

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

ARLINGTON COMMISSION FOR ARTS & CULTURE (ACAC)

Mission

The mission of the Arlington Commission for Arts and Culture is to promote and develop programs that integrate arts and culture into daily life, expand creative opportunities, and foster a vibrant, sustainable arts scene to engage a diverse range of artists, residents, businesses, and visitors.

Newly Expanded Commission

In accordance with the Arts and Culture Action Plan, the ACAC worked with Town Counsel to create a bylaw, passed by Town Meeting in May of 2018, that positions ACAC as an umbrella organization including the Arlington Cultural Council (ACC), Arlington Public Art (APA), and the Cultural District Managing Partnership (CDMP) as well as representation from other important stakeholders such as non-profit arts organizations, the business community, and working artists.

Website and Branding

ACAC's crowning achievement this year was the creation of a comprehensive Arts and Culture website, artsarlington.org. The website hosts a comprehensive listing of Arlington's arts and culture assets, an interactive map, and the highly anticipated cultural calendar powered by Arts Boston. ACAC contracted with Nilou Moochala of NYM to design and develop the website and logos for the ACAC, and the Arlington Cultural District. A webmaster was hired to maintain and update the website, push content through social media channels, and send out a monthly newsletter.



ArtsArlington homepage

Cultural District Managing Partnership (CDMP)

The CDMP consists of a core executive committee and task groups. Using funds from a 2018 Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) \$5,000 grant, the CDMP worked with Nilou Moochala of NYM design to develop a Cultural District logo and to produce other marketing materials.

The ACD issued a *Call for Ideas* to enliven the stretch of Mass Ave between Capitol Square and Arlington Center. Over the summer of 2018 they collected 87

ideas from the community. The ACD was also awarded an MCC \$5,000 Grant to cultural districts for work to be completed between January and June 2019, which will cover marketing and programming within the District.



Installing haiku on the bike path

Public Art Committee (Arlington Public Art)

Community engagement projects this year included the third annual Fox Festival Parade and the Bikeway Haiku project that engaged over 400 people across 3 towns and was created as part of the Tri-Town 25th anniversary celebration of the Minuteman bikeway.

Pathways: Two other installations completed the Pathways exhibition this past fall: *Colony* by Christopher Frost and *Extraordinary Ordinary Birds* by Resa Blatman. Both celebrate the abundant bird life in the area and are inspired by the critical food and habitat the green spaces along the Bikeway provide for neighborhood wildlife.



Colony by Christopher Frost

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES



Detail of bus shelter installation by James Weinberg

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project: Arlington was awarded a \$37,000 grant from the Barr Foundation to install public art in five bus shelters and to create two murals along Mass Ave for to promote the BRT project.

Additional Projects

Youth Banner Project: *The Arlington Public Art Youth Banner Initiative* is aimed at young people in grades 6 through 12 to provide an opportunity for youth to participate in temporary public art projects. This year 90 students submitted designs with 20 designs selected.

Chairful Where You Sit Fundraiser and Exhibition: This year the *Chairful Where You Sit* fundraising exhibition took place in conjunction with the *Feast of the East*. This year, *Chairful* raised approximately \$2,000.

Grants Committee (Arlington Cultural Council): In July ACC formally combined with other major arts and cultural organizations in Arlington under the ACAC umbrella. Although still identified by the state as ACC, it is now locally known as the Grants Committee (GC) of ACAC. The grants committee awarded a total of \$15,062 to 19 grantees in 2018.

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 Laws, 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 reviews and acts upon any applications for building permits that involve changes to historically or architecturally significant structures in Arlington under the Town's demolition-delay bylaw.

To accomplish these goals, the Commission maintains Arlington's *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 ten inventoried properties in 2018: 20 Belton Street, 99 Claremont Avenue, 36 Draper Avenue, 65 Hillside Avenue, 96 Jason Street, 15 Kensington Road, 32 Kensington Road, 418 Massachusetts Avenue, 630 Massachusetts Avenue, 338-40 Newcomb Street (cancelled), and 21 Teel Street, in addition to four informal hearings on inventoried properties.

Oversight on the properties from 2016-17 hearings continued throughout the year. Monitored properties included the ones listed above plus 21 Ashland Street, 89 Beacon Street, 3-11 Lakeview Street, 47 Mystic Lake Drive, 12 Schouler Court (1-yr demolition delay), 39 Winter Street (1-yr demolition delay), 43 Winter Street (1-yr demolition delay), and 27 Wyman Street.

In addition to property hearings the Commission held formal hearings for approval of four new signs in the Arlington Center National Register Historic District at: 451 Massachusetts Avenue, 474 Massachusetts Avenue, 456A Massachusetts Avenue, and 635 Massachusetts Avenue.

Under a grant secured from the Massachusetts Historical Commission by the Historic Resources Working Group (a subcommittee of the Arlington Master Plan Implementation Committee), MHC Inventory Form B for 135 properties were unanimously accepted by the Arlington Historical Commission in September 2018 and have been added to Arlington's *Inventory of Historically and/or Architecturally Significant Properties*.

Arlington Community Preservation Act (CPA)

The Historical Commission continued to support three historic preservation grants approved by the CPA Committee and Town Meeting in 2017. Members of the Commission are working with the Historic and Cultural Resources Working Group of the Master Plan Implementation Committee on a Survey Master Plan, supporting the restoration of the water features in the Winfield-Rob-

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

bins Memorial Garden, and preparing a Preservation Plan for the Old Burying Ground began in 2017.

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 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 Garden, Town Hall and its grounds.

Commissioners represented the Historical Commission on various municipal boards and historic organizations in Arlington, including the Arlington Preservation Fund, Arlington Historical Society, and Arlington Community Preservation Act 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 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 approximately 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 Select Board 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 2018 the Commissions met sixteen (16) times to hold hearings for property owners seeking approval for certificates for exterior work to be conducted on their properties or to discuss ongoing litigation. During the year they entered into Executive Session a total of six (6) times to discuss pending or ongoing litigation. Part of the regular meetings included twenty-three (23) Informal Hearings held for property owners seeking advice or resource information for work to be conducted and twenty-seven (27) Formal Hearings. As a result of those meetings and additional CONA applications not requiring a hearing, thirty-five (35) Certificates of Appropriateness (COA), forty-seven (47) Certificates of Non-Applicability (CONA) to be undertaken were granted. In addition, there were three (3) Application Denials (Lot 37A Irving Street-Bouvier; 731 Mass. Ave.-High Rock Church; and 105 Crescent Hill Ave.-Kenney)

During the year the Commissioners also worked on educating the public on the role of the Historic District Commission, on the Town's Master Plan and Community Preservation Act, and with the Town to plan streetscape uniformity throughout local Historic Districts.

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. In accordance with Dallin's ideals, the museum makes art accessible to all, provides opportunities for learning and exploration, works in partnership with others who share Dallin's

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

commitment to artistic expression, education, and social justice, and interprets our country's complicated history.

Over 700 people from across the globe visited the museum in 2018. The museum is open year-round on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., and for group tours at other times by appointment. Dedicated volunteer docents make this all possible with the gift of their time and talents. Tours are tailored for adults and children with consideration for each group's area of special interest. 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.



Museum trustees and founders celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the museum's opening. Pictured L to R: Anne Marie Delaunay-Danizio, Anne Marie Bowler, Director/Curator Heather Leavell, Mike Borgasano, James McGough and Richard Bowler.

Twentieth Anniversary

The Cyrus Dallin Art Museum opened at the Jefferson Cutter House with two galleries on October 18, 1998. Two hundred guests attended the ribbon cutting and opening reception including several generations of the Dallin family. A committee had been appointed in 1982 to locate and inventory the Town's collection of Dallin paintings and sculptures. The Committee, which included James McGough and Geri Tremblay who remain active in the museum's operations. Today the Museum exhibits over ninety works of art including sculptures, paintings, coins, and medals in four galleries and an extensive archival collection and additional works of art that are not on currently on view. A large crowd gathered in October 2018 to celebrate the twentieth anniversary with a special reception and unveiling of a new exhibit of Dallin's paintings and a bust of Charles Lindbergh titled, *The Vision*.

The Museum offers programs throughout the year for members and visitors of all ages. Additionally, progress was made on the following goals.

2018 Achievements

- Hosted a group tour and sculpture workshop for fourteen Lakota youth from the Pine Ridge Reservation in North Dakota, one of the most underserved communities in the United States. Their feedback on the experience included "It's nice to see my culture in a public museum," Jesse White Face and "I love the way he explains how Native people are important," Carteecia Jumping Eagle.
- Fostered local partnerships with the Arlington Historical Society and the Chamber of Commerce to collaborate on cultural programming.
- Increased the number of group tours to the museum with outreach to area college associations and adult learning organizations.
- Researched Dallin's advocacy efforts for improvement of government policies and civil rights of Native American peoples. Museum Director Heather Leavell presented a talk at the Masonic Temple on this subject in April. Outreach on this topic resulted in an invitation for her to present on a panel at the MFA in 2019.
- Completed cleaning and restoration of a plaster bust of Charles Lindbergh and an oil painting titled, *Rocks and Trees*. This conservation work was supported in part with a grant from the Arlington Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. These pieces and a selection of other paintings were unveiled at the 20th anniversary event in October 2018.
- Acquired a new oil painting, a portrait of Mrs. Susan Hall of Charlestown, Mass.



Lakota YouthStay program participants visited Massachusetts from North Dakota. The group toured the museum and learned basic sculpture building techniques. Pictured L to R are: Tsenesa Duchenaux, age 13 and Jessie White Face, age 12.

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

- Continued an affiliation with the North American Reciprocal Membership organization, which offers discounted or free admission at over 950 participating institutions.

2018 Activities and Programs

- Patriot's Day readings of Longfellow's epic poem, *Paul Revere's Ride*.
- Hosted a free concert in Whittemore Park featuring the Mystic Brass Ensemble.
- Co-sponsored with the Historical Society a talk by museum Curator/Director, Heather Leavell, on the topic of Cyrus Dallin's cultural and political activism for the rights of Indigenous peoples.
- Co-sponsored with the Historical Society a lecture and cultural exploration of the native people of Menotomy featuring speakers Faries Gray, Sagamore of the Massachusetts Tribe of Ponkapoag and Ellen Berklan, Massachusetts DCR Archaeologist.
- Co-hosted Arlington First Lights tree lighting event organized by the Chamber of Commerce.
- Assisted the museum's non-profit board with the annual Summer Soiree fundraiser
- The Museum's busiest day of the year, Art on the Green, is an important part of Town Day celebrations. This event gives artists an opportunity to exhibit and sell their works. Artists and craftsman offered a colorful display of original works. Local writers were on site for book signings.



Art on the Green merchant, Helen Ray, shares her handmade soaps and bath products with customers at the Dallin Museum's annual Town Day event.

Future Goals

- Redesign our website and increase social media outreach.
- Create a virtual tour of the Museum galleries and collections.
- Restore the sculpture of Gov. Bradford and the painting of Mrs. Hall.
- Learn from our experience with the summer beer garden in Whittemore Park to increase attendance.
- Seek funding for the interior restoration of the Jefferson Cutter House.
- Upcoming spring events: April 14, 2019: Reading of Longfellow's *Paul Revere's Ride* during Patriot's Day weekend celebrations. May 11, 2019: (co-sponsor) Garden party in celebration of the restoration of the Winfield Robbins Memorial Garden.



Museum Trustees, Directors, and Friends pictured at the August 2018 Summer Soiree. Charity auction emcee, Kevin Greeley, pictured seated at center.

The Committee received with great sadness the news that Select Board member Kevin Greeley passed away. Kevin was a longtime friend of the Museum. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Museum, having supported the Dallin Committee's proposal to form a museum and championing the idea at Town Meeting. For the last two years, he served as our celebrity emcee for the Summer Soiree's silent auction.