

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 Board of Selectmen for three-year terms. Council members may serve no more than two consecutive terms. The Council's main function is to support and encourage the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences in Arlington through the annual distribution of 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 are open to the general public. The council regularly submits articles to *The Arlington Advocate* – soliciting grant applications, publicizing funded projects, encouraging participation in the council, and generally sharing information about meetings and other activities.

During 2006, Tom Formicola continued to serve as Chair. Departing Council members included Mary Babic, Amy Peters, Margaret Ryder, and Leland Stein. Two new members joined the ACC this year, Roz Cummins and Sharon Shaloo.

Though much of the Council's business is related to grant cycle activities, occurring September through December, it is active year-round. Each year the ACC participates in the annual Town Day celebration – this year hosting a chalk art activity as well as an Arlington art and architecture hunt. Town Day also provides the ACC with important opportunities to distribute information, applications and guidelines.

Last March, the ACC presented its third public reception for grant recipients at the Whittemore Robbins House. Awardees and Arlington residents gathered at the reception to hear about funded projects and celebrate culture in our town. The Council welcomed Senator Bob Havern and Representative Jim Marzilli to these proceedings, which were also attended by representatives of the Massachusetts Cultural Council. A fourth reception is planned for the coming year.

The Council is currently at work coordinating a community input meeting to be held in the spring to brainstorm new ideas about priorities, encourage new proposals, and foster interest among potential new council members.

The most recent ACC application deadline was October 16, 2006. 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 early in January.

In this most recently completed grant cycle 30 applications were received from schools, individual artists, and cultural groups. Requests for funds totaled \$29,771. Proposals were received from residents of Arlington as well as other towns and cities in Massachusetts. Following deliberations, the Council awarded 19 applicants a total of \$11,577 allocated by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Awards for the FY 2007 grant cycle are below.

Arlington Cultural Council Grants 2006	
Recipient/Project	Amount
Arlington Center for the Arts	\$2,000
Brackett School	\$300
Cambridge Madrigal Singers	\$300
Roz Cummins	\$400
Karen Dillon	\$850
Hardy Elementary School	\$500
Arlington Town-wide Enrichment Program	\$1,400
Ruth Harcovitz	\$500
Jennifer Ingram	\$500
Jazz Composers Alliance	\$1,000
National Heritage Museum	\$275
New Repertory Theatre	\$250
Pierce Elementary School	\$215
Old Schwamb Mill	\$385
Solar Winds Woodwind Quintet	\$600
Tova Speter	\$400
Three Apples Storytelling Festival	\$225
Kate True	\$425
True Story Theater	\$500

To contact the Arlington Cultural Council please email arlingtonculturalcouncil@yahoo.com or call Tom Formicola directly at 781-648-4205.

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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. Reflecting increasing interest rates, the fund increased its rate to 4%.

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.

Three loans were granted during 2006: an 1870 mansard house on Massachusetts Avenue, for restoration of wooden gutters; a late 19th century house (now converted to office uses) also on Massachusetts Avenue, for replacement of a modern, inappropriate front porch with one in a more correct style; and another late 19th century house, this one on Jason Street, for removal of stucco and restoration of the original wood shingle sheathing.

Amy Lee Slade, an attorney, and Alexander Frisch, a real estate broker, were appointed to the board, filling vacancies in those disciplines.

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 Town of Arlington Bylaws, 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.

Hearings

The Commission conducted formal hearings on eleven inventoried properties in 2006: 41 Brantwood Rd., 42 Brantwood Rd., 54 Brattle St., 22 Franklin St., 201 Lake St., 22 Pleasant St., 251 Massachusetts Ave., 7 Tanager Rd., 40 Teel St., 81-83 Warren St., and 82 Wollaston Ave. An informational presentation on the preservation work at 54 Massachusetts Avenue, the Butterfield-Whittemore House was made before the Com-

mission in July. In addition, Co-Chair JoAnn Robinson worked successfully with the Zoning Board of Appeals to preserve landscape features listed on the Inventory at 40 Brattle St., site of a proposed 40B housing development.

Oversight on the properties from 2005-6 hearings continued throughout the year. Monitored properties included the ones listed above plus, 58 Brantwood Rd., 3-5 Brattle St., 248 Gray St., 91 Hemlock St. ("Knowles Farmhouse"), 75 Jason St., 85 Jason St., 197 Lake St., 201 Lake St., 821 Massachusetts Ave., 18 Robin Hood Rd., 45 Spring St., 24 Stony Brook Rd., and the former Symmes Hospital. Until October, the Commission monitored 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. Thirteen signs were distributed in 2007. The number of requests for the distinctive blue oval plaques has steadily risen. Each plaque displays the year the property was built and a historic house name, if any.

Inventory Expansion

In 2006, Co-Chair Richard A. Duffy collaborated with the Historic District Commissions to fulfill the requirements to expand the Pleasant Street Historic District to include Oak Knoll.

Education and Outreach

The Commission continues to maintain and improve its own web site that describes its work at www.arlingtonhistoricalcommission.org. In January 2006, the Commission added a searchable list of the properties on the Inventory of Historically and/or Architecturally Significant Properties to the website.

The Commission actively supported the nomination of 1146 for a Preservation Restriction from the National Architectural Trust.

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, and the Jarvis House at 50 Pleasant Street. This year, the Commission has collaborated with the Cemetery Commission and other interested citizens to support a plan to inventory the gravestones, tombs, and walls of the Old Burying Ground in order to preserve and restore the historic cemetery.

Commissioners represented the Historical

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

HISTORIC DISTRICTS COMMISSION

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 communities.

Arlington has seven established historic districts that include 351 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: Avon Place, 1996; Broadway, 1991; Central Street, 1982; Jason/Gray, 1998; Mount Gilboa/Crescent Hill, 1991; Pleasant Street, 2006; and Russell, 1983. The proposed expansion to add 8 properties on Oak Knoll to the Pleasant Street Historic District was approved at Town Meeting in 2006 and officially recognized by the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the Attorney General and recorded at the Middlesex (South) Registry of Deeds in September of 2006.

The Arlington Historic District Commissions are 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 2006, the Commission met eleven times to hold hearings for property owners seeking approval for certificates for exterior work to be conducted on their homes. Part of the regular meetings included seven (7) Informal Hearings held for property owners seeking advice or resource information for work to be conducted, seventeen (17) Formal Hearings and eight (8) Continuations of Formal Hearings. As a result of those meetings, twenty (20) Certificates of Appropriateness, and twenty-two (22) Certificates of Non-Applicability were granted. In the course of these proceedings, and in many cases, the Commissioners were able to work with homeowners and their contractors to achieve solutions that were not only historically appropriate, but better for the homeowners.

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 AHDC at Town Day and increasing joint efforts with the Arlington Historical Commission. In 2006, Danielle Santos moved from Town and resigned as Commissioner for the Broadway Historic District and long-term Commissioner Andrea Alberg tendered her resignation as a Commissioner-At-Large to enjoy her upcoming retirement. There are currently vacant seats for the Broadway and the Mt Gilboa/Crescent Hill Districts.

CYRUS E. DALLIN ART MUSEUM



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. In 2006, The Board of Trustees expanded the collection, increased the numbers of visitors and established greater public awareness of Dallin and the Cyrus E. Dallin Art Museum. Significant activities for 2006 include participating in the founding of the Arlington 4 Culture coalition, a book signing for a recently published book on Dallin, a Dallin family weekend of events, a Jamboree for kids and various lectures and publications. The Museum continues to expand its collection and activities to honor Dallin and benefit the community.

Acquisitions

During 2006, the Museum expanded its collection through gifts and loans including:

- Album of Arlington postcards and memorabilia
- *Caproni Casts, American Indians and Other Sculptures* 1915, catalog by P.P. Caproni and Bro.
- C.E. Dallin's gold pocket watch (on loan)
- *Governor William Bradford* 1920, sculpture (on loan)
- *Indian 1887*, sculpture (on loan)
- *Indian Head* 1929, sculpture (in restoration)
- Indian Head metal banks (3)

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- Letters (2) by C.E. Dallin to Mr. Charles T. Scott and to Mrs. Myra Nelson Hartman
- *Menotomy Hunter* china plate
- Morton Bradley bequest of a framed picture of the *Appeal to the Great Spirit*
- Oil paintings (3) by C.E. Dallin on permanent loan from Arlington Historical Society
- Photographs of C.E. Dallin by Paul A. Brodeur
- *Reclining Female with Poppies* 1903, sculpture
- *Sketches of Great Painters* 1902, book by Colonna Murray Dallin
- *Victory Memorial* 1919, sculpture

Events/Communications/Outreach

This year the Dallin Museum participated in the founding of the Arlington 4 Culture coalition. Arlington 4 Culture includes four Arlington based museums and historic institutions, including the Arlington Historical Society, the Armenian Cultural Foundation (ACF), the Cyrus E. Dallin Art Museum, and the Old Schwamb Mill. The collaboration promotes awareness of the town's rich cultural heritage and legacy and will support each other in its respective missions. In October, the members held a reception at the ACF and displayed several rare books and letters. Dr. Robert Mirak, President, presented a history of ACF, and Geri Tremblay of the Dallin Museum presented the mission of the new fellowship.

The Friday night before Memorial Day weekend, the Museum hosted a reception and book signing for author Rell G. Francis and editor Denice Dallin Wheeler who recently published *Frontier to Fame: Cyrus E. Dallin, Sculptor*. Throngs of dignitaries, Dallin family members, and other guests packed the museum to view recent acquisitions and a new gallery.

Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Murray of North Carolina with their daughters Frances and Nancy were honored for their permanent loan of Dallin's previously lost *General William T. Sherman*. The statue is the original and only model. Meticulously restored by Bob Shure of Skylight Studio (Woburn), *General Sherman's* pristine appearance was a delight to the Murrays, Dallins, and patrons.

On Saturday, Dallin family members who had traveled from California, Colorado, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Utah, Wyoming, and Massachusetts were guided on a tour of some of Dallin's monumental works: *Memory* in Sherborn, the *Storrow Memorial* in Lincoln, the *Woodbrook Cemetery Memorial* in Woburn, the *Menotomy Hunter* and the *Flagstaff* in Arlington, and the *Angel Moroni* in Belmont. That evening the Dallin family relaxed at a barbeque given at Gerry and Steve Ricci's home where videographer Steve Boudreau of the *Menotomy Journal* and James McGough of the museum interviewed Dallin family members. On Sunday, Doreen Stevens of the Arlington Historical Society presented

a lecture about Vittoria Colonna Dallin and Arlington's Pageants.

The Dallin Family Weekend was a great success. The Dallin family toured the museum and renewed family ties. A final comment from Gail Adams, "I have always been deeply touched by your dedication and extraordinary efforts to keep my great grandfather's spirit alive in Arlington."

Sculptures by Anne Philbrick Hall, C.E. Dallin's student at Massachusetts College of Art, were on exhibit from May to October. Friends and family attended a memorable opening reception on June 11. On display were exquisite animals - birds, a goose, grasshopper, horse, mouse, toads, rabbits, and many breeds of dogs - created in bronze and raku. Hall created the malamute trophy of the New England Sled Dog Club, but is more widely known for her sculpture of Northeastern University's mascot, the Husky. Anne was lauded in *The Arlington Advocate Arts Quarterly* and in *The Marshfield Reporter*.

The July Jamboree was held on the lawn in front of the Jefferson Cutter House. The Dallin Museum opened its doors with an added feature of special tours for very young museum goers. Looking at Art with Children was created especially for these tots and their parents.

Denice Dallin Wheeler of Evanston, Wyoming invited Geri Tremblay to represent the museum at *Ancient Threads, Newly Woven, Recent Art from China's Silk Road*, an exhibit in Salt Lake City, Utah. Dr. and Mrs. Virgil Jacobson represented Springville Museum of Art, UT. All the guests enjoyed the evening's reception, music, and art.

Springville Museum of Art, Utah featured two special exhibits in September at which the Dallin Museum was represented. Both museums share a special bond with their definitive Cyrus E. Dallin collections of sculptures and paintings and continue to collaborate on acquisitions and research.

The Oral History Project continues with James McGough and Heather Leavell interviewing those who knew the Dallins and recording anecdotes and associations.

Arlington Town Day was celebrated at the museum with special tours, sales of books and merchandise, and arts and crafts at Art on the Green.

Historic And Idealized Americans, Sculptures By Cyrus E. Dallin, Arlington Artist, a lecture scripted by Maria DiGioia and Geri Tremblay was delivered to a standing-room-only crowd. Archivist/librarian/lecturer Paul Dobbs from Massachusetts College of Art and attendees were treated to many new and interesting facts and colorful graphics. A reception followed in the galleries.

Participating in Arlington's 200th Anniversary Celebration, the Dallin Museum is collaborating with and supporting *Arlington 4 Culture*, to develop graphic-rich

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lectures, displaying small works and memorabilia, redesigning galleries, exhibiting four “new” sculptures, and planning events about C.E. Dallin, Arlington Artist.

Publications continue with *Looking at Art for Children* a guide for very young children and their parents. Two postcards, *Arlington 4 Culture* and a collage of Dallin artwork, are printed and available. Sales of the biography *Frontier to Fame: Cyrus E. Dallin, Sculptor* and of the activity book, *Cyrus E. Dallin and His Native American Works* are brisk.

Museum attendance continues to grow daily. In addition to Arlington elementary students, several groups including the Cub Scouts, Brownies, and Arlington Children’s Center visit for guided tours.

Fundraising Grants

The Arlington Educational Enrichment Fund awarded a grant for 2007 to Geri Tremblay to develop an elementary level presentation about Dallin and his works, train museum docents, and invite Arlington students for a day visit to the museum for a guided tour.

The annual fundraising letter was launched this fall thanks to the herculean efforts of Angela Olszewski and Gerry Ricci. The Board of Trustees is thankful for the continued support of its generous patrons without whom the museum would not be possible. Matching grants from several corporations are greatly appreciated.

2007 and Future

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 continued to complete its collection of the Caproni Brothers’ casts of Dallin sculptures, either for exhibit in Arlington or other museums.

For 2007, the Museum intends to expand its outreach to the community by revising the Dallin website, increasing its school programs, publishing articles and brochures and strengthening *Arlington 4 Culture*. In addition the Museum intends to grow its collection of Dallin art and collectibles and restore the Indian Head sculpture.

The C.E. Dallin Art Museum is open Tuesday through Sunday from noon to 4 PM with the dedication of its volunteers. Docents provide group and student tours seven days a week by appointment and for a nominal fee. For reservations call 781-641-0747. Individuals are welcome gratis.