

CAMBRIDGE ARTS COUNCIL
MEETING: March 12, 2013, 6PM

BEGIN: 6:15
END: 7:55

MINUTES

STAFF UPDATE

Job description out for street performer monitor and filled (after meeting). Jason clarified position is seasonal (April to May) to work on behalf of people who have permits. They have orientation and training with the police dept., sound decibel readers, etc. They report to business owners and work out tensions between businesses, residences, and performers so all feel well served. Posting of marketing position is out.

GUEST VISIT

Deborah Davidson gave dynamic presentation of Catalyst Conversations, launched 10/11/12. She explained how it started, work to date, and showed a video that has just been completed by Chris Engles from WGBH. They have had monthly events with 2-4 featured scientists and artists hosted at the Broad Institute. There has been extensive research in finding the right people to collaborate for each event with exciting results. They are making a channel on YouTube. Luis commented that he really likes the small venue ideas and raised question on what is the best model for the size of the Board and audience size at events. 80 people may be too large, need to keep under 100.

In Fall of 2013, CC is planning work with Concord Art Association where Deb curated a drawing show. Lori L. suggested traveling show with Cambridge Art Association. Diane to contact Blue Magruder, Dir. Of Communications at Harvard Museum of Natural History to connect with Deb.

There was discussion that median age range needs to be broadened and ultimately bring in youth of Cambridge. Phyllis noted that middle school kids have really been exploring and defining themselves in a very exciting way with the Cambridge Creativity Commons programs. Mirko, the principal at Putnam Ave has brought extensive faculty to CCC. Diane suggested that CPS science teachers be invited to have an event and contact the CPS science coordinator. Discussed connections with John Maeda, RISD STEAM (science, technology, arts, and math) program.

On bringing in artists to teach, Luis added to be careful on the issue that some outstanding artists may not be good teachers. There was discussion on potential for professional development opportunities for both science and art teachers to collaborate.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

New Brand Attributes and Use: Jason presented the new Cambridge Arts letterhead and summarized the new graphic work with Rick Rawlins. CAC is making links with a consortium of art centers using mobile apps to Cambridge-arts.org. There was discussion on the delay in finding new websites when sites are changed and ongoing issues that the city needs to be very thorough in redirecting all old websites to the new.

Budget: Discussed overall city budget. The next decade will be focusing on renovations to the four new Upper Schools. With public art tied to schools, Barbara advocated for science and art to be clearly tied into these projects and to really engage kids with these projects. Jason added that CAC has the

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structure to give them a voice through the Cambridge Youth Council on public art where they also pay 13 kids each year through the Mayor's program. Jason noted current work with Mel Zingler for CRLS is doing nine different sculptural images from CRLS student notes, drawings, and participation. Barbara added that projects need to address the issue that kids are very visually sophisticated with videos and new technologies.

Discussed Let the People Play grant, Phyllis requested that process be very open in selecting artists.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Luis brought up issue of how to get the community better involved for public spaces on private property after attending a meeting about Harvard's public space next to the science building. Jason clarified that CAC is able to do some public art on surface of the tunnel walls below grade, but above grade is Harvard owned and a private process. He also clarified that some cities have requirements for integrated art projects on private property, but Cambridge does not at this time.

Next meeting is April 9.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jason Weeks, Lori Damon, Lori Lander, Ann Lawson, Diane Norris, Phyllis Bretholtz, Luis Cotto, Barbara Baker

Guest: Deborah Davidson, Director, *Catalyst Conversations*

Absent: Andrew Mroczek, Matt Weinberg, Diana Lempel

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Norris, Secretary, CAC