

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 11 the ACC honored the 2011 Grant Recipients at a Town Hall reception with refreshments, art displays, and speakers. About forty guests, including grant recipients and Arlington residents, gathered for the reception. Margaret Barrett gave a welcome and introduced Senator Ken Donnelley who said a few words about the importance of arts and culture programming in Arlington. Rep. William Brownsberger and Rep. Jay Kaufman also attended. Kylie Sullivan (representing MCC) and Rep. Kaufman presented the MCC Goldstar award to Arlington resident, Betsy Schramm. Clarissa Rowe introduced all 2011 recipients and provided a brief description of their respective projects. A photograph was taken of all 2011 recipients present.



2011 ACC Grant Recipients

In September the ACC participated in the annual Town Day celebration, offering a community art project at its booth. The ACC did a "Roll with Art" program that used balls and paint on canvas to create collaborative artworks. The ACC also uses its Town Day booth to distribute current grant applications and guidelines, and provide information about upcoming arts events.

The ACC offered a free Grant-writing Workshop on

September 21 for anyone planning to apply for funds by the application deadline of October 15. At the workshop ACC members offered attendees assistance with the grant application process. Following the application deadline, applicants were invited to a public session on November 2 that provided an opportunity for them to elaborate on their projects. In the fall, the ACC held a day-long deliberation meeting to decide which applications would be funded. Applicants not receiving funds were notified by November 30, those receiving funds are notified in January 2012 (as directed by the MCC).

During October, a total of sixteen grant applications were submitted to the ACC from schools, individual artists, and cultural groups. Requests for funds totaled \$15,469. Funds available for allocation by the ACC totaled \$11,505. Proposals were received from residents of Arlington as well as other towns and cities in Massachusetts. Deliberations held on November 13 resulted in fourteen grants being awarded by the ACC:

- Zen Garden, Arlington Enrichment Collaborative, \$600
- Mexican Music and Dance, Veronica Robles, \$600
- Barrymore, Richard Clark, \$375
- Friday Night Teen Art Program at ACA, Karen Dillon, \$1200
- New England String Quartet, Betsy Schramm and Pasquale Tassone, \$2,686
- Rain Garden Signage, Charlotte Milan, \$1500
- Old Schwamb Mill Visits for Ottoson students, \$600
- Cantilena CD Recording, \$500
- Writing it Down, Center for Cancer Support and Education, \$350
- "Garden Under the Oak," Chris Kolb, \$250
- Arlington Windows Project, Adria Arch, \$1600
- "Meet Julia Child," Delvena Theater Company, \$395
- Jam 'n Java Open Mic, Mark Sandman, \$349
- Just a Minute Video Festival, Don Daniel, \$500
- The ACC is pleased to report that a variety of cultural events occurred in Arlington during the year that were funded by, or in part by, the ACC. These included theater programs, school-funded field trips, foreign language programs, an environmental-themed art exhibit, a drumming program at Ottoson, a master class at the high school, a Japanese theater performance, and many others.

Plans for 2012 include the annual Grantee Reception at Town Hall in May, a community input meeting in accordance with MCC Guidelines due every three years, Town Day booth in September, and the 2013 Grant Cycle, applications are due on October 15, 2012.

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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 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 three inventoried properties in 2011: 78 Jason St., 57-59 Orvis Rd., and 76 Park St. In addition proposed changes to inventoried properties at 51 Claremont Ave., 82 Claremont Ave., 10 Davis Ave., and 252, 258-260 Massachusetts Avenue were reviewed by the Commission.

Oversight on the properties from 2005-11 hearings continued throughout the year. Monitored properties included the ones listed above plus 21 Appleton St., 3-5 Brattle St., 53 Brattle St., 6 Park St., 821 Massachusetts Ave., Jefferson Cutter House (1 Whittemore Park) and the former Symmes Hospital.

Town properties that have come before the Commission include the Jefferson Cutter House and the historic DPW garage (the former Arlington Gas Light Co).

Historic Markers

The Commission managed the historic house marker program for all Arlington properties on the Inventory. 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 online at arlingtonhistoricalcommission.org.

Education and Outreach

Throughout the year, Commissioners participate in 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, including 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.

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 2011 the Commission met ten (10) 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 twelve (12) informal hearings held for property owners seeking advice or resource information for work to be conducted and twenty four (24) formal hearings. One meeting included Executive Session for the purpose of discussing potential litigation. As a result of those meetings, twenty two (22) Certificates of Appropriateness, and thirty one (31) Certificates of Non-Applicability to be undertaken were granted. One denial letter was issued.

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During the year, the ongoing, multi-year development plans for 187 Lowell Street in the Mt. Gilboa/Crescent Hill District came to a satisfactory conclusion. From the late 19th century until recently, the Taylor House stood alone on that site, one of the largest remaining lots in Arlington, set well back from the street and surrounded by spacious grounds. Several years ago, a developer brought the property and put forward various proposals for development including the demolition of the existing house and the construction of a cul-de-sac providing access to as many as five new houses on the property. After much discussion, and under the implied threat of an even more intensive 40B development, the Commission approved the construction of two large structures to the right and left of the original house, which would be retained with a substantial rear addition.

Although the certificates were issued, the developer never went forward, and during 2011 new certificates were issued after the existing historical structure was sold, along with the vacant lot to the right, to a family interested in preserving the status quo on those sites and a new developer is proposed to build the smaller of the two previously approved new houses to the left of the historic house. Thus the Commission was able to fulfill its mandate of preserving essential aspects of the area while allowing some new development.

During the year the Commissioners worked on educating the public on the role of the Historic District Commission. The Town created new emails for contact with the Commission: ahdc@town.arlington.ma.us for general business with the Commissions and ahdcchair@town.arlington.ma.us for business with Chairman Steve Makowka. The mailing address was changed to: Arlington Historic District Commission, Attn: Carol Greeley, Executive Secretary, c/o Planning and Community Development, 730 Mass. Ave., Arlington MA 02476 and the contact phone is (781) 316-3265.

Commissioner Changes in 2011

Jodie L. Black was appointed as a Commissioner-at-Large and Jade Cummings was appointed as the representative from Central Street to replace the vacancy created by the prior resignation of Alex Frisch.

CYRUS E. DALLIN ART MUSEUM

The Cyrus E. Dallin Art Museum had a very successful year in 2011. Thanks to our supporters and volunteers, the museum has launched a new website and increased its annual visitation by twenty percent. Cyrus Edwin Dallin's sesquicentennial, beginning November 2011, is a unique opportunity to reach out both to the local community and to a broader audience about his artistic legacy, the historic context of his themes, and the relevance of his works today.

Activities

The art museum offered a "Sculpture Making" class to first through fourth graders on the first Saturday of February vacation. Children viewed pieces from the collection and learned basic hand building techniques to create their own clay sculpture to take home and paint. Teachers and kids had a lot of fun.

Student and adult guided tours were offered by docents throughout the year. Special consideration is always given to the interests of each group.

Arlington Community Media Inc. (ACMi) produced a segment on the museum that included a tour of the museum, the history of the Jefferson Cutter House, and Dallin's biography. Sculptures from each of the four galleries were highlighted and their significance presented in their historic context. The museum expects to continue to participate in ACMi's cultural and educational programming.

On November 22, the very day of Dallin's 150th birthday, museum trustees illustrated eight sculptures and described their history to the entire Cyrus E. Dallin Elementary School. Displays, sketches, and an armature all made by the children enhanced this unique assembly.

In celebration of the sesquicentennial, the museum is sponsoring the 2012 Student Art Contest. Its purpose is to recognize the artistic achievements of local students and to increase community involvement in the museum during this anniversary. The contest is open to students in grades six-eight in public, private, and home schools in Arlington. The art of Cyrus Dallin is intended to be inspirational to the contest's participants. Students whose artwork receives first, second, third place, or an Honorable Mention will receive awards during the opening reception. The juried exhibition will be installed at the Cutter Gallery of the Jefferson Cutter House between May 5 and May 26, 2012. For details and submission forms at www.dallin.org

Acquisitions

The museum received two button pins which have photos of Daisy Dallin and Adele Dallin Turnbaugh. Daisy is Cyrus' sister and Adele is the daughter of Victor, Cyrus' brother. John and Adele (Candy) Kish have donated these unique family items in memory of Candy's grandmother Adele Dallin Turnbaugh.

A necklace with the image of Sakajawea and Pomp has been donated by museum docent, Dottie Burt. The image is a reproduction of the United States coin sculpted by Glenna Goodacre in 2005.

Awards

Arlington Cultural Council grant recipients were honored at a reception in Town Hall. Doreen Stevens of the Arlington Historical Society and Sarah Burks and Aimee Taberner of the C.E. Dallin Art Museum are coop-

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erating on a research project entitled Arlington's Cultural Renaissance which focuses on leading cultural personalities. Between 1900 and 1930 Arlington was a mecca for figures in the arts, humanities, and sciences. On June 24, 2012 a "Salon and Garden Party" will celebrate this book release.

Events

Spring and Fall Open Houses offered new comers and old friends the opportunity to tour the collection, see new acquisitions, and find ways to volunteer, from being a docent to helping with fundraising and programs. The November event launched the 150th calendar of events.

Art on the Green was held on Town Day on the lawn in front of the Dallin Art Museum/Jefferson Cutter House. The museum offered tours and a raffle to support the up and coming student art contest. As always artist/vendors displayed their fabulous wares: hand-painted scarves, quilts, sweaters, exotic and contemporary jewelry, small paintings, collages, graphic prints, photography, and photo-cards. Dick Haley Booksellers hosted several local authors for book signing. Howie Carr of WRKO promoted his latest, *Hitman*, a story about Johnny Martorano.

Resources

Many informative articles about Dallin and his sculpture appeared in local newspapers throughout the year. The Advocate ran the following stories: "Dallin's World, Iconic statue celebrates 100" about the Menotomy Indian Hunter, "Museum to celebrate Dallin's 150th birthday," and "Museum to celebrate Dallin's 150th birth-

day." The Globe featured these stories: "Just a little lower..." Boston's Museum of Fine Arts "Appeal to the Great Spirit," and "Portrait of an artist."

An article and slide presentation featuring a trip to Utah with Bob Dallins and the Tremblays is can be found on the museum website. Visit monuments in Salt Lake City, marvel at the sculptures of the Museum of Fine Art in Springville, meet Director Dr. Vern Swanson and Curator Dr. Virgil Jacobsen as well as Cyrus' niece, Denice Dallin Wheeler.

Goals

In addition to hosting special events, lectures, and tours for this sesquicentennial, the goals for the next eighteen months are:

- Use a variety of media to publicize the Dallin 150th celebration.
- Publish Arlington's Cultural Renaissance in partnership with the Arlington Historical Society and funded in part by a grant from the Arlington Cultural Council.
- Redesign the central hall of the museum and make space for changing exhibits.
- Seek additional grant funding.
- Strengthen outreach and relationships with Arlington school children, donors, and friends.

The museum is open Wednesday through Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. Learn about museum programs by visiting www.dallin.org, sign up for email alerts, or friend the museum on Facebook. You can also call 781-641-0747.



Jefferson Cutter House, home of the Cyrus E. Dallin Art Museum