

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, ACC is active year-round. The ACC generally meets on the second Monday of each month. All meetings are announced in advance and are open to the general public. During 2013 most meetings took place on the fourth floor of the Robbins Library in the conference room, with occasional meetings at the Senior Center and Jefferson Cutter House.

On April 9th the ACC honored the 2013 Grant Recipients at a reception at the Arlington Center for the Arts with refreshments, art displays, and speakers. This reception had the theme, “public participation in the arts” and there was a special table labeled “Call for Participants” that helped to articulate this theme. The table featured literature from other arts organizations, committees and public art projects, and a MASS Creative representative attended and spoke about advocacy specifically. About 70 guests - including grant recipients, government representatives, cultural organizations, and Arlington residents – attended the reception. Entertainment was provided by musicians who were part of the 2013 A-Town Jazz Fest, one of the 2013 Council grantees. Co-Chairs Stephanie Marlin-Curiel and Eliza Burden welcomed the guests, acknowledged the attendance of many of the Town’s cultural organizations, and introduced this year’s grant recipients. Senator Donnelly also addressed the group, and each grant recipient received a citation from the Massachusetts House of Representatives, arranged by Representative Garballey.

In September, the ACC participated in the annual Town Day celebration and the Council also highlighted recent grantees. Puppeteer Margaret Moody brought her puppets and did a short performance, and volunteers from AIFF and True Story Theater also distributed literature, and were available to answer questions. Council members distributed current grant applications and guidelines, encouraged attendance at the upcoming grant-writing workshop, and provided information about upcoming arts events.



Cultural Council Grant Awards

The ACC offered a free grant-writing workshop on September 25th for those planning to apply for funds by the application deadline of October 15th. At the workshop, ACC members presented the basics about applying for a grant and offered attendees the opportunity to ask questions about the grant application process. By October 15th, ACC had received a total of 27 grant applications, from schools, individual artists, cultural groups, and even a current Arlington High School student. Requests for funds totaled nearly \$26,000. Following the application deadline, applicants were invited to a public session on November 7th and 8th that provided an opportunity for them to elaborate on their projects.

On November 18th, the ACC held a day-long deliberation meeting to decide which applications would be funded. Funds available for allocation by the ACC totaled \$12,000. Deliberations resulted in 17 grants being awarded by the ACC: Applicants not receiving funds were notified by November 30th, and those receiving funds were notified in January 2014 (as directed by the MCC).

2014 Grant Recipients

Samantha Fleishman	1,600
Gail McCormick	500
Kevin Duffy	600
Arlington Public Art	1,000
Scott Samenfeld	500
Linda Shoemaker	500
Arlington Int. Film Fest	1,200
Delvena Theater	400
A-TED	1,000
True Story Theater	750
Arlington Children’s Theater	250
Todd Brunel	500
Leslie Havens	400
Kendall Dudley	600
Ethan Kaczowka	500
Marc Gurton	500
Luminarium Dance Co	1,200

The ACC is pleased to report that a variety of cultural events occurred in Arlington during 2013 that were

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funded by, or in part by, the ACC. Highlights included a sculpture project at Waldo Park, the Arlington Alive Block Party, Chairful Where You Sit, and history projects involving the Old Schwamb Mill and the Dallin Museum. The project funded for the Arlington International Film Festival received a Gold Star Award from the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Plans for 2014 include the annual "Celebration of Arts and Culture" which will be held at the Arlington Friends of the Drama on Monday April 7th, a Town Day booth in September, and the annual Grant Cycle, with 2015 grant applications due on October 15, 2014.



CULTURAL COMMISSION

The Arlington Cultural Commission was originally established under Article 21 of Town Meeting in 1993, but was not populated at the time. Following the Arlington Alive meeting of cultural organizations, business, artists, residents and town members in June 2012, which called for a central leadership body on arts and culture, Jane Howard of Vision 2020 and Adria Arch approached the Town Manager to say it was now time to people this Commission.

Seven members were appointed and the first meeting of the Cultural Commission took place on March 7th. The primary purpose of the Commission is to advocate for arts and cultural opportunities throughout the Town and advise the Town on matters of a cultural and artistic nature (Section 2A and B).

The following have been the Commission's activities over the past year.

Mission Statement

The Arlington Cultural Commission has developed the following mission statement:

The mission of the Arlington Cultural Commission is to serve as a vocal and visible advocate for arts and culture in Arlington and advise the Board of Selectmen regarding all matters of a cultural or artistic nature in the Town.

Public Art Policy Development

At the request of the Board of Selectmen, the Commission convened a meeting to address concerns about the removal of the mural at the Bus Depot in Arlington Heights. Attending were the principal artist as well as a representative of Dearborn Academy students who together had created the mural in 2008. The mural was removed in March 2013, when the privately-owned building acquired a new tenant, without clear notification of the artists or the community. In response, the Commission has produced a policy and procedure for the commissioning and decommissioning of public art and a template for a written agreement based on a standard set by Americans for the Arts and adopted by in many locations. We recommend that the Town adopt these guidelines, and that private parties also use these guidelines. Arlington Public Art has given their input and expressed support for this policy. We will also recommend that the Arlington Cultural Council make them part of their application guidelines for public art projects.

Arts and Culture Liaison Job Description

The Commission recommends that the Town designate an Arts and Culture liaison, initially as an unpaid intern, in order to manage a website and cultural calendar designed to promote the arts and culture in Arlington. The liaison would also coordinate additional publicity, assist in the production and promotion of collaborative events and create an inventory of public art.

Outreach and Relationship Building

The Commission aims to do outreach and relationship-building with other entities in Town working on arts and culture activities. Thus far, the Commission has had guests to its meetings including Ted Fields, Director of Economic Development and Angela Olszewski and Tom Davison of ATED, on separate occasions. The Commission intends to meet with representatives of the Arlington Cultural Council, Arlington Center for the Arts, and other entities throughout the year in order to get to know their goals and see how best to work together.

Fostering Collaboration and Strategic Planning

The Commission held a meeting of cultural organizations and business on October 3rd with Rose Austin (former director of the Massachusetts Cultural Council and current member of the Arlington Public Art Committee) as guest to talk about how to foster cultural and economic development by leveraging our assets and resources to obtain funding. The following is a link to her presentation:

<http://arlingtonculturalcommission.wordpress.com/2013/11/14/arts-are-alive-in-arlington/>.

Approximately 40 people attended the meeting representing 18 organizations. The Commission plans to convene regular meetings of cultural organizations

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and businesses for the purposes of fostering collaboration and strategic planning. The next arts summit meeting is planned for May 8, 2014.

Arts and Culture Website and Calendar

The Commission has established the creation and maintenance of such a website as one of its goals but recognizes that it will take a dedicated staff member, such as the proposed Arts and Culture Liaison to manage it. The Commission has discussed joining forces with ATED's Arlington Alive site and using the Arlington Alive brand to promote the arts in Arlington.

Keeping the Town apprised of Public Art Projects

In order to ensure the preservation and care of public art, the Commission will oversee creating the maintenance of records on public art, and inform the BOS of public art projects in Town.

Assist in the Establishment of Policy as it Pertains to Arts and Culture.

The Commission is prepared to lend assistance to the Town on the creation of policies related to the proposed warrant articles on street performers and the establishment of a Poet Laureate put forth by Selectman Joe Curro.

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 schedules meetings on the first Tuesday of the month, when there is official business, at the Whittemore-Robbins House and all meetings are open to the public.

Hearings and Property Monitoring

The Commission conducted formal hearings on five inventoried properties in 2013:

30 Franklin Street, 41 Kensington Road, 129 Lake Street, 246 Park Avenue, the Whittemore-Robbins House Cottage (670R Massachusetts Ave.) and held three informal hearings on inventoried properties.

Oversight on the properties from 2005-12 hearings continued throughout the year. Monitored properties included the ones listed above plus 3-5 Brattle St. 78

Jason St., 6 Park St., 821 Massachusetts Ave., 85 Beacon Street (on a 1-year demolition delay -- demolished October, 2013), 82 Claremont Avenue, 103 Claremont Avenue, 67 Dudley Street, 14 Knowles Farm Road, 252,258-260 Massachusetts Avenue (Capitol Square Apartments), 13 Winter Street.

Historic Markers

The historic house marker program is for all Arlington properties on the *Inventory*. Each plaque displays the year the property was built and a historic house name, if any.

Web Site

The Commission continues to maintain its own web site 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 activities that educate and inform citizens about historic preservation. The AHC had a booth at Town Day.

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.

Commissioners represented the Historical Commission on various municipal boards and historic organizations in Arlington, including the Arlington Preservation Fund, the Arlington Historical Society, and the Arlington Committee on Tourism and Economic Development.

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSIONS

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 340 Local Historic Commissions across Massachusetts are already established and working closely with the Massachusetts Historical Commission. They serve as local preservation advocates and as an important resource for information about their community's cultural resources and preservation activities.

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; Broad-

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way, 1991; Central Street, 1982; Jason/Gray, 1998; Mount Gilboa/Crescent Hill, 1991; Pleasant Street, 2006; and Russell, 1983.

The Arlington Historic District Commissions (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 Commissions consist 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 2013 the Commissions met twelve (12) times to hold hearings for property owners seeking approval for certificates for exterior work to be conducted on their properties. Part of the regular meetings included eleven (11) Informal Hearings held for property owners seeking advice or resource information for work to be conducted and thirty (30) Formal Hearings. As a result of those meetings and additional CONA applications not requiring a hearing, thirty-one (31) Certificates of Appropriateness (COA), one (1) Certificate of Hardship and thirty-seven (37) Certificates of Non-Applicability (CONA) were granted. Two (2) denial letters were issued.

During the year the Commissions also worked on educating the public on the role of the Historic District Commissions. One of our applicants, the Boston Church of Christ, new owner of the former Congregational Church at 75 Pleasant Street, was chosen as a recipient for a Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund (MPPF) grant. Plans include repairs to wood siding, trim & sill as well as roofing; masonry re-pointing of foundation and chimney; accessibility modifications, exterior painting; and non-original front vestibule removal, including reconstruction of main entry doors. Work has since commenced on the renovations. This project also involves a total re-building of the adjacent 1950s parish house, a project now in process.

The Commissions also worked with homeowners on, among other things, two recurring maintenance concerns: windows and gutters.

In the historic districts, we require, except in the most extreme and unusual cases, preservation of original wood windows. However, homeowners are faced with an unending bombardment of advertising urging people to replace their windows with more modern materials. The Commissions have worked to educate homeowners about the advantages of restoring and repairing the original wooden windows. These advantages include maintaining the original character of the structure, improved operability, conservation of building materials, and insulation comparable to new windows when combined with appropriate storm windows; all of

which can typically be achieved at a lower cost than replacement windows (which often have to be replaced themselves after 10 or 20 years).

Regarding gutters, the Commissions have a strong preference for preserving existing wooden gutters which typically integrate cohesively into the architectural features of older structures. However, many homeowners have found that the quality of the wood gutters available today is lower due to the unavailability of more durable material originally derived from old growth trees. As a consequence, the newer wooden gutters that are typically available for restoration or repair work simply do not last very long. In architecturally appropriate cases, we have approved the substitution of copper gutters. In other cases, under a guideline adopted in 2012, we have allowed the use of a specially-molded fiberglass gutter whose shape exactly replicates that of a wooden gutter. This gutter system installs like a wooden gutter, is paintable, has a higher internal volume thus carrying more water, and is expected to last much longer.

Commissioner Changes in 2013

During 2013 Thomas Smurzynski resigned as the representative of the Broadway Historic District.

Charles Barry was appointed to represent the Jason/Gray District.

Michael Bush was appointed to represent the Mt. Gilboa/Crescent Hill District

Cynthia L. Hamilton was appointed to represent the Broadway Historic District (since no resident or property owner in the district was willing to serve).

CYRUS E. DALLIN ART MUSEUM



The Cyrus Dallin Art Museum has had another exciting and productive year. The trustees have been working hard to build on the many successes of Dallin's 150th anniversary, resulting in increased collections, collaboration, membership, and visitations.

Activities

Arlington Community Media Inc. (ACMi) and the museum continue to script and videotape "Beyond Museum Walls," a documentary which illustrates Dallin's public portraits and landscape sculpture within the Town of Arlington. It will raise appreciation and awareness of

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Dallin's 'invisible' works.

ACMi hosted a lecture presented by James McGough about Cyrus Dallin's Civil War generals and monuments. The broadcast highlights both the State of Pennsylvania Monument at Gettysburg and the memorial at Woodbridge Cemetery, Woburn.

Art on the Green was held on the lawn of the Jefferson Cutter House during Town Day. Artists and vendors displayed their varied original works. Several local authors, including Howie Carr, autographed books at Haley Booksellers booth. Thanks to the support of Arlington merchants, the raffle drawing was very successful. Its proceeds support the sculpture workshop for first-fourth graders.

An expanded slate of sculpture workshops served nearly sixty families. The program featured an age-appropriate tour of the galleries, especially noting works of animals, and a hand-building workshop during which children learned how to build armatures and work clay to create their own sculptures. Two classes were added because of increased enrollment.

The museum participated in new collaborations with the Arlington International Film Festival and with Arlington Public Art during the Chairful Where You Sit 2013, a temporary outdoor installation on the green in front of the museum.

Special extended hours were offered during the Arlington Farmers Market, Arlington First Fridays, "Chairful Where You Sit," and the Arlington Chamber of Commerce summer concerts.

Docents were offered adult and student guided tours throughout the year. Consideration for age and interest reflect the genre and tenor of the presentation given within the galleries.



Jefferson Cutter House, the site of the Dallin Museum

Events

The Menotomy Indian Hunter was celebrated during the Centennial of Arlington's Town Hall & Gardens. Dallin's statue was originally dedicated in 1913 along with the Olmstead designed Winfield Robbins Memorial Garden.

Young Cyrus Dallin, an original bust based on a photograph of Dallin when he was 22 years old, was unveiled at a special reception in June. The portrait was sculpted by Dr. Daniel Fairbanks, science professor, artist and forensic sculptor. Dr. Donna Fairbanks was featured as violinist at this event.

In October a walking tour of Crescent Hill traced the cultural history of Arlington Heights. Representatives of three local museums: Arlington Historical Society, the Old Schwamb Mill and the Dallin Art Museum, highlighted the people, places and development in the neighborhood between Lowell and Summer Streets.

Recovery

After fifty years the lost "Praying Knight" was rededicated in the lobby of Cambridge Rindge and Latin School. At the installation CFO Jim Maloney praised the Dallin Museum trustees for directing the return of the three foot bronze statue which commemorated the eleven students who lost their lives during World War I. Cyrus Dallin said this knight was the symbol of the young boys' "noble and spiritual" side.

Goals Achieved

Redesigned the central hall of the museum with new cabinetry and an original bust of the "Young Cyrus Dallin."

Offered unique lectures and programs to those of all ages in Arlington and the community beyond.

Published "The Scout," a newsletter for museum members. In addition to an events calendar and the tale of the "Praying Knight," Pat McCabe, the Dallins' great granddaughter, discussed her project of organizing letters written by Cyrus to his parents from 1880-1882 when he was training in Boston.

Hired Laura Roberts, a non-profit manager and consultant, to lead a professional strategic planning process to envision and execute long-term goals.

Future Goals

Publish "Arlington's Cultural Renaissance: 1900-1925" in partnership with the Arlington Historical Society.

Execute short term goals of the strategic plan developed by Laura Roberts and the museum trustees.

Create space for changing exhibits.

The museum is located in the Jefferson Cutter House on Mass. Ave. and open Wednesday through Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. Contact the museum at: www.dallin.org or call 781-641-0747.