

Memorandum

To: Robert W. Healy, City Manager
From: Jason Weeks, Executive Director, Beth Rubenstein, Asst. City Manager/CDD
Date: 05/02/2002
Re: City Council Order #19/Artist Survey Report

In response to City Council Order #19 requesting information on the potential for developing a Cambridge Artist Survey, it should be noted that the Cambridge Arts Council has worked directly with the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) to extend their current Artist Survey to artists living in the City of Cambridge. The results of the BRA Artist Survey are currently being tabulated with an expected date for completion in mid-June 2002. Upon completion, we have requested that the BRA disaggregate the data for Cambridge in order to provide clear information on feedback received from artists living in the City.

Background:

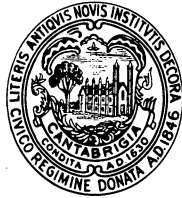
In December 2001, the Arts Council became aware of the plans being organized by the Boston Redevelopment Authority to launch a formal survey into the needs of Boston artists with regards to live/work space in that city. Earlier in the year, the BRA hired Susan Hartnett (former director of the Boston Center for the Arts) to serve in a full time capacity as director of the BRA's Artists Space Initiative program. Following a period of initial research, Ms. Hartnett commissioned Artspace Projects, Inc., a non-profit arts organization based in Minneapolis, MN and specializing in the development and creation of low cost space for artists working in urban areas, to conduct a formal survey of artists needs in Boston.

The first step in the BRA plan is the distribution of an Artist Survey to approximately 10,000 artists in the city of Boston. Through the Artist Survey the BRA hopes to gain insight into the needs of area artists including ideal square footage for workspace, design requirements, location needs, type of space (live/work; rental vs. ownership). Additionally, they hope to gather information on artists' current space provisions, ability to pay for space and demographic profiles of participants.

In an effort to collect information on the BRA initiative and evaluate the usefulness of such information to current artist live/work issues in Cambridge, representatives of the Cambridge Arts Council attended the initial meetings on the Artist Space Initiative in early February. Following discussions with the project director, we petitioned the BRA to extend the survey to artists living in cities adjacent to Boston and including Cambridge. To support this endeavor, the Arts Council provided database information on approximately 800 Cambridge artists to be included in the BRA Artist Survey master database. The survey was distributed in March 2002 and results will be made available by mid-June.

Recommendation:

The Arts Council will continue to communicate with the BRA to obtain the results of the Artist Survey by the end of June 2002 and identify the level of response on the part of Cambridge artists. Based on that information, CAC and CDD will be able to determine the need for a similar artists survey, and possibly, an artist space initiative in Cambridge.



7.

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Robert W. Healy, City Manager

Richard C. Rossi, Deputy City Manager

May 20, 2002

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item Nos. 02-29 and 02-30, regarding a report on developing a Cambridge Art Survey and an Artist Space Initiative, received from Executive Director of the Cambridge Arts Council Jason Weeks.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
Attachment

S-155

Consent Agenda #7

**Awaiting Report Item
Numbers 02-29 and 02-30,**
regarding a report on
developing a Cambridge Art
Survey and an Artist Space
Initiative.

In City Council May 20, 2002

**REFERRED TO PUBLIC
FACILITIES, ARTS AND
CELEBRATIONS
COMMITTEE ON MOTION
COUNCILLOR MURPHY.**

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