

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 Arlington 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.

Though much of its business is related to grant cycle activities, occurring September through December, the Council is active year-round. 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.

On April 12 the ACC honored 2010 Grant Recipients at a Town Hall reception with refreshments, art displays, and speakers. About seventy guests, including grant recipients and Arlington residents, gathered for the reception. Selectman Clarissa Rowe announced the current year's grants recipients, three members of our state legislative delegation were present at the event: Reps. Brownsberger and Garballey, and Sen. Donnelly. All spoke about the importance of arts and culture programming in Arlington, even in difficult financial times.

In September the ACC participated in the annual Town Day celebration, offering a community art project at its booth. This year, the ACC collaborated with the Arlington Center for the Arts to present a mini-expo on Public Art in Arlington, including approximately six exhibits of individual artist's work, plus a participatory temporary public art installation. The ACC also uses its Town Day booth to distribute current grant applications and guidelines, and provides information about upcoming arts events.

The ACC offered a free Grant-writing Workshop on October 3rd for anyone planning to apply for funds by the application deadline of October 15. At the workshop ACC members offered attendees assistance with the 2011 grant application process. Following the application deadline, applicants were invited to two public sessions that provided opportunity for them to elaborate on their projects. In November, the ACC held a day-long voting meeting to decide which applications would be funded. Applicants not receiving funds were notified by November 30, and those receiving funds are notified in January, 2011 (as directed by the MCC).

In this recently completed 2011 grant cycle, thirty applications were received from schools, individual artists, and cultural groups. Requests for funds totaled \$32,614. Funds available for allocation by the ACC totaled \$11,557. Proposals were received from residents

of Arlington as well as other towns and cities in Massachusetts. Following deliberations, the ACC awarded seventeen grants as follows:

- Le Cafe Francais, Gina Sonder, \$375.00
- AEC African Drum Project, AEC, \$607.00
- The Silly Laughing Musical Fun Poetry Show, Robbins Library, \$350.00
- Tuba City Cultural Odyssey, Luke Jaffe, \$500.00
- Kamishibai (Japanese Puppet Theater), Shunsuke Yamaguchi, \$800.00
- Songs Off the Walls: CD and Concert, Shari Craig, \$1,000.00
- Arlington and the Cultural Renaissance, Dalin Museum and Arlington Historical Society, \$700.00
- A Master Class and Concerts, Pasquale Tassone, \$1,500.00
- Our Fragile Earth, Gail McCormick, \$375.00
- Meet Eleanor Roosevelt, Arlington Seniors Association, \$350.00
- Celtic Lullabies, Aine Minogue, \$1,500.00
- Author-in-Residence & Literary Festival at Peirce Elem School, Jocelyn Willet, \$250.00
- Our Village of South Sudan, Sudanese Education Fund, \$550.00
- Shakespeare in the Parks – Revitalized, Arlington Center for the Arts, \$1,000.00
- Maasai Cultural Performance, Simba Maasai Outreach Organization, \$350.00
- Sol y Canto Latin Music Ensemble Performance at Town Hall, PASS Grant, Arlington Elem. PTOs, \$1,100.00
- A Trip to the Japanese House at Boston Children's Museum, PASS Grant, Thompson School PTO, \$250.00

Plans for 2011 include the annual Grantee Reception at Town Hall in April, a Town Day booth in September, and the annual Grant Cycle, with 2012 grant applications due on October 15, 2011.

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 in-

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formal 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 three inventoried properties in 2010: 49-53 Appleton Street (Idahurst mansion), 9 Fessenden Rd., 1 Whittemore Park (Jefferson Cutter House).

Oversight on the properties from 2005-10 hearings continued through out the year. Monitored properties included the ones listed above plus 21 Appleton St., 3-5 Brattle St., 53 Brattle St., 15 Oldham Rd., 6 Park St., 43-45 Massachusetts Ave., 821 Massachusetts Ave., 71 Walnut St., 18 Water St. the Highland Fire Station and the former Symmes Hospital.

The Commission continues to monitor the historic Dr. Charles A. Atwood House at 821 Massachusetts Ave. The Atwood House was scheduled for rehabilitation rather than demolition when it was included as part of the site plan for the former Hodgdon-Noyes Buick dealership where a new CVS pharmacy has been built as approved by the Redevelopment Board.

Town properties that have come before the Commission include the Jefferson Cutter House, the Highland Fire Station, and the historic DPW garage (the former Arlington Gas Light Co). AHC Commissioners consulted on repairs to the Town Hall and Whittemore-Robbins House.

An informal hearing was held for 252, 258-260 Massachusetts Ave. a property that the Housing Corporation of Arlington is planning to use for affordable housing and voted to support the plans for rehabilitation.

Historic Markers

The Commission managed the historic house marker program for all Arlington properties on the *Inventory*. 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.

Website

The Commission continues to maintain and improve its own website that provides a copy of the *Inventory of Historically and/or Architecturally Significant Properties* and describes the process for hearings before the Commission as well as listing our publications and projects. www.arlingtonhistoricalcommission.org.

Education and Outreach

Throughout the year, Commissioners participate in many activities that educate and inform citizens about historic preservation. The AHC participated in Town Day with a booth.

Other Activities

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.

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 Preservation Fund, the Arlington Historical Society, the Old Schwamb Mill, and the new Tourism and Economic Development/Battle Road Scenic Byway Committee.

Acknowledgements

The Commission would like to thank Richard A. Duffy for his significant contributions to the work of the Commission and his service for many years as the Co-chair of the Commission. After completing his appointed term, Mr. Duffy continues to serve as an Associate Commissioner.

HISTORIC DISTRICT 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 Arlington Historic District Commission (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 2010 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

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Informal Hearings held for property owners seeking advice or resource information for work to be conducted and twenty eight (28) Formal Hearings with two subsequent application withdrawals (33 Russell Street and 26 Academy Street). As a result of those meetings, twenty eight (28) Certificates of Appropriateness, and thirty five (36) Certificates of Non-Applicability to be undertaken were granted. One denial letter was issued. During the year the Commissioners worked on educating the public on the role of the Historic District Commission at Town Day.

Commissioner Changes in 2010

Madelon Hope Berkowitz resigned as a Commissioner At-Large; Alex Frisch resigned as Commissioner for the Central Street District; Margaret Potter resigned as a Commissioner for the Jason/Gray District; L. Margaret "Maggie" Kramer resigned as a Commissioner At-Large; Jonathan Nyberg joined as a Commissioner At-Large, and David Baldwin joined as a Commissioner At-Large. The Commission will be actively seeking replacements for the departed Commissioners in the Jason/Gray and Central Historic Districts as well as additional Commissioners At-Large during 2011.

CYRUS E. DALLIN ART MUSEUM

The Cyrus E. Dallin Art Museum has had a very productive year in 2010. Many art lovers attended activities, exhibits, and lectures. Moreover, in just a few short months the museum will celebrate a major milestone - the 150th anniversary of the births of Cyrus Edwin and Vittoria Colonna Dallin.

Lectures

Dallin Museum lectures continue with new speakers to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the museum's opening. These lectures and other events are aired on local television in cooperation with Arlington Community Media, Inc. (ACMI).

Historian Charles Bahne presented "Paul Revere's Ride" as part of the 150th anniversary of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem. Bahne discussed the history of the ride, the poem which included lines missing from the original manuscript describing events that took place in Menotomy, Dallin's sculpture in Boston's North End, and his different, earlier statue in the museum's collection.

Patricia Capone, Associate Curator, Peabody Museum, Harvard University, presented *Unlocking Arlington's Past: Archaeology and Native Americans of the Region*, i.e. Cambridge/Arlington. This lecture was co-sponsored with the Arlington Historical Society and in conjunction with Massachusetts Archaeology Month, a Massachusetts Historical Commission initiative.

Exhibits

The Town Hall Gallery showcased a 3 month photographic exhibit, *Cyrus E. Dallin's Monuments* and *Arthur C. Dallin's Stained Glass Windows* illustrating examples of the father-son artists who lived and worked in Arlington. Along with a painting and sculptures, the negatives of the monuments were donated by Lawrence Dallin in 1964. Fifteen photographs of stained glass windows designed and executed by Arthur depict only some of his work done for public buildings and churches, including the Park Avenue Congregational Church in Arlington Heights.

An open house was held to unveil new acquisitions to Arlington's community. Three portraits were displayed: *My Mother*, *George Abbot Smith*, and *Cyrus Dallin, Sculptor*.

My Mother (1904) is a 22" plaster bust of Dallin's mother, Jane Hamer. The newly-restored portrait, sculpted by her grandfather, was donated by Jean Dallin Doherty and her family.

George Abbott Smith (1917) is a bronze bas-relief in profile. In addition to being a friend of Cyrus, Smith, an Arlington native, was a benefactor to the Arlington

Historical Society and provided the funds to build the Smith Museum.

Cyrus Dallin, Sculptor (1909) is a plaster, bas-relief and prototype of the bronze in the museum's collection. The profile, given by David Brodeur, was created by his father Paul Adrian Brodeur, a student of Dallin at Massachusetts College of Art.

Activities/Events

The Board of Trustees attended the reception of Arlington Cultural Council (ACC) recipients in April for the award of a grant to restore *My Mother*. The bust of Jane Hamer was brought back to its original luster with donations from museum supporters and the ACC. The museum is very grateful for this support.

Art on the Green, held on the lawn in front of the Jefferson Cutter House during Arlington's Town Day, hosted artists in all media: fabric art, jewelry, painting and photography, among others. Several local authors including Hank Philippi Ryan and Michelle McPhee autographed their works at Haley Booksellers booth. The raffle drawing was a great success and will help organize a future school art contest.

Massachusetts Archaeology Month (October) was celebrated with *Unlocking Arlington's Past: Native Americans and the Art of Cyrus Dallin*. This event included gallery talks, a special tour of local sculptures and places of archaeological interest as well as activities for children. The program was co-sponsored with the Arlington Historical Society and offered in conjunction with an initiative of the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

Every Tuesday night in November Not Your Average Joe's restaurant offered the museum the opportu-

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nity to receive a contribution from diners.

Trustee Geri Tremblay, husband Don, and Gini & Bob (Crombie) Dallin visited Utah to see Cyrus Dallin's works in Springville and Salt Lake City. They attended an exhibit of Southwestern paintings at Brigham Young University, collaborated with Springville Museum of Art's Director Dr. Vern Swanson and Curator Dr. Virgil Jacobsen regarding acquisitions, and visited museums and monuments in Salt Lake City. View the artwork of this trip on www.dallin.org

Acquisitions/Restorations

The museum received an oil of *Ann Carter Hanford and Daughter Lurevia*. Painted ca. 1857 by an unknown artist, the woman in the portrait is the grandmother of Adele Kish, daughter of Victor Dallin. Adele (Candy) and John Kish and family have donated the painting.

The museum is also the new home of the papers of Dallin's biographer, the late Rell Francis, thanks to Janet and Lewis Francis. The extensive collection, compiled by Francis for his two publications *Cyrus E. Dallin: Let Justice Be Done* (1976) and

Cyrus E. Dallin, Sculptor: Frontier to Fame (2005), gives the museum the distinction of being THE leading repository for information on the life and works of C.E. Dallin.

Two oil paintings have been professionally restored: *Black Rock*, *Salt Lake* and *Lawrence's House*.

Foremost in an ambitious slate of marketing strategies, the newly redesigned website is launched at www.dallin.org. The site provides information, images, and works by C.E. Dallin and news about exhibits and events at the museum.

The new Right Card, distributed to high traffic locations in and around Boston, is increasing museum attendance from tourists, students, and residents interested in the arts and heritage of the area.

Ongoing Projects

Oral History interviews continue with James McGough chronicling the lives of Cyrus and Vittoria Colonna Dallin through the perspective of their family, friends, and neighbors. These videotaped sessions are expected to be a documentary production for local television.

Arthur Dallin's Stained Glass Windows are being located throughout New England, photographed, and researched for a future publication.

Guided tours for adult, student, and special interest groups are conducted by both the trustees and docents without whom the museum would not be able to open its doors. Many thanks to our selfless volunteers.

These activities were accomplished through the hard work of the museum's trustees, docents and other volunteers, with continued support from the Dallin Family, individuals outside and within the Town of Arlington, through matching grants from companies, and assistance grants from the Arlington Cultural Council. Due to the foresight and generosity of these individuals and sources, the museum has increased its collections, implemented educational programs, researched art and history, published articles, established a website, and promoted cooperation among Arlington's art organizations and other museums. 2011 is the 150th anniversary of C.E. Dallin and his wife V.C. Dallin. Special year-long activities will include a February vacation program for 1st to 4th graders, school art contest, spring open house, lectures, publications, and a variety of events.

The museum is open Wednesday through Sunday from noon to 4 PM. Please call 781-641-0747 for tour reservations, to verify hours, and to volunteer.



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