

**Nineteenth Amendment Centennial Committee**  
**February 12, 2020 Community Presentation & Meeting**  
**6:00-7:45 PM, Citywide Senior Center, 806 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02139**

Members present: Marian Darlington-Hope, Tanya Ford-Crump, Kim Bernstein, Sofia Bernstein, Sarah Burks

Staff present: Lillian Hsu, Hilary Zelson, Jennifer Mathews, Kathy Watkins

- Presentation on project background and next steps:
  - City staff and Committee members Marian Darlington-Hope, Kim Bernstein & Sofia Bernstein summarized process to date and Committee experience.
  - Jennifer Mathews introduced #HerVote club from Cambridge Rindge and Latin School. Sofia Bernstein and other club members here tonight. Would like to interview attendees and document thoughts on voting for archival project with Schlesinger Library. Will see table outside after meeting if interested in providing interview.
  - Jennifer Mathews encouraged attendees to provide email on meeting sign-in sheet and/or sign up online on project page to receive updates.
- Artist Presentations:
  - Each artist presented for approximately 5 minutes on their background, creative process, usual medium, and ideas thus far on their proposal submission.
    - Nora Valdez
    - Franka Diehnelt (presenting on behalf of self and partner Claudia Reisenberger in California)
    - Azra Aksamija
    - Mags Harries & Lajos Heder
  - All artists born outside of United States and have experience with immigration system and/or obtaining U.S. citizenship. Unique perspectives on enfranchisement.
- Public Comment:
  - Meeting opened to public comment.
  - Overview:
    - Approximately 25 meeting attendees provided comments, ranging from specific artistic direction or creative ideas to City process questions.
  - Comment Summary:
    - Both support for and critique of Cambridge Common as site. One commenter expressed preference for Cambridge Main Library/Joan Lorentz Park. One commenter asked if Cambridge Common site was “final” or remained flexible.
      - City staff confirmed that site will be Cambridge Common, subject to Historical Commission approval. Committee members spoke to

thoughtfulness of site selection process, recognizing site preference evolved over time and after stakeholder group engagement at multiple site options.

- Importance of making the project engaging for all ages. Youth engagement is great, but don't focus on one "group" over others.
- Importance of site accessibility.
- Desire for project to create a deliberative space on the Common; draw people in for gathering and reflection.
- Critique that there are no black women among the artists. Representation is critical.
- Artists and proposals should not ignore the ugliness of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment's history – white suffragists excluded and walked over black suffragists.
- Desire for continued programming around the project; don't let it become a stagnant monument.
- Some commenters would like to see artwork that "fits" on the Common – incorporating natural elements, not overwhelming the space or looking out of place.
- Some commenters prefer a bold artwork with lively color or other elements that demand attention.
- Do not want women to have a "lesser" monument or tribute on the Common; should claim its place.
- Would be great to connect artists to some first-person narratives/primary sources of Cambridge suffrage history. Don't want to lose the focus on Cambridge and its unique history.
- Committee members and City staff answered process questions where possible. Artists answered questions directed at them and on ad hoc basis if they felt they could address.
- After approx. 1 ½ hours, public comment closed.
- Meeting Conclusion
  - Committee, staff and artists thanked public for thoughtful feedback.
  - Artists all expressed that meeting provided ideas and direction for the proposals.
  - City staff reminded attendees of next steps:
    - April 13, 2020: Artwork proposals due
      - Images will be displayed publicly for feedback
    - April 29, 2020: Finalists Present to Community
      - Citywide Senior Center, 6:00-8:00pm
    - May 13, 2020: Selection of winning proposal