

The Cambridge Arts Council

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

(617) 498-9033

July 8, 1982

Mr. Robert Healy
City Manager
City Hall
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Bob,

With reference to Mark Favermann's letter of June 2 to the City Council raising objections to the mural on the wall of Rosie's Bakery in Inman Square, I think there are five main points here:

- 1) No local property tax money is involved.
- 2) Mr. Favermann and the artist, Heddi Siebel, were rude to each other in conversation at the site while Ms. Siebel was painting. I don't know who started it but Ms. Siebel has certainly apologized (see attached letter).
- 3) Every work we sponsor could arouse objections, in this case on the part of a person very well informed on art. Tastes differ and our answer must always be that a professional jury chooses the artists we sponsor. As a Council we stand by the choices of our juries while recognizing that neither all of the Council members personally, nor every citizen of Cambridge, will like every work we commission.
- 4) The presence on a jury of a spouse of a Council member, when that spouse is clearly qualified in his/her right, and when no award is contemplated or made from which that jury member stands to gain personally, is not conflict of interest in any accepted meaning of that term.
- 5) Community review: nearly all our artworks, in every neighborhood of the city, have gone through a careful community review process, carried out slowly and painstakingly, and sometimes resulting in changes or the withdrawal of the proposal. We do try also to give a burst of brightness to

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the city as part of the River Festival and this necessitates shortening the long process of community review which can take literally years to complete when properly conducted. There would be no River Festival permanent public art installations without our more informal procedure in these cases. We are trying, too, to give artists the satisfaction of a short proposal--jury--selection--installation period in the case of some of our works. I believe this complaint is the first we have received to indicate that anyone in Cambridge did not like the results. However, we are committed to community and neighborhood involvement, and as a result of this one complaint we are in the process of writing guidelines for the enhancement of privately owned buildings with murals, and we expect that one of these guidelines shall address the question of community involvement, which might mean that we would require artists to include in their proposals some evidence that they have received some support from the community for their proposals - a process we have already insisted upon in our City Arts proposal process.

Our mandate from the City Council combines instruction to beautify Cambridge for the pleasure of our citizens with the request that we further the interests of Cambridge artists, all under the guidance of the Cambridge arts professionals, residents and business people on our Council and the arts professionals on our juries. We have installed over 60 works of public art, commissioned hundreds of Cambridge artists, and been nationally recognized for our work. The highest reward, however, is the pleasure which the vast majority of our public art installations has given to Cambridge residents who have expressed their support to us over the years.

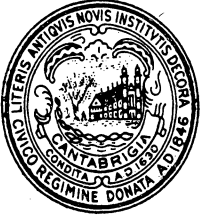
Sincerely,



Chris Connaire
Executive Director

CKC/rr

Encl.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
Tel. 498-9011

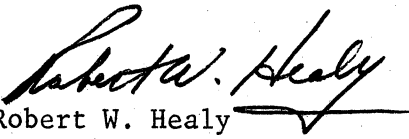
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

August 2, 1982

To the Honorable, the City Council:

With reference to Awaiting Report Item No. 16 relative to a recently-painted mural on the side of Rosie's Bakery in Inman Square, enclosed please find copy of a report from Chris Connaire, Executive Director of the Cambridge Arts Council.

Very truly yours,


Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mbf
Enc.

Agenda Item Number Eleven

Re: response to Awaiting Report Item No. 16
Re: recently painted mural on the side of Rosie's Bakery in Inman Square.

In City Council,

August 2, 1982

8/2/1982

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