

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

Members present: Sarah Burks, Barbara Berenson, Jane Kamensky, Marian Darlington Hope, Kimberly Sansoucy, Vanessa Till Hooper, Kim Bernstein

Staff present: Lisa Peterson, Kathy Watkins, Lillian Hsu, Jennifer Mathews

- Discussed the July 31, 2019 presentation to the Joan Lorentz Park Committee regarding potentially siting artwork within the park. Awaiting further feedback from that Committee; next meeting scheduled for September 17th.
- Committee should move forward to meet with other community groups regarding Joan Lorentz Park, specifically the Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Association and the Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Conservation District Commission. JM will reach out to these groups re getting on their agendas.
- Discussed the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) & Request for Proposals (RFP) processes:
 - Timing/phases of the project clarified
 - RFQ will be released very shortly
 - Committee and staff need to attend all relevant community group meetings before the end of September to get feedback
 - Art jury will select 3-4 finalists from the RFQ; LH has potential jurors in mind whose backgrounds align well with the project. SB & JM will also sit in with art jury to remain informed and communicate with the Committee
 - RFP will go to the art jury and the finalists, to then prepare detailed proposals; RFP will have further details on site and artwork criteria
 - Once finalists and site selected, Committee can set up community meetings with the artists; good way to gauge public response and inform artists' proposals; worked well with the Foundry project
 - Can also set up small group meetings with finalists, as needed
- Discussed artist registry and art jury processes:
 - Committee discussed possibility of getting a statement of intent from artists or other means to assess an artist's affinity for the project
 - LH explains nature of the artist registry, which is a standing registry, and how artists will upload information on City's Slideroom platform; doesn't allow for a statement of intent per se, but the Committee can include detailed criteria in RFP – which will inform artists and the art jury
- RFQ almost finalized; LH will add an inclusion statement
 - Motion to approve RFQ for publication, once inclusion statement added, approved unanimously.
- Discussed criteria to include in RFP:
 - Would like artist to have a connection to Cambridge, but don't want to exclude candidates on this basis
 - Work needs to consider the past, present and future; not simply a historical monument
 - Should be a permanent installation made of durable materials

- Artist should have recognized strategies for speaking to the absence of individuals/groups in their work – to address the complexity of the 19th Amendment that the Committee has been focusing on
- Artist should be aware of contemporary debates about monuments and the complexity of that issue
- Want piece to be inspirational and accessible; goal is to elicit an active response from a visitor/viewer
- LH will draft RFP using this criteria and other standard language; Committee can review at next meeting
- Art jury will convene in October, after the RFQ closes on September 30th
- RFQ will be publicized through various city list serves, at open studios, and through press. RFQ's usually bring new artists to the City's registry. Based on the Arts Council's latest experience with the Foundry art project, this could bring approximately 50 new artists to the registry.
- Discussed site selection next steps:
 - Thursday August 8th Cambridge Historical Commission meeting; JHM, LH, LP and SB will attend
 - Goal is to inform the CHC about the Cambridge Common as a potential site and explain why the Committee thinks it's a good fit; get the Commission's feedback
 - Points to make: Common is a place where children spend a lot of time and this work will be a story for them; teaching children about citizenry and being good stewards of democracy; Common is location where the city interacts with the national narrative and this is where Cambridge can decisively put women into that conversation
 - For Joan Lorentz Park option, JM will reach out to Fritz Donovan with the Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Association re presenting to them, and plan to present at the September 9th MCNDC meeting
 - For River Street option, Cambridgeport Neighborhood Association and Riverside Neighborhood Association would be appropriate groups
- Discussed Mass Humanities grant program. While it is a very interesting program, focusing on "The Vote," application criteria is detailed and requires a project scholar. Ultimately doesn't make sense for the City to apply.
- Next two Committee meetings will be Tuesday, September 10th and Tuesday, October 1st
- Meeting adjourned