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Lesley Update: Proposed Campus Plan

Lesley University unveiled its latest tentative campus plan at January's Agassiz meeting. The presentation was made in advance of the university's meeting with its trustees, which will take place in March.

In attendance were Lesley's Vice President for Administration & University Centers & Institutes, Marylou Batt; new Public Affairs Manager Bill Doncaster; and Director of Operations and Campus Planning George Smith, along with George Mathey of academic space planning consultants Dober, Litsky, Craig & Associates.

Mathey led a detailed presentation of the university's long and short-term development goals, a culmination of two years of planning. In addition to the ANC, the group said they planned to present at the Porter Square Neighbors Association meeting on January 20 and the Annual Town Gown Presentations on February 1. The university is in the process of gathering community feedback before plans are finalized.

The university outlined a list of assumptions that inform the campus plan, chiefly considering the expansion in enrollment that Lesley expects as a result of going coed and merging with the Art Institute of Boston. The university expects its enrollment to grow to 1,400 within the next few years. Because of this predicted increase in enrollment, Lesley's chief concern appears to be an increase in student housing, which will be met by the renovation and expansion of several Porter Square buildings.

The campus plan, which covers a 15-20 year period, is predicted on certain variables. For example, the university's acquisition of the air rights above the Porter Square MBTA station remains unresolved. However, Greg Dicovitsky of Transit Realty, which handles the leasing of air rights for the MBTA, attended the meeting and seemed positive: "I see no reason why we can't come to an accommodation," he said. "I've been very impressed."

The current campus plan includes use of the air rights as part of the integration of the university's South Campus and its expansion

ANC Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, February

15th, 7:30 pm

**Baldwin School Cafeteria
(ring buzzer for entry)**

AGENDA:

- 1. Harvard Law School update**
- 2. Cambridge PD's request for input on new police station**

"Lesley," from page 1

into Porter Square. This integrated model is described as a "two-node" campus plan.

Phase One (FY '05 - '07) includes the following principals:

- seeks wide-range, integrated campus
- must add housing as enrollment grows
- currently plans to expand housing in

White Hall (31 Everett St.), Ludcke Library building, Mass. Ave. and Wendell (where the Bank of America ATM and Alamo car rental are currently located)

- plans to transform the library into a "more service-oriented, more student-oriented, information commons on ground floor, with a renovation of student center," according to Mathey

- adds to complex on Parking Lot B (on Mellen St., toward Oxford)

Plans beyond that initial time frame include increased space for libraries and student services, as well as underground development beneath the quad.

The university's expanded presence in Porter Square will extend to the Porter Exchange building. Although the first two floors of the building are designated for retail and restaurants, the university may develop AIB's presence on the higher floors, along with

possible science labs and a renovated cafe for students. If the university purchases the air rights, then the resultant building will be used for AIB housing and programs. Community members noted that the building plan would only cover a small amount of the exposed track.

The university's representatives emphasized the positive aspects of increased university presence in Porter Square. Batt noted that student life "will generate additional small business opportunities," along with arts-focused activities such as gallery space. Concerns about the impact on traffic patterns due to a higher volume of pedestrians were downplayed. Mathey added that the university plans to add some plant life around the Porter Square T station.

Although Lesley students who live on campus may not keep cars, the university says it will need to develop parking in conjunction with new development. Mathey said the school is looking into below-grade options if possible, but that nothing has been decided yet. The university has formed a Parking & Demand Management Program to assess the need. One community member asked for a net breakdown of the number of cars and living units that will be added.

If the air rights are not secured, more of the AIB development will be moved to the Porter Exchange building and 815 Somerville Ave. Batt said that the university may also increase its presence within the Episcopal Divinity School, where it has been leasing housing space, but denied that the university plans to purchase or merge with the EDS.

The university will update the neighborhood again after meeting with its trustees.



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Neighborhood Votes to Support Sugar & Spice Beer & Wine License

Agassiz neighborhood members voted unanimously at January's meeting to support Sugar & Spice Restaurant's application for a no-value, non-transferable license to sell wine and malt beverages as a restaurant.

Owners Penjan and Veeraded Kridaratikorn addressed the neighborhood by outlining their reasons for acquiring the license, noting that alcohol sales will be limited to beer and wine, and that neither will be served without the purchase of food. The restaurant, located at 1933 Mass. Ave., has no bar.

They also reminded attendees of that they have worked to improve the appearance of the space surrounding the restaurant. In addition to the 60-seat Sugar & Spice, which the Kridaratikorns opened just over a year ago, they also run Sweet Chili in Arlington.

Neighbors praised the attractiveness of the restaurant, as well as the quality and low cost of its Thai cuisine.

A no-value, non-transferable liquor license eliminates the monetary value of the license, so it cannot be sold to another party

if the restaurant closes. The city issues this type of license to establishments that haven't purchased an already-existing license (thereby overriding the liquor cap). An applying establishment must meet the License Commission's criteria to override the cap.

At the meeting, the Kridaratikorns noted that they already gained the support of the Porter Square Neighbors Association. They were scheduled to meet with the Cambridge License Commission on Tuesday, January 25.

License Commission Chairman Richard Scali reported that the Commission voted 3-0 in favor of the license, subject to the following conditions:

1. non-transferable, no-value license
2. 60 seats only - no bar
3. supplement to food only - no service of beer or wine alone
4. hours - 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.
5. automatic review of license at July 19, 2005 hearing
6. training classes of all staff through Frank Connelly of the Cambridge Advisory Board

For licensing questions, contact the License Commission at (617) 349-6140.

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Alice at Afterschool

Agassiz's Young Thespians Tackle a Storybook Classic

Agassiz Afterschool's first, second and third graders honed their dramatic chops by performing *Alice in Wonderland* January 27 at the Baldwin School Stage. Afterschool teacher Gina Belli helped the young actors adapt Lewis Carroll's classic tale themselves. The photos below were taken at a January 24 dress rehearsal:



A cast member is ready for her close-up.



The entire cast poses for a photo.



The full ensemble rehearses a big scene.



Alice meets the White Rabbit.



A makeshift game of croquet.



Taking a bow at the curtain call.

Introducing Art

Early Release Days at 2:00 P.M.
on the Baldwin School Stage

\$5 per family, \$2 per person. Call Rob Watson (617) 349-6287 x 10 for more info.

Thursday, FEBRUARY 24

hip hop festival

Enjoy a selection of Hip Hop dance and music featuring school-aged, teen and local groups from Cambridge and Boston.



Featuring...

MC Naheem Allah
Jam'nastics
OrigiNations
Losst Unnown
and more...



Other Upcoming Introducing Art Events:

Wed., March 16: Cello Tales



Tues., May 10:
Boston Dance
Collaborative



Agassiz Baby Groups

Tuesday and Thursday mornings, the Agassiz Neighborhood Council hosts Baby Groups. Parents and their children meet in the basement of North Hall, at Mass. Ave. and Wendell St.

For meeting times and general information, or if you're interested in volunteering, please contact Kelly Tyler at (617) 349-6287 x 12, or ktyler@agassiz.org.

Kids Create! Art Classes for Children

Agassiz offers Kids Create! art classes for toddlers and preschoolers, 18 months to 4 years. Classes include art projects, music and storytime and require parent/caregiver participation.

Starting March 14, classes will be offered Mondays during two sessions: 9-9:45 a.m. and 9:55-10:40 a.m.

Registration is underway now - some slots available for both sessions. To register, contact Kelly Tyler at (617) 349-6287 x 12 or ktyler@agassiz.org.

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 overlooking Harvard Square.
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See all available homes now on
www.agassizhomes.com

The Agassiz Neighborhood Council is seeking donations of a digital camera and an Apple computer.

If you would like to help, please call (617) 349-6287, or email Rob Watson at rwatson@agassiz.org.

Be a Good Neighbor - Shovel Your Walk!

January's ferocious snowfalls have left the neighborhood to deal with veritable mountains of snow. As we dig out from under the white stuff - and wade through its slushy aftermath - keep in mind the city's regulations regarding snow removal:

- Keep the adjacent sidewalks clear of snow and ice. If you go out of town, be sure someone else will do it.

- Clear openings at corners and crosswalks so pedestrians can walk safely.

- Dig out fire hydrants and catch basins.

- Always park your car at least 20 feet from the street corner so plows can push snow away from the crosswalks.

- Pay attention to "No Parking" signs during snow emergencies.

- Don't throw snow from your sidewalks into the street.

- When digging out your car, don't throw snow over the sidewalk, either.

- It is illegal to "reserve" parking spaces; objects left in on-street parking spaces will be hauled away.

If you fail to comply with the city's sidewalk clearance ordinances, you will be issued a \$25-a-day fine for violations.

Dial (617) 349-4903 to report unshoveled walks or icy sidewalks to the Dept. of Public Works 24 hours a day. Be sure to have the exact address when you call.

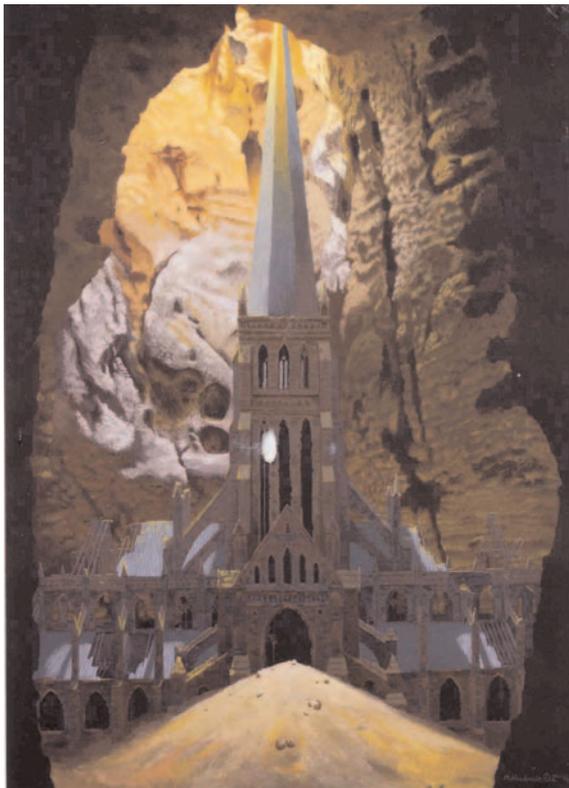
This Month's Local Cultural Events

The Art Institute of Boston at Lesley University
700 Beacon Street | Kenmore Square | Boston, Massachusetts 02215

THE FAT BABY PHOTOGRAPHS BY EUGENE RICHARD

EXHIBITION February 2 – March 9, 2005
Art Institute of Boston at Lesley University | 617.585.6600
Opening reception: Wednesday, February 2, 5–7pm
Gallery hours: Monday–Saturday 9am–6pm | Sunday 12–5pm

LECTURE by the photographer: Thursday, February 3, 7pm
Photographic Resource Center | 617.975.0600
Boston University's Sargent College
635 Commonwealth Avenue | Room 101
\$10 members | \$15 non-members | \$7 full-time students & seniors



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Reception January 30 / 3-6

Hours: Fri 4-8 / Sat 11-6 / Sun 11-4

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Peabody Museum OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND ETHNOLOGY

Lecture and Reception, February 23, 5:30 p.m

The Ancient Marsh Arabs: Finding the Past in the Present at Al-Hiba, Iraq - Edward L. Ochsenschalger, Professor Emeritus, Brooklyn College. Call (617) 496-1017.

Community Calendar

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

**6 PM ANC BOARD MEETING
20 Sacramento St.**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

**7:30 PM ANC MONTHLY MEETING
28 Sacramento St., Baldwin Cafeteria**

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21

**PRESIDENTS' DAY
ANC Closed**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24

**2 PM INTRODUCING ART PRESENTS:
HIP HOP FESTIVAL**

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