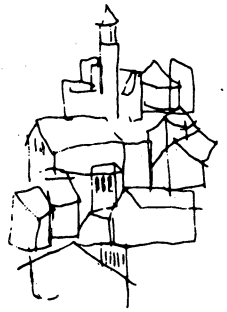


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CAMBRIDGE, MASS.



June 2, 1982

City Council Members
City Hall
Cambridge, MA 02138

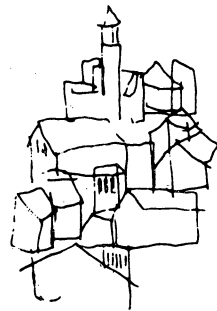
Dear City Council Members:

Recently, a mural was painted on the side of Rosie's Bakery in Inman Square. This mural is directly across the street from the Alfred Velluchi Park which is next to our condominium complex. Not only is this mural in no way thematically connected to the Inman Square area, but no resident of the area was ever contacted to ask his or her opinions about the mural. There was no contact with the Central Cambridge organization either. Only the Legal Seafood owners were contacted to grant permission and (with Rosie), approved the artist's design. In other words, as taxpayers, we feel that this piece of "public" art should have required a public forum for discussion. Public art with no public input seems to defeat the purpose of public art. Rosie, of course, received a free mural commemorating her dog and her products in a grotesque, expressionistic way. Her storefront sign, extending over the sidewalk (and is approximately 4'x4') went through much more public scrutiny than this mural which is many times greater in size and in garrishness.

To make matters worse, when I expressed my dismay to the artist about this situation, she told me to "Eat Shit". After I complained to the Cambridge Arts Council about the situation, I received a very condescending letter of apology from the artist and a letter of backing for the artist from the Arts Council coordinator involved with the project. When I asked about community involvement in public projects, I was told by their representative of the arts council that there has never been a procedure for community involvement in public enhancement projects involved in the River Festival. To make matters even worse, of the three jurors, one was the wife of one of the Arts Council members. Surely this is a conflict of interest and highly irregular considering how many qualified people live in Cambridge who could have been a juror.

As someone with an extensive background in arts management and art, I feel that this apparent total disregard of community feelings and procedural irregularities should be investigated and righted for the future. This misuse of limited resources surely is a reflection on the good intentions of the City Council to fund the Arts Council.

I would be pleased to receive a response regarding this inappropriate mural, the community input procedures, and the arrogance of the arts council to adjacent property owners and taxpayers. Perhaps it is time for others to be involved on the Cambridge Arts Council?



Also, while I have your attention, I would also appreciate an answer as to why Legal Seafood's processing plant is being allowed to operate in Inman Square despite court rulings against it.

Yours truly,

Mark L. Favermann

Mark L. Favermann
254 Hampshire Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

office- 542-0510
home- 492-6941

/ts

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S-451

Comm. from Paul E. Healy, City Clerk, transmitting comm. from Mark L. Fäverman, 254 Hampshire Street Re: recently painted mural on the side of Rosie's Bakery in Inman Square.

*Copy sent to City Manager 6/9/82
mk*

In City Council,

June 7, 1982

*6/7/82
Referred to the
City Manager
for
Report*