

Nineteenth Amendment Centennial Committee
June 4, 2019 Meeting
6:00-8:00PM, Sophie Anastos Conference Room, City Hall, 2nd Floor, Cambridge, MA 02139

Members present: Tanya Ford, Jane Kamensky, Marian Darlington Hope, Kimberly Sansoucy, Kim Bernstein

Staff present: Lisa Peterson (Deputy City Manager), Kathy Watkins (City Engineer), Lillian Hsu (Director of Public Art), Jennifer Mathews (Asst. to the City Manager), Cecily Miller (Public Art Commission)

- Reviewed draft minutes from May 7, 2019 meeting.
 - Motion to approve May 7, 2019 minutes; approved unanimously.
- Discussed recent site visits to determine whether any sites could be removed from consideration and whether members otherwise felt strongly about a particular site.
 - Committee agreed to eliminate two sites from consideration: Cambridge Crossing & Riverside Press Park. Sites did not resonate. Of the two potential sites on or around River Street, Tubman Square presents more advantages than Riverside Press Park (e.g., proximity to Central Square and public transportation, opportunity to transform the space).
 - Remaining three sites present unique opportunities/perspectives: Jean Lorentz Park at the Cambridge Public Library – civic access; Tubman Square – intimate space; Cambridge Common – joining the conversation on the City common.
- Discussed possible attributes of the art: could be multiple pieces or installations; could be mobile, moving between multiple parks – though this would have attendant costs; committee could allow artist to choose the location.
- Cecily Miller presented on contemporary memorials and monuments; examples from other cities and the complex considerations for such work. (PowerPoint attached.)
- Lillian Hsu discussed the public art process by which an artist and proposed work will be selected. LH provided discussion document for Committee review. (See attached.) Answers to discussion questions will inform language in the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) and Request for Proposals (RFP).
 - Timing – RFQ comes first and needs to draw artists’ interest. Based on RFQ responses, finalists will be selected, and those finalists will respond to the RFP.
- Discussed preferences for themes and characteristics of the art:
 - Kim Bernstein – Important to focus on women’s rights and the disenfranchisement of women, specifically; goal is to elevate the status of women in public art.
 - Jane Kamensky – Voting is the headline, then it’s the intersection with gender; focus on enfranchisement rather than disenfranchisement.
 - Marian Darlington Hope – Voting is number one, then it’s about creating a space around the object/art; but no reason it must be one or the other. Prefers it not be about an individual person from Cambridge; wealth of history in the city to consider. Don’t tie this to every other struggle; let it speak to women’s suffrage. Prefers permanent piece rather than programming; other options for programming.
- Discussed programming. Lisa Peterson referenced working group focusing on events; group plans to unveil artwork proposal in conjunction with that programming. Ongoing opportunities for programs/events in advance of artwork.

- Cecily Miller raised possibility of tasking artist with some discovery and ideas for a dialogue with the artwork prior to work's completion.
- Finalists could be eligible for summer research grant from the Schlesinger Library.
- Resumed discussing preferences for themes and characteristics of the art:
 - Tanya Ford – Voting is number one. Would like a permanent piece that can still be interactive in some way, particularly for youth. Does not want to go too far off into intersectionality with other movements but wants to recognize it's not just about the people in Cambridge now; it's about the historical view of Cambridge and community focus as well.
 - Kim Sansoucy – Would like art to focus on the movement and not an individual; should demonstrate the wide scope of the movement.
- Discussed ways art can demonstrate Cambridge ties and importance of not losing the Committee's charge to tell the representative story of the 19th Amendment in Cambridge. Telling an honest story about women's rights and voting at that time means the representative story tells itself; also feeds into the continuing and unfinished nature of enfranchisement and Committee's interest in demonstrating past/present/future relevance.
 - LH said it is important that the Committee verbalize these goals clearly to the artist to elicit the type of work the Committee wants.
- Discussed options for process by which the Committee can select an artist. LH said the Committee could use an art jury, typically made up of 3 people. Committee can establish feedback and continued communication between artist, jury & Committee.
 - LH provided sample RFQ from The Foundry project for example of process with continued feedback and community partnership focus.
 - Committee would like to be very involved, while using experienced art jury.
- LH will provide Committee with draft RFQ in late June for discussion at July 9, 2019 meeting.
 - LH circulated updated project timeline. (See attached.)
 - There will be some overlap in timing between RFQ going out, selecting art jury, and RFP going out; it is helpful for art jury to see at least a draft RFP.
- Committee directed LH to include certain language in the RFQ:
 - Work should embrace challenge of capturing this movement in the artwork.
 - Work should recognize both the achievement of the past and the continuing relevance for today.
 - Tell the artist about the movement.
 - JK to send LH a few sentences on the suffrage movement to incorporate.
 - Encourage artist to consider paradoxes of the movement.
 - Express preference for a Cambridge-based artist or artist with ties to Cambridge.
- Lisa Peterson will talk to the Director of Libraries and other city officials/staff re potential siting in Joan Lorentz Park.
- Committee would like to provide an update to the community.
- Committee adjourned.