

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

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. ACC generally meets on the second Monday of each month. All meetings are announced in advance and are open to the public. During 2015 meetings took place at the Senior Center, Jefferson Cutter House, and Town Hall.

On April 7, the ACC honored the 2015 Grant Recipients at a reception at the Charles H. Lyons Hearing Room in Town Hall with refreshments, displays, and speakers. About 50 guests attended the receptions, including grant recipients, government representatives, cultural organizations, and Arlington residents. Entertainment was provided by the Creek River String Band, one of the 2015 grant recipients. Refreshments were donated by FoodLink, Glutenis Minimus, and The Madrona Tree. Co-Chairs Karin Blum welcomed the guests and co-chair Eliza Burden gave remarks about cultural highlights during the past year in Arlington. Arlington Town Manager, Adam Chapdelaine, announced the grant recipients, who received certificates prepared by Rep. Sean Garballey's office. Charlotte Cutter from the Massachusetts Cultural Council was in attendance, and Luminarium Dance Company was recognized for their 2015 MCC Gold Star Award for the 2014 project "Night at the Tower."

During May and June, ACC collected community input as required by the MCC. The community input survey was publicized on Facebook and on the ACC's website, and received over 150 responses.

In September the ACC participated in Arlington's annual Town Day celebration and the Council also highlighted recent grantees. Council members distributed current grant applications and guidelines, and provided information about upcoming arts events. ACC offered a free Grant Information Session on September 16th for those planning to apply for funds by the application deadline of October 15th. At the workshop ACC members offered attendees assistance with the grant application process.

By October 15, a total of 27 grant applications from schools, individual artists, and cultural groups were submitted to ACC. Requests for funds totaled over \$31,000. Following the application deadline, applicants were invited to public sessions in November that provided an opportunity for them to elaborate on their projects and answer questions from council members.

On November 15, the ACC held a half-day deliberation meeting to decide which applications would be funded. Funds available for allocation by the ACC totaled \$12,200. Deliberations resulted in seventeen grants being awarded by the ACC: Applicants not receiving funds were notified by November 30, and those receiving funds were notified in January 2016 (as directed by the MCC).

2016 Grant Recipients

Opal Ensemble	\$750
Dan Fox	\$750
Belmont World Film	\$750
Arlington Public Art	\$1,000
Stefanie Weber	\$500
Yogi Shridhare	\$500
Music to Cure MS	\$500
Raul Nieves	\$750
Robbins Library	\$1,500
Arlington Center for the Arts	\$1,500
Arlington Historical Society	\$1,375
Dallin Art Museum	\$600
Lawrence Rogovin	\$300
Pamela Powell	\$600
Old Schwamb Mill	\$375
Powers Music School	\$250
The Marble Collection	\$200

The ACC is pleased to report that a variety of cultural events occurred in Arlington during 2015 that were funded by, or in part by, the ACC. Highlights included Art Food Community at the Thompson School, "I am Arlington," an Installation at Maxima Art Center, the Arlington Philharmonic Summer Concert at Robbins Farm Park, and Belmont World Film at the Regent Theater.

Over the year, the Council welcomed a large number of new Council members, including two previous grant recipients. There are currently nine members on the Council, and there are still vacancies. Plans for 2016 include the annual "Celebration of Arts and Culture" in April, Town Day booth in September, and the annual Grant Cycle, with 2017 grant applications due on October 15, 2016.

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COMMISSION ON ARTS AND CULTURE (ACAC)

The mission of Arlington Commission on Arts and Culture (ACAC) is to advocate for arts and cultural opportunities throughout Arlington and advise the Town on matters of a cultural and artistic nature.

Originally established under Article 21 of Town Meeting in 1993, but not populated at the time, the Commission was reestablished in January of 2013. The Commission meets monthly, on the first Thursday of the month in the Jefferson Cutter Gallery. All meetings are open to the public.



Arlington Commission on Arts and Culture

Cultural District Designation

The Commission focused a great deal of effort on preparing the Town to apply for Cultural District status from the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC). Activities toward this goal include extensive research on cultural districts and meetings with MCC about their Cultural District Initiative. In collaboration with A-TED, held a public meeting at the Old Schwamb Mill where, a representative of the Concord Chamber of Commerce and Concord Center Cultural District shared her experiences in developing their cultural district. As required by MCC, a Managing Partnership (MP) was established and is comprised of the Town Libraries, Arlington Chamber of Commerce, Arlington Center for the Arts (ACA), Cyrus Dallin Art Museum, St. John's Coffeehouse, Arlington Friends of the Drama, Arlington Center Merchants' Association, Capitol Square Business Association, and Arlington Historical Society. Preliminary approval by MCC of our proposed district map and asset inventory was received by the MCC and the Libraries are facilitating and communicating the next steps of the application process.

Public Art Inventory

The Commission worked with a summer intern, Will Sullivan, to produce the Town's first inventory of

public art. A small amount of work remains to complete the project. An online version can be viewed on ACAC's website at arlingtoncac.com. More detailed information on each piece of art, including photos, installation date, expected duration, property owner, artist information, materials, budget, and funding sources where applicable, is stored on Google drive.

Town-wide Cultural Plan

The Commission is charged with recommending a long term Cultural Plan for the Town. The Commission has taken several steps to prepare for this process. Commission members sought advice from MCC, the Cambridge Arts Council, and Maren Brown from Maren Brown Associates in addition to conducting research on how other local communities engage in cultural planning. Commission members met with the Town's Economic Development Planner and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) about the possibility of a District Local Technical Assistance Grant (DLTA) to conduct a cultural planning process with MAPC. ACAC members met with Arlington's Town Manager twice to inform him about our options.

Arts Advocacy

In September, ACAC co-chair spoke in support of the Arlington Center for the Arts (ACA) about the future of the Gibbs School building at the school committee meeting. ACAC also attended a strategy meeting at the ACA. ACAC has been in close touch with Linda Shoemaker, ACA's executive director, on supporting her campaign. ACAC also wrote a letter of support for the ACA in support of pole banners for Open Studios. As a result of the impending needs of the Cultural District Managing Partnership, the cultural planning process, A-TED and Arlington Public Art, ACAC co-chairs met with Arlington's Town Manager to request staff time devoted to arts and culture within the Planning and Community Development Department.

Coordinating Public Art Projects

Members of ACAC convened a meeting of Arlington Public Art, Town Planning staff, and Capitol Square representatives, to coordinate potentially overlapping art projects with the needs of the proposed Cultural District. Projects include Mass. Ave. public art, a youth banner project, Capitol Square banners, and an additional potential public art and wayfinding project, recommended by the MCC, to help link the area between the East and the Center to create a single continuous Cultural District.

Goals for 2016

- Facilitate a successful application process to the MCC for the area spanning East Arlington to Arlington Center to be designated a Cultural District.

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- Assist in the launch of an Arlington Cultural District, if so designated by the MCC.
- Apply for a District Local Technical Assistance Grant from the MAPC and begin work on phase one of a long-term cultural plan.
- Strengthen our capacity by adding two additional members and gaining access to professional development resources through an organizational membership to Americans for the Arts.
- Continue to advocate for arts and cultural activities and institutions within the Town as well as promote Arlington as an arts and culture destination.

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Arlington Historical Commission (AHC) was established in 1970 as the Town agency responsible for community-wide preservation planning as described in Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 40, Section 8D. The Commission is an advocate for historic preservation in Arlington, and;

- Encourages appropriate maintenance and restoration of the Town's historic structures and open spaces.
- Educates and advises municipal departments, boards, commissions, and citizens on historic preservation and the significance of Arlington's historic buildings, landscapes, objects, documents, and other landmarks.
- Provides guidance and advice to owners of historically significant properties.
- Participates in the management and maintenance of historic resources owned by the Town, e.g., Arlington Town Hall, the Whittemore-Robbins House.

In addition the Commission is responsible to review and act upon any applications for building permits that involve changes to historically or architecturally significant structures in Arlington under the Town's demolition-delay bylaw, 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.

Hearings and Property Monitoring

The Commission conducted formal hearings on seven inventoried properties in 2015:

61 Brantwood Road, 67 Dudley Street, 42 Henderson St., 38 Kensington Park, 1167 Massachusetts Ave-

nue, 163 Park Avenue, 18 Robin Hood Road, in addition to three informal hearings on inventoried properties.

Oversight on the properties from 2011-14 hearings continued throughout the year. Monitored properties included the ones listed above plus, 30 Franklin Street, 41 Kensington Road, 129 Lake Street, 1173 Massachusetts Avenue, 246 Park Avenue, 64 Park Street, 13 Winter Street, and the Whittemore-Robbins House and Cottage (670R Massachusetts Ave.).

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.

Website

The Commission continues to maintain 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 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.

Commissioners represented the Historical Commission on various municipal boards and historic organizations in Arlington, including the Arlington Preservation Fund (Patrick Guthrie and Dianne Schaefer) the Arlington Historical Society (Pamela Meister), and the Arlington Committee on Tourism and Economic Development (Patrick Guthrie). JoAnn Robinson represents the Commission on the Community Preservation Act Committee.

ARLINGTON HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION (AHDC)

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

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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; 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 2015 the Commission 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 ten (10) Informal Hearings held for property owners seeking advice or resource information for work to be conducted and twenty-five (25) Formal Hearings. As a result of those meetings and additional CONA applications not requiring a hearing, twenty-two (22) Certificates of Appropriateness (COA), and thirty-six (36) Certificates of Non-Applicability (CONA) to be undertaken were granted. In addition, there were four (4) Application Denials (94 Pleasant St., 20 Wellington St., 15 Montague St., 195 Pleasant St).

During the year the Commissioners also worked on educating the public on the role of the Historic District Commission, updating maps of the Historic Districts and on the Town's new Master Plan.

Commissioner Changes in 2015

Martha Penzenik stepped down in May as a Commissioner-at-large after many years of service as the Board's appointed "architect." Marshall Audin replaced Martha Penzenik as the Board's "architect" and a member at-large in June. Michael Logan stepped down in the spring as well, having served as the Board's representative for many years for the Avon Place District. Margaret Capodanno, a resident of Avon Place was appointed to fill Michael's vacancy. Stuart A. Lipp and Carol S. Tee joined the Commission as at-large members, thus filling all existing vacancies. Website: www.arlingtonhistoricdistrict.com.



CYRUS E. DALLIN ART MUSEUM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Cyrus Dallin Art Museum promotes new insights into our shared history by exploring the life, work, and values of this celebrated sculptor of Arlington. The values of the Museum are shaped by Cyrus Dallin's own values, as manifest in his life and work. As we seek to live Dallin's values, the Museum instills pride in the community where Dallin dedicated his time and talents to make art accessible to all, provides opportunities for learning and exploration, works in partnership with others who share Dallin's commitment to artistic expression, education, and social justice, and reflects America's shared, albeit complicated, history.

Over 900 people from around the world visited the Museum in 2015. The Museum is open Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from noon to 4:00 p.m. throughout the year. Docents offer tours during regular hours and at other times by appointment. Tours are tailored for adults and children with consideration for each group's area of special interest. A Docent Appreciation reception was held in December to thank volunteer docents for the important work they do to keep the Museum open. The Museum is located in the Jefferson Cutter House at 611 Massachusetts Avenue. Contact the Museum at info@dallin.org or call 781-641-0747. The web address is www.dallin.org.

In addition to offering many activities and programs for visitors of all ages, the Museum made significant progress on goals established by the strategic plan, adopted in 2014.

Goals Achieved

- Successful application to the Massachusetts Historical Commission resulted in the award of a \$65,000 grant from the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund to commence an urgently needed exterior restoration of the Jefferson Cutter House, matched by Town funds.
- Analyzed attendance patterns and adjusted hours of operation.

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- Collaborated with Town organizations and businesses on the application for Cultural District designation through the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC).
- Supported fundraising efforts of non-profit board to allow for increase to hours for paid Curator/Director.
- Addressed pest management issues caused by maintenance problems of building.
- Reorganized the Board of Trustees into task-oriented working groups.

Activities and Programs

- A Children's Sculpture Workshop took place on February 22 during school vacation week. This popular program offers an age-appropriate tour of the galleries and a hand-building sculpture class during which children build armatures and work with clay to create their own animals and other figures.
- Museum Trustee Sarah Burks led a gallery talk on March 8 in celebration of International Women's Day and Women's History Month. Dallin chose to sculpt some of the most independent thinkers in American history – and they were women. The gallery walk covered some of the historical female figures that Dallin sculpted including Julia Ward Howe, Ann Hutchinson, Sacagawea, and his own mother, a western pioneer.
- The Museum successfully piloted its new ArtVenture program for Arlington public school children on April 19 and May 3. This fun, interactive program was developed in partnership with Arlington Public Schools to supplement the K-5 curriculum. Children from the Hardy and Bishop schools learned to observe, think, and talk about sculpture. This program was made possible with the support of Brookline Bank and the Arlington Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by MCC.
- The Museum aims to collaborate with other Town organizations whenever possible. This has resulted in a multi-year collaboration with the Public Art Committee's *Chairful Where You Sit*, a temporary outdoor exhibit of creative chairs in front of the museum. The event took place July 10–12 and raised money for future Town public art projects. To support the event, the museum was open free of charge and the museum sponsored age-appropriate scavenger hunts for children in the galleries.



James McGough quizzes two students from the Hardy School during ArtVenture family day at the Museum in April 2015. Photo courtesy of Cyrus Dallin Art Museum.

- The Museum's busiest day of the year, Art on the Green, is an important part of Town Day celebrations. The John Mirak Foundation sponsored the event. For sixteen years, the Museum has given artists an opportunity to exhibit and sell their works in front of the museum. Ceramicists, jewelers, textile artists, painters of, photographers, and mosaic crafters offered a colorful display of original works. Local writers were on location for book signings. The Museum raised money for educational programming with the Town Day raffle, supported by the generous contribution of prizes by the local business community.

In order to increase capacity through fundraising, the Museum's non-profit Board of Directors, with the support of the Board of Trustees, hosted a Summer Soiree at the Whittemore-Robbins House in August. This event featured a silent auction and the unveiling of *On the Warpath*, a sculpture by Cyrus Dallin that was recently restored by Daniel Fairbanks. The sponsors of the Soiree were Daniel Johnson, the Dallin family, Winchester Cooperative Bank, American Alarm, Century Bank, Leader Bank, and Watertown Savings Bank.

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*Daniel Fairbanks stands in front of Cyrus Dallin's *On the Warpath* sculpture, which Fairbanks restored and unveiled at the Museum's Summer Soiree held at the Whittemore-Robbins House in August 2015. Photo courtesy of Sarah Burks.*

The Museum hosted a well-attended lecture and demonstration by Arlington native Nick Batzell in October. Batzell, who works at Skylight Studios, described clay modeling, molding, and bronze casting and demonstrated production techniques for making plaster works of art.



Nick Batzell, an Arlington native and professional sculptor at Skylight Studios, demonstrates creating plaster works of art with molds at a Museum lecture in October 2015.

Future Goals

- Partner with the Town on exterior renovations to the Jefferson Cutter House, funded in part through a Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission. Work to be completed by the end of June 2016.
- Participate in the Managing Partnership for the proposed Arlington Cultural District.
- Expand educational programs and activities including sculpture workshops, sketching in the galleries, and ArtVenture for Arlington school children and their families.
- Create space for changing exhibits in the galleries and renovate existing galleries.
- Upgrade object labeling and create a printed Gallery Guide, funded in part through a grant from the Arlington Cultural Council.
- Host Picnic in the Park and community concert by the Creek River String Band (performance funded in part by a grant from the Arlington Cultural Commission).

In Recognition

Roland E. Chaput (1933-2016) was a long-time supporter of the Museum. The Museum would like to recognize Roly's many years of service. He volunteered as a docent and group tour guide, served as a member and co-chair of the Board of Trustees, and continued to give generously of his time and resources even after retiring from board duties. He worked to foster community support for the Museum and to demonstrate its value as a tourist attraction. The Museum and the Arlington community at large have lost a great friend and supporter.