



Cambridge Advisory Committee on City Art, Monuments and Markers

Wednesday, February 10, 2021
6:00-8:00pm

Desired Outcomes

- Overview of how Cambridge City Art comes to be
- Consideration of what we mean by “shameful acts”
- Consideration of Guiding Principles and criteria for examining objects

Agenda

- ▶ Welcome and Agenda for today
- ▶ Introductions
- ▶ Arts Council Presentation
- ▶ Consideration of Definition of Shameful Acts
- ▶ Stretch Break
- ▶ Guiding Principles and Criteria for Examining Objects Next Steps and Closing

Committee Norms

To be a safe and
brave space so
that we can all
do great thinking
together

- ▶ Share your voice. We come from our diverse experiences to create something together
- ▶ We don't have to agree, but we commit to listening deeply with an open mind
- ▶ Read materials between meetings--come to meetings prepared



Introductions

- ▶ The name that you would like to be called
- ▶ A favorite monument, marker, memorial or piece of public art.....

Draft Definition of “Shameful Acts”

For the purposes of this committee, a “shameful act” shall be defined as “An act in which an individual was:

- Directly engaged in, profited from, or was principally known for their role in the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade or enslavement; or
- Directly participated in the theft of land or genocide of Indigenous People; or
- Engaged in work or efforts that promoted white supremacy and/or a hierarchy of human value based on race, gender, or other aspects of human identity.”

Proposed Guiding Principles

1. Reckoning with power to represent history in public

recognizing that the ability to represent histories in public is powerful; reckoning with inequity and injustice while looking to a just future.

2. Historical understanding

respect for and commitment to in-depth and nuanced histories, acknowledging multiple perspectives, including histories that previously have not been privileged.

3. Inclusion

creating conditions for all New Yorkers to feel welcome in New York City's public spaces and to have a voice in the public processes by which monuments and markers are included in such spaces.

4. Complexity

acknowledging layered and evolving narratives represented in New York City's public spaces, with preference for additive, relational, and intersectional approaches over subtractive ones. Monuments and markers have multiple meanings that are difficult to unravel, and it is often impossible to agree on a single meaning.

5. Justice

recognizing the erasure embedded in the City's collection of monuments and markers; addressing histories of dispossession, enslavement, and discrimination not adequately represented in the current public landscape; and actualizing equity.

A photograph of a modern building interior, likely a library or museum. The space is characterized by large windows and a high ceiling. A prominent feature is a large, colorful sculpture made of red and yellow ribbons, with black silhouettes of people in various poses attached to it. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

What additional criteria might be used to determine what kinds of objects should be examined?

Next Steps

- ▶ Next Meeting
Wednesday, March 10,
6:00-8:00
- ▶ Focus: Criteria and
process for examining
objects
- ▶ Email with
questions/thoughts:
monuments@cambridgema.gov





Email with questions/thoughts

monuments@cambridgema.gov