Forest St.

Historic Markers

The Commission managed the historic house marker program for all Arlington properties on the Inventory. Requests have been steadily increasing

from residents interested in purchasing one of the distinctive blue oval plaques, which display the year the property was built and a historic house name, if any.

Inventory Expansion

In 2005, Commissioner Jane Becker and Co-Chairman Richard A. Duffy continued to lead the successful effort to enlarge the Pleasant Street Historic District in collaboration with the Historic District Commissions. The expanded District now includes all properties on Academy and Maple Streets, plus the former Parmenter, School, New England Telephone (now Verizon) exchange building by Cram, Ferguson and Associates, and 734-736 Massachusetts Avenue. In addition, Mr. Duffy was the principal author of the proposal to further expand the Pleasant Street Historic District to include Oak Knoll.

Education and Outreach

The Historical Commission and the Historic Districts Commission jointly presented the Historic Preservation Award for 2004 to 144 Pleasant Street, Martha Penzenik architect. Co-Chair JoAnn Robinson and Associate Commissioner Dianne Schaefer developed a brochure that summarizes the role of the Commission. They also designed a post card to be mailed to all owners of properties under the Commission's jurisdiction, to better acquaint them with the web site and other resources of the Commission.

Other Activities

Throughout the year, Commissioners participate in activities that educate and inform citizens about historic preservation. The AHC participated in Town Day with a booth. The Commission continues to work with other Town agencies on the maintenance and restoration of the Whittemore-Robbins House and its outbuildings, the Winfield Robbins Memorial Gardens, the Town Hall and its grounds, 23 Maple Street, and the Jarvis House at 50 Pleasant Street.

Commissioners represented the Historical Commission on various municipal boards and historic organizations in Arlington, including the Historic Districts Commission, Zoning Bylaw Review Committee, the Arlington 200th Anniversary Planning Committee, and the Arlington Preservation Fund, the Arlington Historical Society and the Old Schwamb Mill.

2005 Arlington Historical Commission: Co-Chairs Richard A. Duffy and JoAnn Robinson; Commissioners Jane Becker, Patrick Guthrie, Pamela Meister, A. Michael Ruderman, and Eric Stange. Associate members are Robert Botterio, Alex Frisch, and Dianne Schaefer. Vicki Rose serves as recording secretary.

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HISTORIC DISTRICTS COMMISSION

The Historic Districts Act, M.G.L. Chapter 40C, was created to protect and preserve the historic resources of the Commonwealth through a local review system that encourages and ensures compatible improvement and development. Over 100 communities across the Commonwealth have enacted local historic districts to protect their historic resources and to ensure the preservation of the character of their community.

Arlington has seven established historic districts that include 343 properties that the community has recognized as unique resources, worthy of protection. The seven districts and the dates they were established or most recently enlarged are as follows: Avon Place, 1996; Broadway, 1991; Central Street, 1982; Jason/Gray, 1998; Mount Gilboa/Crescent Hill, 1991; Pleasant Street, 2005; and Russell, 1983. The proposed expansion to add 40 properties on Academy and Maple Streets to the Pleasant Street Historic District was approved at Town Meeting in 2005 and officially recognized by the Massachusetts Historical Commission and recorded at the Middlesex (South) Registry of Deeds in December of 2005.

On October 26, 2005, residents of Oak Knoll met with representatives of the Arlington Historic District Commissions (AHDC) and the Arlington Historical Commission (AHC) to discuss the possibility of including Oak Knoll in the Pleasant Street Historic District as well. Research on the eight properties in the study area was carried out by local historian Richard Duffy and residents of Oak Knoll including James and Betsy Bailey of 7 Oak Knoll, Alyssa and Will Clossey of 11 Oak Knoll, Jan and Cliff Lo of 15 Oak Knoll, Miriam and Will Stein of 17 Oak Knoll, Julie and Jim Zigo of 19 Oak Knoll and Stephanie and Jeff Larason of 20 Oak Knoll. Photography was done by Alyssa Krinsky Clossey of 11 Oak Knoll. The warrant article for the enlargement will be presented at the Annual Town Meeting in the spring.

The AHDC is required by law to review the architectural appropriateness of most proposed exterior design changes, whether they be a minor alteration, new additions, or removal of trim or structures. The Commission consists of qualified volunteers appointed by the Board of Selectmen and always includes a property owner or resident of each District (if one is willing to serve), an architect, a real estate professional, and a representative from the Arlington Historical Society.

During the year 2005, the Commission met thirteen times to hold hearings for property owners seeking approval for certificates for exterior work to be conducted on their homes and had one additional special joint meeting with the Arlington Historical Commission. Part of the regular meetings included

fifteen Informal Hearings, held for property owners seeking advice or resource information for work to be conducted, twenty-four Formal Hearings and two Continuations of Formal Hearings. As a result of those meetings, nineteen Certificates of Appropriateness, seventeen Certificates of Non-Applicability and one Certificate of Hardship for construction work to be undertaken were granted.

During the year, the Commissioners worked on updating the District Inventory Listing, an outreach program to realtors and property owners in all seven Districts, expanding the Pleasant Street Historic District, educating the public on the role of the Historic District Commission at Town Day, and increasing joint efforts with the AHC. In 2005, Leonard Kuhn tendered his resignation as a Commissioner-At-Large. New Commissioners appointed in 2005 were Danielle Santos (Broadway District) and Alex Frisch (Central Street District). As of the writing of this report, there is still a vacant seat for the Mt Gilboa /Crescent Hill District.



Each year, the Cyrus E. Dallin Museum outlines its accomplishments and activities of the previous year in an Annual Report. This year was especially festive at the museum, because it marked the nation wide 200th birthday party for Pomp, Sacajawea and Toussaint Charbonneau's son. In celebration, a local fundraiser was held within the Arlington Public Schools for the restoration of Dallin's *Sacajawea and Pomp* sculpture, raising over \$1,000. The statue is restored and is now exhibited in the Museum's Native American Gallery.

In addition, the Museum released a major publication in 2005 -- an elementary level activity book *Cyrus E. Dallin & His Native American Works*, co-authored by Geraldine Tremblay and Maria DiGoia, to be used in its outreach programs to the local elementary school.

The museum is expanding its collections and now exhibits over 30 sculptures and bas reliefs in its four galleries, with the addition of *General William Sherman* as a long-term loan. The Museum continues

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to focus on brand awareness, community outreach, fundraising, acquisitions, and expansion. The Museum strives to honor Dallin and benefit the community.

Acquisitions, Outreach, and Fundraising Efforts

During 2005, the Museum expanded its collection through gifts and loans. Conservation efforts have continued with restoration on several sculptures including *Sacajawea*.

During the past year, there have been several exciting developments at the Museum:

- The Arlington Public Schools initiated a local fundraiser for the restoration of *Sacajawea*, raising over \$1,000, in celebration of Pomp's 200th birthday on February 11, 2005
- Receipt of a grant from the Arlington Cultural Council for restoration of *Sacajawea*
- Bequest from the Morton Bradley Estate of Arlington Memorabilia
- Donation of 12 original studio photographs of Dallin works and family members, and diary of *Life in Utah 1891-1893*, written by V.C. Dallin from Patricia McCabe, Cyrus and Vittoria Dallin's great granddaughter
- Receipt of the *General William Sherman* sculpture as a long-term loan
- Publication of the activity book: *Cyrus E. Dallin & His Native American Works*
- *Art on the Green* annual fundraising event
- Appointment of Heather Leveall to the Board of Trustees
- Exhibition at the NEMA Annual Conference
- Participation in the Bentley Art Partners program
- Trip to Utah to visit Springville Museum of Art

Communications and Outreach

Board Members worked to strengthen and expand upon programs and relationships begun in the past. Its communications and outreach efforts continue to augment its public presence locally, nationally, and overseas.

Cyrus E. Dallin & His Native American Works, co-authored by Maria DiGioia & Geri Tremblay, is an elementary level activity book for use at home and in the classroom. The 20-page book includes a short biography of C.E. Dallin, one of America's best-known sculptors. A total of 12 art works are represented from the collections of the Cyrus E. Dallin Art Museum, Arlington, MA and Springville Museum of Art, Springville, UT. The content and over 20 activities are aligned with 33 of the State of Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks in both History/Social Science and in Visual Arts.

The Cyrus E. Dallin Art Museum has initiated an outreach program to the local elementary schools for

students to visit the museum for a guided tour. With the per child tour fee, the classroom teacher will receive a class set of "Cyrus E. Dallin & His Native American Works" to be used at their convenience during the academic year to reinforce their curriculum, Dallin's artwork, and the relationship between them.

The Museum continues to raise awareness in the press and via other marketing channels. The Dallin Museum has received substantial coverage in community newspapers and is consistently featured in the *Arlington Advocate Arts Quarterly*.

Through its active web site, the Museum continues to answer many inquiries and learn of the locations of other Dallin sculptures.

Representing the Museum, Geraldine Tremblay presented a speech at the dedication of Dallin's *Ann Hutchison* at the Massachusetts State House.

Escorted by Mrs. Denise Dallin Wheeler, niece of Cyrus & Vittoria Dallin, eight museum members visited Salt Lake City & Springville, Utah in June 2005. Among the Cyrus E. Dallin works they viewed were the Brigham Young Monument, Angel Moroni, and Pioneer Mothers of Utah Monument. The highlight of the trip was a visit to the Springville Museum of Art. Rell G. Francis, author of *Cyrus E. Dallin: Let Justice Be Done* and co-author of a new Dallin biography *From Frontier To Fame*, spent many hours discussing Dallin's art with the travelers.

The Museum continues to solidify its relationship with Rell G. Francis and the Springville Museum of Art in Utah which features many of Dallin's works. The Museums are in discussions about an exchange of sculptures.

The Museum participated in Arlington's Annual Town Day and has increased its visibility through its cooperative efforts with the Arlington Historical Society, The Arlington Advocate, The Schwamb Mill, The Freedom's Way Heritage Association, and The New England Museum Association. This year the Museum held its second annual *Art on the Green* event during Town Day. Twenty-five artist/vendors exhibited their art on the green in front of the Museum. The Museum offered Arlington merchandise, popcorn, guided tours, and Native American craft projects.

Dedicated volunteers continue to keep the Museum open during regular hours.

Fundraising and Support

The Museum continues to seek support from friends and visitors. A major goal for 2005 was to create and manage a direct mail database of our visitors and previous contributors to provide them with information about the Museum and request their ongoing support. A fundraising letter was sent out close to the end of the year.

The Museum continues to merchandise Cyrus E. Dallin and the Town of Arlington items as part of its fundraising efforts.

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The Museum continues to prepare for larger-scale fund-raising.

2006 and Future

This year, a major goal is to develop a strategy for increased fundraising, education, and outreach.

The Museum continues to prepare for Dallin's 150th anniversary in 2011, which is certain to be the occasion for exhibits and publications. It has begun to assemble a complete collection of the Caproni Brothers' casts of Dallin's sculptures, for exhibit either in Arlington or other museums. The Museum has been contacted by scholars in connection with this project, and continues to consult with others knowledgeable about the Caproni casts.

The Cyrus E. Dallin Art Museum has become a firmly established presence in Arlington and a strong actor in the cultural life of the town. It is open daily from noon to four; admission is free with group tours by appointment. The collection is professionally maintained and attractively shown. The Board of Trustees looks forward to an expanding collection, to increasing numbers of visitors, and the greater public awareness of Dallin and the Cyrus E. Dallin Art Museum.