

Chinatown Park Public Art Plan  
Meeting Notes Summary  
April 29, 2009

The Chinatown Park Public Art Plan is a project to engage the community to creating public art on the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway's Chinatown Park. In 2008, members of the Chinatown community approached the Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy and the Trust for Public Lands with the idea for public art. A planning team was assembled to lead a series of 3 community meetings to create the guidelines. At the end of the community meetings, the planning team will draft a Request for Qualifications to invite potential artists to submit design proposals. The planning team members are:

- Stephanie Fan, former co-chair of Parcel 23D
- Randall Imai, principal of Imai, Keller, Moore Architects in Watertown, MA
- Sia Herr, associate at Imai, Keller, Moore Architects
- Wing-kai To, professor at Bridgewater State College and author of "Chinese in Boston, 1870-1965"

Nancy Brennan, Executive Director, for the Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy spoke on the role of the Conservancy. The Conservancy is a non-profit that manages and maintains the entire Greenway. The Rose Kennedy Greenway is 15-acres of public parkland that extends from the North End to Chinatown. Each of the parks has unique features and teams are assigned to maintain and clean the parks.

Karin Goodfellow, Staff Director, for the Boston Arts Commission spoke on the role of the Commission. The Boston Arts Commission oversees public art in the City of Boston. Proposals for public art installations are submitted to the Commission. The guidelines are available at the City's website.

Sia Herr then gave a slide presentation of the site. Joanna Kao gave a talk and slide presentation on the different types of public art. At the end of Joanna's talk, she asked these questions to the audience:

1. What was the [art] piece about?
2. How did the artist convey the meaning (to you, the viewer)?
3. Did you like the art?
4. Why or why not?

Summary of comments:

- Liked the Chicago "Bean". Wasn't sure about the Bean at first, but recently visited Chicago and liked how the Bean attracted people to the place.

- Lion statues “guarding” outside as feng shui and placed at the end of the modern gate to complement the lion statues at the Chinatown Gate.
- More traditional elements of a Chinese park. The elements of a Chinese park would include pavilions, bridges, Chinese plantings, and water. Would like to share her photo collection of these elements to the group.
- Composite vs. large pieces
- Temporary or permanent art?
- Traditional or modernist art?
- Utilitarian function and have practical use. Places for the community to sit or play chess.
- Remember the history of the park. Pass on previous institutional and community planning/design knowledge of the park.
- As a gathering area and place for different generations. A transitioning place that is welcoming to all. Focus on the areas with heavy pedestrian traffic and less on the fringes.
- Chinatown Park should reflect its neighborhood.