

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

ARLINGTON CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Arlington Cultural Council (ACC) is a local council of the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC), a state agency, consisting of resident volunteers appointed by the Board of Selectmen for three-year terms. Council members, who may serve for as many as two consecutive terms, are charged with the responsibility of supporting and encouraging the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences in Arlington, primarily through the annual distribution of state allocated funds to applicants through a competitive grant process.

The ACC generally meets on the second Monday of each month at 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 Council activities, and sharing general information about meetings and events.

During 2007, Tom Formicola continued to serve as Chair of the Council. Departing Council members included Roz Cummins and Elinore Kagan who had served in the role of treasurer for many years. Four new members joined the ACC in 2007, including Stephanie Marlin-Curiel, Emmanuela Maurice, Susan Murie, and Anyahlee Suderman.

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 Council participates in the annual Town Day celebration -- hosting a popular chalk art activity as well as an Arlington art and architecture hunt. Town Day also provides the ACC with important opportunities to distribute information, including grant applications and guidelines.

On May 8, 2007, the ACC presented a public reception for grant recipients at the Arlington Center for the Arts. About 60 awardees and Arlington residents gathered at the reception to hear about funded projects and celebrate culture in our town. The Council welcomed Representatives Jim Marzilli and Jay Kaufman who shared remarks about the importance of culture in the community.

These proceedings also included the presentation of a Gold Star Award by the MCC. The award was presented in recognition of the Council's support of 2006 applicant Karen Dillon who partnered with local schools, organizations, and businesses to create and implement an art and architecture project promoting awareness of the town's landmarks and unique history. Gold Star awards are awarded by the MCC according to a variety of criteria including: artistic quality, success in reaching out to underserved constituents, educational value, and ability to engage with the community.

The reception culminated with a community-input meeting. Guests participated in small group discussions,

providing feedback and sharing ideas about Council priorities and the kinds of projects they would like to see supported in Arlington. Prominent themes included the importance of "out-of-school" cultural activities for children and teenagers, public art, and projects that engage and benefit the widest cross-section of residents possible. The input collected through these conversations guided the Council's work through the fall cycle and will continue to inform discussions into the future.

The most recent ACC application deadline was October 15, 2007. 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 an 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, 26 applications were received from schools, individual artists, and cultural groups. Requests for funds totaled \$26,550. Proposals were received from residents of Arlington as well as other towns and cities in Massachusetts. Following deliberations, the Council awarded 15 applicants a total of \$10,500 allocated by the Massachusetts Cultural Council as follows:

Arlington Cultural Council Grants 2007	
Recipient/Project	Amount
Arlington Historical Society	\$ 300
Bouvier, Alice D.	\$ 750
Carroll, Marion Leeds	\$ 500
Delvena Theatre Company	\$ 150
Frenkel, Yetti	\$ 250
National Heritage Museum	\$ 200
Right Turn, Inc.	\$ 1,500
Robbins Library	\$ 600
Betsy Schramm	\$ 2,000
Snodgrass, Joseph	\$ 200
Speter, Tova	\$ 1,600
Suderman, Anyahlee	\$ 1,100
Dallin Art Museum	\$ 900
Harcovitz, Ruth	\$ 250
Three Apples Storytelling	\$ 200

Those who are interested in the council's activities may contact the Arlington Cultural Council at the following email address: arlingtonculturalcouncil@yahoo.com or by calling Tom Formicola directly at (781) 648-4205.

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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.

Hearings and Property Monitoring

The Commission conducted formal hearings on nine inventoried properties in 2007: 27 Brantwood Rd., 32 Colonial Dr., 45 Fairview Ave., 201 Lake St., 22 Pleasant St., 655 Massachusetts Ave., 39 Orvis Rd., 5 Swan St., and 77 Warren St.

Oversight on the properties from 2005-6 hearings continued through out the year. Monitored properties included the ones listed above plus 41, 42 and 58 Brantwood Rd., 3-5 Brattle St., 22 Franklin St, 85 Jason St., 197 Lake St., 201 Lake St., 821 Massachusetts Ave., 22 Pleasant St., 40 Teel St., 81-83 Warren St., 82 Wollaston Ave., and the former Symmes Hospital.

Co-Chair Richard A. Duffy has worked closely with the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) to document and report on the Symmes Hospital buildings before they were demolished. This effort ensures that a record of the historic buildings will be archived.

Historic Markers

The Commission managed the historic house marker program for all Arlington properties on the *Inventory*. Five signs were distributed in 2007. Requests for the distinctive blue oval plaque remain strong. Each plaque displays the year the property was built and a historic house name, if any.

Inventory Expansion

Co-Chair Richard A. Duffy is working on completing the documentation to include 26 Florence Ave. on the *Inventory of Historically and/or Architecturally Significant Properties*.

Education and Outreach

The Commission continues to maintain and improve its own web site that provides a copy of the *Inventory of Architecturally Significant Properties* and de-

scribes the process for hearings before the Commission as well as listing our publications and projects.

www.arlingtonhistoricalcommission.org.

This year, The Commission supported the activities associated with the 200th Anniversary Celebration of the Town of Arlington. Our participation included:

- "This Week in History," weekly articles for the *Arlington Advocate*. This popular feature reported on events in Arlington history and ran through the entire bicentennial year. All of the bicentennial articles will be compiled and published in 2008. Copies will be available at The Robbins Library.
- "On the Street Where You Live: Building a Dictionary of Arlington's Historic Street Names" The Commission launched this bicentennial project to involve Arlington residents in the documentation of the origins of Arlington street names. This project continues through 2008 and beyond under the sponsorship of the Arlington Historical Society.

The Commission actively supported the nomination of 54 Massachusetts Avenue, the Butterfield-Whittemore House, 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 Co-Chair JoAnn Robinson helped the Town obtain a Planning Grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission to complete a survey and assessment of the gravestones, tombs and walls of the Old Burying Ground in order to preserve and protect the historic cemetery. Ms. Robinson worked in cooperation with Planning and Community Development in writing and administering the grant. The grant work will be completed in June 2008.

Commissioners represented the Historical 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, and the Arlington Preservation Fund, the Arlington Historical Society, and the Old Schwamb Mill.

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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 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 AHDC 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 the year 2007 the Commission met twelve 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 eight Informal Hearings held for property owners seeking advice or resource information for work to be conducted, twenty seven Formal Hearings and six Continuations of Formal Hearings. As a result of those meetings, twenty seven Certificates of Appropriateness, and thirty three Certificates of Non-Applicability to be undertaken were granted. There were two letters of denial that were given, one of a procedural nature and the second based on the Commission's finding that the project under consideration, if constructed according to application submitted, would violate the general harmony and historic and architectural values of the District based on a number of factors.

During the year the Commissioners worked on updating the District Inventory Listing, a District signage inventory, an outreach program to property owners in all seven Districts, educating the public on the role of the Historic District Commission at Town Day, and increasing joint efforts with the Arlington Historical Commission. In 2007 Gregory Dubell joined the Mt Gilboa/Crescent Hill Historic District Commission for a short period time and had to resign due to a job relocation, Thomas Smurzynski joined the Broadway Historic District Commission and L. Margaret (Maggie) Kramer joined as a Commissioner at Large.

CYRUS E. DALLIN ART MUSEUM



As the Cyrus E. Dallin Art Museum approaches its tenth anniversary of opening its doors to the community; the trustees have executed projects, plans and new acquisitions during the past year in its quest to further the growth of the museum.

A gala Spring event was held to commemorate the reopening of the third gallery, "IDEALS AND ALLEGORIES". "Ideals" emphasizes 19TH Century visionary works and "Allegories" is a pictorial representation for metaphors. A major acquisition for this gallery was the recently discovered life size plaster sculpture of "LETHE". Created by Dallin in 1904, she is the personification of one of the seven rivers in the Greco-Roman underworld. It was inspired by the French poet Charles Baudelaire and executed in homage to Dallin's teacher Henri Michele Chapu.

The festivities opened on April 26 with a press release for the visual and print media. On Sunday, May 6, a reception was held for the volunteer docents and associate members and their families. The primary event was held on Friday evening, May 11 with the gallery opening in the museum and a reception in the Whittemore/Robbins House. A number of donors along with members of the Dallin family and public officials were feted.

Other activities and accomplishments

- An Oral History program continued with audio visual interviews with four individuals who knew Cyrus Dallin. Two of them were students of his at Massachusetts College of Art.
- Many tours were hosted by the museum for students from public and private elementary schools, after school programs and members of local history societies. Plans were initiated with the Arlington Public Schools to have all third grade classes visit the museum as part of their academic studies associated with the Massachusetts Department of Education curriculum frameworks. This outreach program is designed to teach the students about Cyrus E. Dallin and to learn the joy of creating art.
- In August, the museum hosted the Armenian Museum managers from the city of Yerivan, Armenia who were visiting the Armenian Cultural Foundation on Mystic Street as well as

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the Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA), in Watertown. The managers were especially interested to see how a small museum was created and functions.

- The museum participated in Arlington's annual Town Day festivities on September 8th by sponsoring "Art on the Green". Twenty-five vendors offered their wares on Whittemore Park in front of the museum. A distinguished guest was Hank Phillippi Ryan from Channel 7 news who participated in a book signing at vendor Dick Haley Booksellers' booth.
- In October, the museum welcomed Gail Adams one of Cyrus' great grand-daughters living in Connecticut. She also brought members of her family along with friends from Utah. Joining them was grand-daughter Jean Doherty and her family. They visited the sculptures in the Robbins Gardens and Cyrus Dallin's home in Arlington Heights where they were hosted with a tour by Dale Peterson and Winn Kelly. Gail and Jean greatly enjoyed the memories of the house.
- In November, trustees Geraldine Tremblay and Angela Olszewski were reappointed to three-year terms. Roland Chaput and Terry Shaoul were appointed trustees to three-year terms. Trustee Geraldine Ricci resigned in August after serving as Volunteer Coordinator and Fundraiser for eight years. The Board thanked her for her involvement with CEDAM and wished her well.
- An amendment to elect Associate Trustees was added to the museum's by-laws and approved by the Arlington Board of Selectmen on November 5th. C.E. Dallin Art Museum's newly elected associate trustees are Laurie Cutts-Simcik, Maria DiGioia and Amy Taberner.
- Two plaster sculptures were donated to the museum by Mr. George Long of Lake, Michigan. The original bronze of "On the Warpath" is in the Brookgreen Gardens Museum in South Carolina. "The Appeal to the Great Spirit" is a slightly different version than the one currently owned by the Dallin Museum. The original bronze is in front of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. Both pieces were exhibited at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco, California in 1915 and need extensive restoration work.
- In November, the Arlington Board of Selectmen presented the Cyrus E. Dallin Award to James McGough and Geraldine Tremblay. They were recognized for their many years of effort to enhance the museum as well as to

promote the cultural life of the town.

All of these activities were accomplished through the encouragement and financial support of many individuals of the town. In addition, the museum received matching grants from companies and assistance grants from the Arlington Educational Enrichment Fund (AEEF), and the Arlington Cultural Council (ACC), who disburses funds from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Due to the generosity of these many sources, the museum continues to increase its collection, implement its educational programs, publish articles in the local media, prepare new and informative brochures, strengthen and promote the Arlington 4 Culture consortium, increase museum tours and prepare for the 150th anniversary of the births of Cyrus E. and Vittoria C. Dallin in 2011.

As always, the museum is open from Tuesday to Sunday from 12 Noon to 4:00 PM and on Saturdays from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Please call 781 641-0747 for tour reservations and opening times.

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200TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

The Board of Selectmen provided extensive support for the plans and activities of the 200th Anniversary Committee throughout the year along with the hard work and generosity of countless individuals and businesses.

The goal of the 200th Anniversary Committee was to plan, promote and conduct a series of events commemorating the town's 200th birthday. The theme was

to present our history as a vibrant community from 1807 to 2007. Major highlights of the celebration were:

- A 200th Anniversary website
- An October "Countdown to the 200th" Dinner
- Lectures sponsored by the Arlington Historical Society
- A gala celebration on June 1, 2007 (the actual 200th anniversary date), with a concert, birthday cake and fireworks
- A Seniors Picnic with musical entertainment
- A Family Fun Day with food, games and social events
- A Harvest Ball at the Town Hall



200th Anniversary Flag flies on Town Hall flagstaff



Display at Town Hall of the actual parchment incorporating the Town of West Cambridge, later changed to Arlington

The final major event was a display of the actual parchment incorporating the Town of West Cambridge, later changed to Arlington. It was held in conjunction with an Awards Night hosted by the Board of Selectmen to recognize outstanding citizens of the town.



July 5, 2007 Senior Picnic Celebration