



Cambridge Advisory Committee on City Art, Monuments, Memorials, and
Markers

Wednesday, May 5, 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

Committee Meeting 4: History of how monuments came to be in Cambridge, Arts Council process

Committee Meeting 5: *Future Recognitions*

Between Meetings: Public Engagement

Committee Meeting 6: Consideration of Recommendations for an Object and Committee Closure



Desired Outcomes

- Identity possible criteria and principles for future recognitions
- Gather ideas for a possible object to consider together at the next meeting

Agenda

- Welcome and Agenda for today
- Review Guiding Principles, Criteria, and Possible Actions
- Future Recognitions
- Break
- Next Meeting: Examining an Object
- 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

Guiding Principles

Reckoning with power to represent values in public

recognizing that the ability to represent values in public is powerful; reckoning with deeply rooted inequities and injustices in Cambridge while looking to a just future.

Historical understanding

respect for and commitment to in-depth and nuanced histories acknowledging multiple perspectives, including the narratives of people who have been actively marginalized.

Inclusion

creating conditions for all people to feel welcome in Cambridge's public spaces and enable inclusive public processes by which City art, monuments, and markers are included in such spaces.

Complexity

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

Justice

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

Definition of “Shameful Acts”

1. Directly engaged in, profited from, and/or was principally known for their role supporting the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade or enslavement
2. Directly participated in the theft of land and/or genocide of Indigenous People
3. Engaged in work and/or efforts that promoted the violence of white supremacy and/or a hierarchy of human value based on race, gender, and/or other aspects of human identity, including categories in the City’s non-discrimination ordinance.

Criteria for Examining Existing Objects

Meeting at least 1 of these criteria:

1. Community led public reaction that supports a just City, prioritizing anti-racism, equity, diversity and inclusion
2. Significant community opposition (as part of larger cultural/political concerns)
3. Recommendation from multiple local community members, particularly centering the voices of women, people of color, and people from other historically marginalized communities
4. Egregious historical oversights, and/or revelation of new, significant information about the public art, monument, or marker and what or whom it represents”



Go-around...

Something that resonates with you from the work that we've done

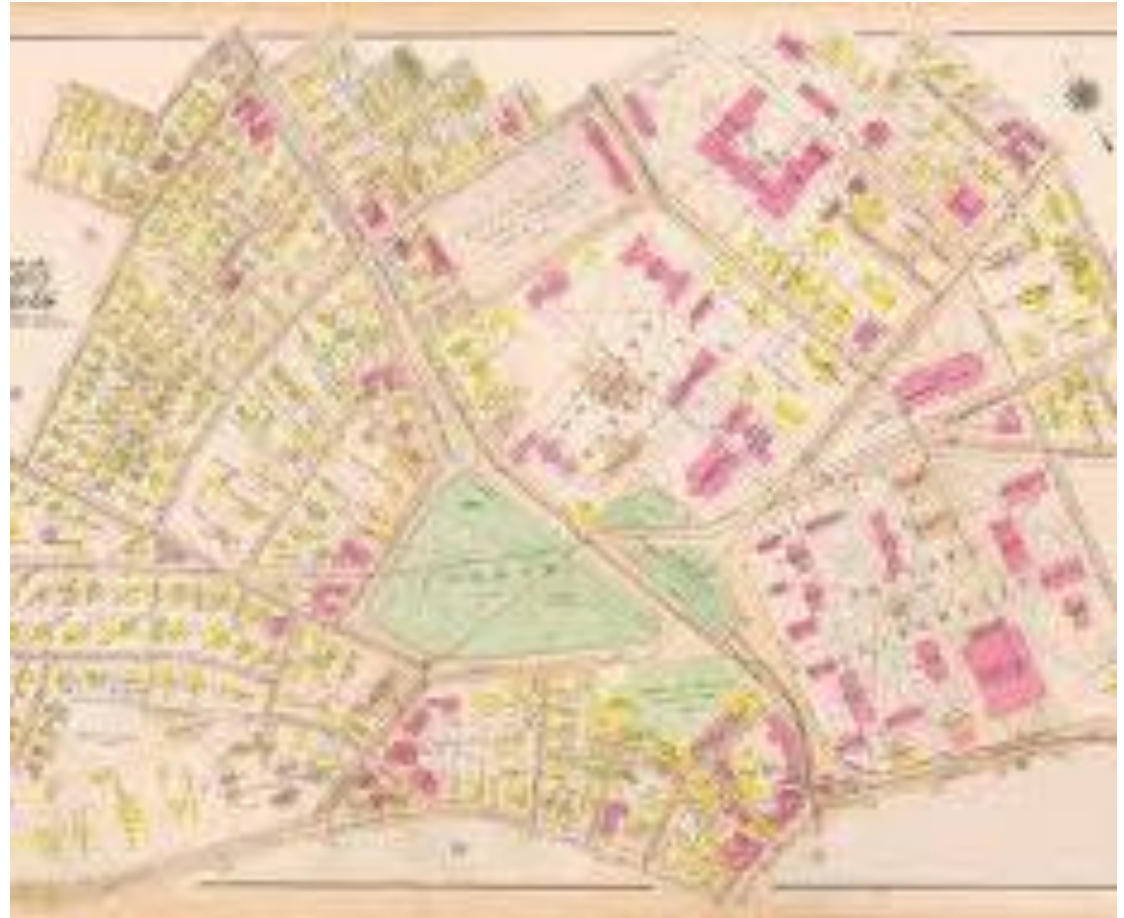
If your job were to determine new MMMCA created or backed by the City, what kinds of people, events or communities do you think should be recognized in the future?

What might be criteria or principles that might guide decisions about future CAMMM?



Test Case...

Is there an existing monument, marker, or memorial you would like for this committee to use as a 'test scenario' for our final group exercise?"





Next Steps

Public Input

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, June 9, 6:00-8:00

Focus:

Examining an Object as a Test Case
and Committee Closure

Email with questions/thoughts:

monuments@cambridgema.gov