CAMBRIDGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CITY ART, MONUMENTS, MEMORIALS, AND MARKERS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2021
6:00-8:00PM
COMMITTEE WORKFLOW

**Committee Meeting 1:** Establish Committee

**Committee Meeting 2:** Refine Definition of Shameful Acts and Guiding Principles

**Committee Meeting 3:** Consider Processes for Examining Objects and Identify Criteria

*Between meetings 3 and 5: Public comment and survey*

**Committee Meeting 4:** Possible actions, History of how monuments came to be in Cambridge, Future Recognitions

**Committee Meeting 5:** Future Recognitions

**Committee Meeting 6:** Consideration of Recommendations for 1-2 objects (if time and capacity allow)
Desired Outcomes

• Identify criteria for examining objects
• Preliminary identification of possible actions once objects have been considered

Agenda

• Welcome and Agenda for today
• Go-around.....
• Proposed process for consideration of existing objects
• Criteria for examining objects
• Stretch break
• Possible actions following examination of objections
• 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
GO-AROUND...

YOUR NAME

A PIECE OF ART, MONUMENT, MEMORIAL, OR MARKER YOU ARE LONGING TO SEE/OR SEE AGAIN...
• **Step 1: Deciding to Consider an Object**
  - Requests from residents are brought to Historical Commission, Arts Council, or City Manager’s office
  - Standing Monuments, Public Arts and Memorial Committee performs analysis based on the criteria that has been set and makes recommendation to consider the object or not

• **Step 2: Analysis of Objects**
  - The relevant City Department commissions an analysis led by a panel of relevant experts to assess the object.

• **Step 3: Possible Actions**
  - TBD
Sample Criteria for Examining Objects from New York City

1. Sustained adverse public reaction (two years or more)

2. Large-scale community opposition (as part of larger cultural/political concerns)

3. Recommendation from the local community board

4. Egregious historical oversight, and/or revelation of new, significant information about the monument and what or whom it represents.
WHAT CRITERIA MIGHT BE USED TO DETERMINE WHAT KINDS OF OBJECTS SHOULD BE EXAMINED?
POSSIBLE ACTIONS FOLLOWING EXAMINATION OF OBJECTS

1. **No action is deemed necessary**—Existing monument remains in place without intervention.

2. **Re-contextualization**—Provide new or additional context by any means including: Install site-specific plaques or signage, update historical information, disclaim endorsement of the acts of historic figures, or provide information electronically.

3. **Relocation**—Relocate to another City-owned public site. Alternatives include relocation or long-term loan to cultural organizations, museums, or relevant historical, cultural, or educational settings.

4. **New temporary or permanent works**—Commission new artworks in any medium including sculpture, performance, and socially engaged art in order to foster public dialogue on polarizing historical moments and to amplify additional or excluded voices and underrepresented histories.

5. **Removal**—Remove offending, controversial, or outdated works from outdoor display on public property.
NEXT STEPS

Next Meeting:
Wednesday, April 14 6:00-8:00

Focus:
- Historical context of how monuments have come to be in Cambridge
- Possible actions for objects after they have been examined (if needed)
- Begin considering criteria for future recognitions

Email with questions/thoughts:
monuments@cambridgema.gov