



City of Cambridge

Executive Department

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City of Cambridge Nineteenth Amendment Centennial Public Art Project GUIDELINES FOR FINALISTS CONCEPT PROPOSALS ARE DUE APRIL 13, 2020

BACKGROUND:

The City of Cambridge Nineteenth Amendment Centennial Committee was formed in spring of 2019 to guide the process of commissioning a permanent public artwork that will commemorate the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution in August 1920. It is the goal of the commission that the work of public art acknowledges the amendment's complex history, its ongoing work in shaping American democracy, and the role of Cambridge women in the suffrage movement.

Massachusetts played a leading role in the long campaign for women's suffrage. In Cambridge, women of all backgrounds petitioned, organized, marched, and persisted throughout the decades of the movement. In Cambridge, as elsewhere, the movement reflected the nation's racial prejudices. Most white suffragists shared a single-minded focus on eliminating only gender as a barrier to the ballot, while a majority of African-American suffragists opposed both gender- and race-based discrimination. Their efforts over three generations were animated by high passions and embedded with paradoxes, which have carried forward to this day. The Nineteenth Amendment did not end the national movement for full and equitable enfranchisement, due to racist citizenship laws and organized disenfranchisement laws and activities, but it was an important milestone in a continuing struggle.

THE SITE:

The Cambridge Common is the site for the Nineteenth Amendment public art project, subject to final approval by the Cambridge Historical Commission of the final art proposal. Within the perimeter of the Common, the preferred location for the public art project is the north corner of the park, near the intersection of Waterhouse Street and Massachusetts Avenue where there is a pedestrian entrance.

The Common is a sixteen-acre park in the Old Cambridge Historic District and is on the National Register of Historic Places. It is bordered by Garden Street, Waterhouse Street, and Massachusetts Avenue and crisscrossed by pathways lined with mature and recently planted trees. It shares characteristics with many historic town greens and commons throughout New

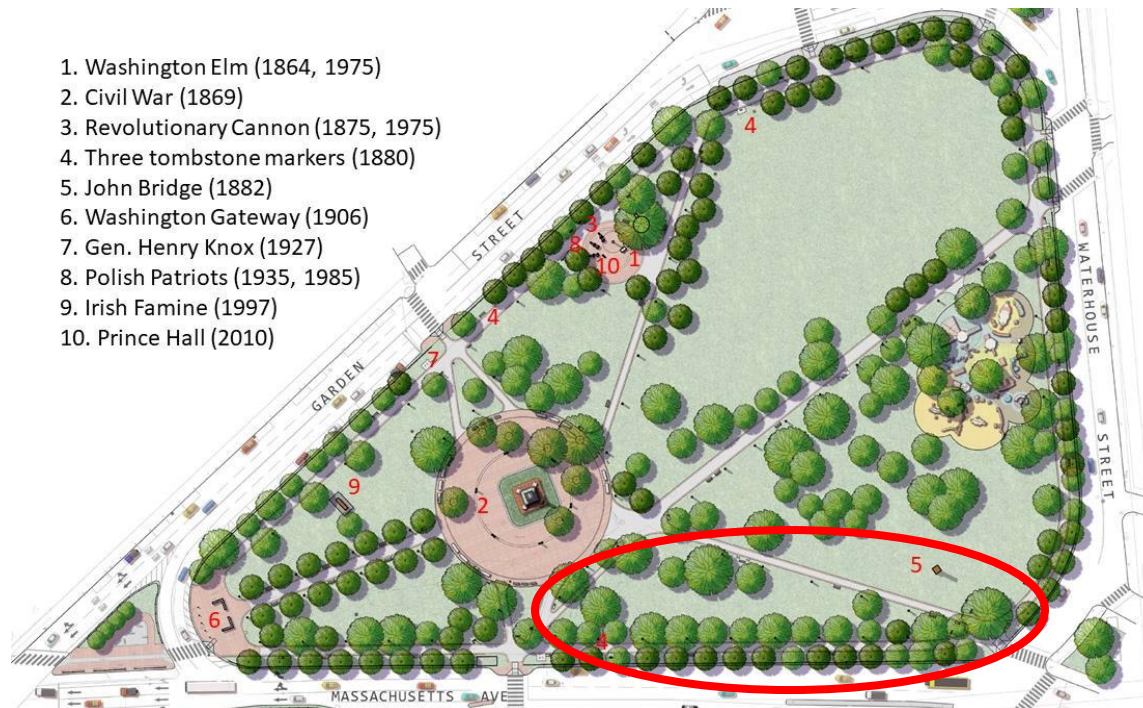


England, which are often bordered by a church or meeting house and sometimes contain additional civic structures or monuments.

Since its seventeenth century beginnings, when it served as common pasture for what was then a farming village, the Common has seen a wide variety of public activities, including a military encampment, political demonstrations, public concerts, an outdoor church, community sports and games, musical performances and festivals, and ongoing leisure and play by all ages.

Located a couple blocks north of Harvard Square, the Common in the present day is a popular tourist attraction as well as a recreational space for residents, with a number of memorials and monuments mixed in with an expansive lawn area for play or leisure. In addition, the award-winning Alexander Kemp playground is located at the northern edge of the Cambridge Common and draws families from across the region.

The Cambridge Common is a place of great importance for the City of Cambridge, both as a historic site and a contemporary civic space at the heart of the city. It holds a unique place in the public imagination. For many it is a destination and for others it is a connecting route to nearby hubs of activity: Harvard Square, Porter Square, Harvard University, Lesley University, five churches, two nursery schools, and residential neighborhoods. When considering the Cambridge Common, finalists are requested to consider its historical, social, and cultural meaning as well as its physical characteristics. Please see list of criteria for more details.



CONCEPT PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT PROCESS:

You were selected by an Art Jury to develop a concept proposal that responds to the project mission and site and is based on a set of criteria listed in these guidelines. Between now and April 13, 2020, please stay in close communication with Cambridge Arts staff as you develop your proposal. We are here to assist you. We will point you to resources, give you feedback, connect you to relevant city staff or organizations, and answer questions, all dependent on your interests and design direction. If we do not hear from you periodically, we will reach out to touch base on your progress.

Required Site Visit and Community Meetings

1. Site visit - meeting on the Common with city staff – Nov/Dec 2019
2. Meeting with the Nineteenth Amendment Centennial Committee and the community – February 12, 2020
3. Final proposal presentation of your proposal in a community meeting (with Q&A)- May 2020
4. Presentation and interview with the Selection Committee – May/June 2020

Additional meetings with city staff or other members of the community will be arranged as needed.

EVALUATION CRITERIA:

1. Engages the relationship between the past, present, and future of voting rights, social justice, and democracy
2. Addresses the omission of voices from the past as well as in the present
3. Embraces the complexity and contradictions of the women's suffrage movement
4. Situates Cambridge and Cambridge women within the broader context of the national movements for women's suffrage and voting rights.
5. Prompts inquiry, reflection, and greater understanding of the history and ongoing struggle for full enfranchisement
6. Considers the contemporary role of monuments in public space
7. Has a capacity to attract and speak to anyone, regardless of background, experience, education, or age.
8. Accessible to a broad range of learning styles and abilities.
9. Responds to the overall site of the Cambridge Common and positions itself in harmony with the surrounding landscape and tone of the historic park.
10. Provides inspiration for people to be active in our democratic system
11. Holds an enduring quality - sustains an active visitor experience, from a short visit to daily encounters
12. Offers a place to linger, gather, participate, or interact
13. Appropriate to budget and municipal maintenance capability
14. Realistic time line

15. Durable materials and methodology
16. Commensurate to the artist's demonstrated level of excellence in public art and community engagement

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

1. Concept narrative – i.e. underlying ideas, vision, and intentions for your project
2. Project description (physical and/or programmatic) – what the visitor will encounter when approaching or engaging with the project, what they will see, touch, and/or hear
3. Visuals showing what the public will see and experience – drawings, renderings, photos, etc. A physical model is NOT required.
4. Materials - description or list
5. Methods of fabrication and installation
6. Dimensions of physical components – you might have multiple sets of dimensions if there are various components
7. If there is a programmatic component: description, framework, and schedule of program
8. Maintenance requirements (both physical and programmatic requirements to sustain the project)
9. Expected lifespan of project
10. Projected time line for detailed design development, public process, fabrication, installation
11. Budget breakdown for the total of \$300,000. Proposed budget must include all costs, including but not limited to design fee, research and community process, travel, fabrication, materials, engineering and other consultants, insurance, transportation and storage, installation, and contingency. We expect that some costs will be estimates. (Commissioned artist will develop a detailed design proposal.)

SUBMISSION FORMAT:

Your proposal must be delivered in two formats:

- a. Digital presentation that contains all elements of your concept proposal (refer to submission requirements list above)
- b. Presentation board, 30" x 40" for displaying your proposal.

COMPENSATION:

You will receive \$2,000 for your concept proposal and presentation. Please provide a current W-9.

SELECTION PROCESS:

Your proposal is due April 13, 2020. After review by city staff, all proposals will be on display in a public building between April and May 2020 for gathering community feedback. Finalists will present their proposals in person twice: at a community meeting and before the Selection Committee. The Selection Committee will be composed of members of the Centennial Committee, city staff, and other community members. The Selection Committee will select one artist or team to be commissioned. In August 2020 the city will have an event and related programming to announce the commissioned concept proposal. Once the artist is on contract with the city, the artist will begin detailed design development with the goal of installation in 2022.

TIMELINE:

Nov/Dec/Jan 2019	Site visits
February 12, 2020, 6-8 p.m.	Community meeting with finalists – Senior Center, 806 Massachusetts Ave.
Dec 2019 – April 2020	Proposal Development
April 13, 2020, 11:59 p.m. EST	Proposals due
Mid-April – mid-May 2020	Display of proposals; public feedback
April 29, 2020	Finalists share proposals with community
May 13, 2020	Finalists' presentation and interview with Selection Committee; Selection Committee selects one proposal
June-July 2020	City plans for centennial event
August 2020	Centennial celebration and public announcement of selected public art proposal

PLEASE STAY IN TOUCH!

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