



Cambridge Arts Council

57 Inman Street Cambridge, MA 02139 (617) 498-9033

MEMORANDUM

TO: Robert W. Healy, City Manager

FROM: Annabelle Hebert, Executive Director

DATE: September 7, 1989

SUB: Council Order #59 ~~July~~ ^{August} 7, 1989, regarding the status of the Martin Luther King Statue

Attached is the status report your requested.

RECEIVED
89 SEP 12 AM 9:07
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Attachment



Cambridge Arts Council

57 Inman Street Cambridge, MA 02139 (617) 498-9033

Date: August 23, 1989

To: Roy-Alan Hansen, Deputy Director, CAC

From: Pallas C. Lombardi, Director of Public Art, CAC

RE: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Sculpture Project

Site: Central Square - Traffic Island located at the intersection of River Street, Western Avenue, and Franklin Street, in front of the Baptist Church and Police Station.

Architect: Stephen Carr, of Carr & Lynch Associates, Inc., Cambridge, working for Cambridge Community Development Department.

Funding: Citizen Committee headed by Representative Sandra Graham to raise \$100,000 from public and private contributions for the commissioned statue. Cambridge Community Development Department provided funds from the Central Square Enhancement Project for the artist selection process (call to artists, jurors and artists' fees).

Artist Selection Process: Cambridge Arts Council working with CCDD, a citizens committee, and a three-person art jury would select the artist. A Call to Artists was distributed, at the same time Stephen Carr began design in accordance with State guidelines.

Status: During 1987 and 1988 the committee rejected the first two groups of artists that presented proposals. In September 1988 the Cambridge Arts Council reconvened the committee to review a new round of finalists.

From a pool of 27 artists, the committee selected 5 artists to be paid to develop proposals within the project guidelines. The artists were: Ed Dwight, Colorado; Abbe Godwin, North Carolina; Thomas Haxo, Massachusetts; John Raimondi, Massachusetts; Roger Richmond, Maine.

On October 11, 1988, the artists presented their proposals to the committee. The committee discussed each work and the committee supported a rather pervasive and unusual sitework by Roger Richmond. Due to the extensive nature of Mr. Richmond's proposal, which required demolition of the newly completed island, replacement of State regulated materials with different materials, and a change in the traffic island's use to a more active pedestrian area, CCDD and CAC

recommended that the acceptance of Mr. Richmond's proposal be "conditional" as the State would need to approve the major deviations from the State's guidelines. Also the proposal would require the Committee raise more than \$100,000 unless the artist redesigned the proposal.

It took several months to get a response from the State, which is attached hereto. Upon receipt of their negative response the committee was apprised of its alternatives. The committee is reluctantly interested in reviewing the remaining proposals and possibly selecting one of those works. Only three committee members responded that the committee should be reconvened. The jurors are divided and frustrated with the process. It is the opinion of the Cambridge Arts Council that the committee should not review the remaining proposals that they were less than enthusiastic about previously.

The intention of the program is to acquire the best art for a site, not a second or third choice work.

In order to fundraise in the neighborhood of \$100,000, the committee needs to be thoroughly impressed and supportive of the art that will ultimately be placed at the site.

Because this site is complete (due to the selection process not working the first two times), it becomes more difficult to integrate the work of art.

The committee deviated from its original intention to acquire a figurative bronze of Dr. King. If it is willing to go back to that original intention, rather than a site work, it is possible that an artist can be found who will satisfy the committee but it would require convening a new jury and selecting another pool of artists.

Representative Graham has expressed her desire to have something more than a figurative replica of Dr. King and something more pervasive like Mr. Richmond's proposal. If the committee pursues that type of art they need a new site (one just being designed) that will allow an artist's work to fit into the site and for the work to be done in a cost effective way.



Bishop Allen Drive

City Hall

Temple Street

Massachusetts Avenue

Post Office

Street

Police Station

First Baptist Church

Street

Western Avenue

Pleasant Street

Mayhew Street

River Street

Call to

Artists

Cambridge Arts Council

The Cambridge Arts Council, at the request of the Martin Luther King Memorial Sculpture Committee, announces an open competition for the creation of a site-specific memorial sculpture to commemorate the life and work of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The site is located at the intersection of River Street, Western Avenue and Franklin Street in Cambridge, Massachusetts. This location is a newly created green space situated in the heart of Central Square and is a feature of the Central Square Enhancement Project. The renovated area and site, characterized by the use of wood, wrought iron, brick and cobbles, are reminiscent of traditional city and town common settings.

Implementation Process:

- Five artists will be selected to develop specific proposals.
- These artists will be paid \$500.00 and receive input from the art selection panel and site advisory panel.
- The final proposal will be selected on the basis of:
 - aesthetic quality
 - appropriateness to the site
 - feasibility
- It is the intention of the Committee to implement the selected proposal within the next year.

Budget: \$100,000.00, all inclusive

The above amount is the anticipated budget for this project based on projected fundraising efforts by the Martin Luther King Committee.

Application Process

- Please submit
- up to 10 slides of past work. Slides must be labeled with the artists name, date, media, and the dimensions of the work.
 - a current resume
 - Please indicate if you would like your slides included in the Arts Council's Visual Arts Slide Registry. This registry is a resource utilized by the Public Art Program, the public and other organizations.

Timeline

- January 29, 1988 • completed application, slides and resume must be received by the Cambridge Arts Council by 5:00 p.m.
- March 11, 1988 • announcement of finalists
- June 3, 1988 • presentation of proposals

APPLICATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

street

city

state

zip

Phone day _____ evening _____

Number

Title

Date

Size

Medium

☐ please consider my slides already in the slide registry.

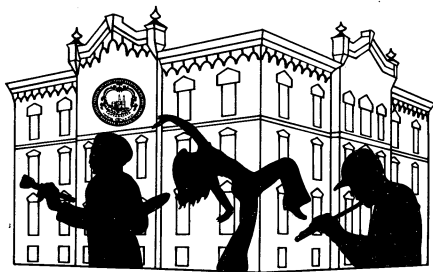
☐ add slides to registry

Cambridge Arts Council

Annabelle Hébert Executive Director

Roy-Alan Hansen Deputy Executive Director

Emily Hall Public Art Administrator



57 Inman Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
(617) 498-9033

**Bulk Rate
US Postage**

PAID

**Permit No. 19367
Cambridge, MA**



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL. 498-9011

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

ROBERT W. HEALY

City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI

Deputy City Manager

September 18, 1989

To the Honorable, the City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report No. 47 regarding the status of the Martin Luther King, Jr. statue to be erected at Western Avenue and River Street, I submit the attached status report submitted by the Cambridge Arts Council.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/dls
enclosure

Agenda Item # 1

S-618

Response to Awaiting Report Item # 47
regarding the status of the Martin Luther
King, Jr. Statue.

In City Council,

Sept. 18, 1989

Placed on file