



February 21,2024

Parcel 6 Deaccession Report – Totem Artwork

Basic Information

Title of work: *My Totem*

Location: *Parcel 6, corner of Third and Binney*

Year Created: *2017*

Materials Used: *Plywood*

History

The My Totem Project supported Community Art Center students ages 9 to 12 in the exploration of identity, family and community through the creation of their own personal “totem poles.” Each totem pole was hand painted on 2’ x 8’ plywood pieces. The final installation consists of 18 panels hung vertically with 1’ between each one and occupies approximately 60 feet of the chain link fence on Parcel 6. In the Pacific Northwest, the totem pole is often used as a symbol of welcome. The panels welcome visitors to the lot, and have collective visual impact through the use of a common color scheme and design features. Traditional totem poles include symbols that express cultural beliefs or recount familiar legends, clan lineages or notable events. Through the summer of 2017, students learned about the history of totem poles and created their own “pole” that, like a traditional totem pole, speaks to their story and what they believe in. Community Art Center Visual Art Teacher, Lionel Blaise, oversaw the artistic continuity of the project. The project was supported by a visiting artist who assisted the youth artists and was responsible for creating 4-5 additional totem poles using themes contributed by our youth. The project culminated in a celebration onsite featuring an ice cream truck, music and a short presentation by the youth artists.

Current Condition

The totems are currently showing their age after having been installed 7 years ago and have been bending, falling over, and weathering over the years. The totems often disconnect from the fence during high-wind events and must be resecured often.

Challenges and Obstacles to removal

There are no challenges or obstacles to removing this art installation.

Reasons for deaccessioning the art

The CRA is recommending the deaccession of this art in accordance with the following reasons as identified within the CRA Deaccession Policy (1/11/17):

- (1) The artwork's recent condition poses a safety hazard to the public.
- (2) The artwork has been damaged or has deteriorated to the point that it can no longer be represented to be the original artwork.
- (3) The restoration of the artwork's structural or aesthetic integrity is technically not feasible, or repair and conservation work will render the work false, or the expense of restoring it exceeds 50 percent of the original cost of the artwork.

Options for storage or disposition of artwork; appraised value

The artwork can be given back to the Community Art Center or can be disposed of. The Community Art Center has indicated that they do not want the art back as its is weathered and they do not have the storage space.

There is no value to the artwork.

Documentation of initial conversations with the artist

The Community Art Center, the organization that created the artwork with their students, has provided written approval to remove and dispose of the art. See Exhibit A for the attached email from Erin Muirhead McCarty, Executive Director of the Community Art Center, dated Monday, February 5, 2024.

Attachments

Exhibit A: Email from CAC Executive Director

Exhibit B: Original Agreement for the project

Exhibit A

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Matthew Heller-Trulli <mheller-trulli@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

RE: Parcel 6 Totems

Erin Muirhead McCarty <erinm@communityartcenter.org>
To: Matthew Heller-Trulli <mheller-trulli@cambridgeredevelopment.org>

Mon, Feb 5, 2024 at 11:57 PM

Hi Matthew,

It was great to meet you and brainstorm with you. After we spoke, Jack and I had an explosion of ideas.

Before we reach out to Nazarae, it would be great to learn more about what conversations that may have preceded any outreach from us. Would you like for us to run some of our thoughts by you before we reach out to Nazarae? It might only take around 30 minutes or so to share what we're thinking... We could hop on a quick Zoom if that suits you. Let me know what you'd prefer...

As for the totems, you can feel free to dispose of them, they're pretty weathered at this point. And frankly, we don't have the storage space.

Excited about what's to come!

Warm regards,
Erin

[Quoted text hidden]

Exhibit B

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June 29, 2017

Dear Cambridge Redevelopment Authority,

This letter will serve to document the agreement between the Community Art Center (CAC) and Cambridge Redevelopment Authority to design and complete a mural to be located at the Third Street Food Truck Lot (corner of Third Street & Binney Street) using resources and supervision provided by the Community Art Center. It will outline the Project Scope, Goals, Staffing, Communications, Milestones, Budget, Change Order process and Criteria for Acceptance for this project, known as My Totem Project. We are pleased to provide this information to you and look forward to a mutually beneficial relationship between the Community Art Center and Cambridge Redevelopment Authority.

Introduction

Founded in 1932, the Community Art Center is a neighborhood institution committed to the following mission:

To cultivate an engaged community of youth whose powerful artistic voices transform their lives, their neighborhoods, and their worlds.

The Art Center has established an excellent track record of providing creative, challenging learning opportunities to low-income, high-needs youth. We do this in the context of a family-like environment with intensive social and emotional supports including academic help, mental health and transportation services and up to three full meals a day. Our programs promote our organizational values: We believe in the power of young people, we believe in the power of artistic expression, we believe in taking care of ourselves and each other and we believe in creating positive change in our neighborhood and beyond.

The Art Center achieves its mission through intensive, year-round activities for a core group of youth ages 5-19 and through youth-led community programming that engages local and national audiences in quality artistic experiences. For more information, we invite you to visit our facilities at 119 Windsor Street, Cambridge, MA and to review our website at www.communityartcenter.org.

Project Scope

The project will consist of a mural of approximately 60 x 8 feet (including 1' spaces between each 2'x8' panel and a 4' project description panel) to be located at the Third Street Food Truck Lot at the corner of Third and Binney Streets.

Project Overview

The My Totem Project supports Community Art Center students ages 9 to 12 in the exploration of identity, family and community through the creation of their own personal "totem poles." Each totem pole will be hand painted on 2' x 8' DiBond pieces. The final installation will consist of 18-20 panels hung vertically with 1' between each one, and will occupy approximately 60 feet of the chain link fence on the Third Street food truck lot. In the Pacific Northwest, the totem pole is often used as a symbol of welcome. The panels will welcome visitors to the lot, and will have collective visual impact through the use of a common color scheme and design features. Traditional totem poles include symbols that express cultural beliefs or recount familiar legends, clan lineages or notable events. Through the summer, students will learn about the history of totem poles and will create their own "pole" that, like a traditional totem pole, speaks to their story and what they believe in. Community Art Center Visual Art Teacher, Lionel Blaise, will oversee the artistic continuity of the project. The project will be supported by a visiting artist who will assist our youth artists and who will be responsible for creating 4-5 additional totem poles using themes contributed by our youth. The project will culminate in a celebration onsite featuring an ice cream truck, music and a short presentation by our youth artists if the CRA and CAC can agree on a date/time that does not interfere with CRA operations and the Food Trucks currently on the site.

Project Responsibilities & Project Design

Project Responsibilities

1. Who will be the organization's contact person for CAC?
 - Carlos Peralta
 - Ellen Shore

2. Who else in your organization will be involved in the decision-making process for this project?
Who else will be involved in the approval process?
 - Tom Evans

3. Which aspects of the process would you prefer to be updated on?
 - The CRA would like to be kept updated on ALL aspects of the project. If CAC would include pictures with the bi-weekly status report to the CRA, they may be included in the CRA's social media campaign.

4. When would you like this project completed?
 - August 30, 2017 (installation and celebration)

5. Who is responsible for maintaining the Third Street Food Truck Lot site?
 - Carlos Peralta

Design Considerations

1. What specific feature(s)/benefit(s) of your company would you like highlighted?
 - Please refer to project overview
2. Describe your organization using three adjectives: Describe the look and feel you want for this project.
 - Please refer to project overview
3. Are there any brands, products, printed materials or websites, we should see before beginning to work on your project?
 - Please refer to project overview
4. What is the piece/vehicle to be created?
 - Please refer to project overview
5. Are there any logos, websites, adverts etc. related to your industry that you like/dislike the look and feel of?
 - This project should focus on allowing the youth to use their imagination and artistic experience that they gather from working with the visiting artist and create an interesting project for the site.
6. What elements or imagery are you hoping to see represented in this project? Does your organization have a style guide or specific colors that it presently uses in its branding or identity? How would you like our students and the community to visually remember or associate your organization? Are there any colors that you strongly dislike and would like us to avoid using?
 - The CRA would prefer bright colors that draw attention to the My Totem Project.
7. Are there any elements you do not want represented in this design piece?

Project Staffing

This project will be led by Amanda McGarrity, Community Programs Director and Lionel Blaise, Visual Art Teacher from the Community Art Center. Amanda McGarrity will be your single point of contact for all communications to/from the CAC and Cambridge Redevelopment Authority

Contact information for Amanda McGarrity is shown below:

Office Phone: 617 868-7100, Cell Phone: 781 441-9717, Email: amanda@communityartcenter.org

The Visiting Artist chosen by the CAC to provide additional support to this project is TBD. The Students chosen by the CAC to work on this project will be the pre-teen public art students.

Communications

A *bi-weekly* status report will provide updates on our progress with the My Totem Project. The CAC will also issue PR announcements via Facebook, twitter, the CAC Blog and CAC Newsletter about the My Totem Project and related events starting with the My Totem Project design process kick-off event through

the My Totem Project final celebration. Also, the final installation will include a branding statement documenting the work, the CAC and Cambridge Redevelopment Authority as sponsors and appropriate links/hashtags/QR codes/etc. The CRA intends to tweet and post status updates with pictures to social media.

My Totem Project Milestones and Timeline

July 3 – 7	Project Introduction: History of totem poles & Site Visit
July 10 – 21	Totem Pole Design
July 19	Design Draft Presentation to CRA Board
July 24 - 28	Design Draft Presentation in classroom
July 24 – Aug 11	Totem Pole Creation
Aug 14 – 23	Project Installation
Aug 28 - 30	Unveiling & Celebration!

My Totem Project Budget & Change Orders

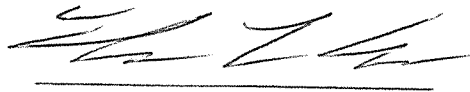
The budget for the My Totem Project is \$6280. Please note that changes requested by you after any approval milestone may impact an Expected Completion date and/or the Project Budget. In the event of a change that affects the Project Budget, we will notify you in advance to discuss the requested change and its impact on the Project Milestones and Project Budget for your approval. Payment for My Totem Project will be 80% upon project start and 20% upon project completion. Please note that weather may play a role in My Totem Project installation.

My Totem Project Conflict Resolution


Designated representatives to resolve conflicts around this project are:
From the Community Art Center: Eryn Johnson, Executive Director
From the Cambridge Redevelopment Authority: Tom Evans, Executive Director

Thank you for the opportunity to work with the Cambridge Redevelopment Authority on this project. We are excited about the potential of working with you and look forward to a very successful project together.

Please indicate your acceptance of this proposal by signing in the space indicated below.

 6/29/17

Client Signature & Date

 6/29/17

CAC Signature & Date

Budget:

Item	Description	Subtotal
DiBond Boards	\$100/sheet of 8'x4', 3 mm x 10 boards	1000
Paint	\$25/gallon x 6-8 gallons	200
Printing	Project board, 4'x8'	500
Archival Matte Varnish	\$60/gallon x 6-8 gallons	480
Installation Materials	Various screws, hooks, etc.	100
Installation Staff time	\$16/hour x 8-10 hours	150
Visiting Artist	Stipend for 4 hrs/week class time, production of draft sketch & 4-6 additional boards	2000
SACC Visual Art Teacher	% of class time and additional outside of class design time (10-20 hours)	700
Final Celebration	Ice cream truck & DJ	750
Overhead	% of total project cost	400
TOTAL		6280