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## Summary of September 21 ANC Monthly Meeting

This month's meeting included agenda items from the Porter Square Neighbors Association, Harvard University, Lesley University and Agassiz board member Steven Diamond, who also chaired the meeting.

1. The PSNA's Karen Klinger passed out a petition to stop the growth of the former Long's Funeral Home building in Porter Square. "Cut that behemoth down to size!" is the group's motto. The PSNA contends that the building's new owner is ignoring zoning laws and is making the structure taller than the law allows. The PSNA will present the petition and its argument at the BZA Hearing on Thursday, October 14 at 7 P.M. at the Citywide Senior Center.

2. Harvard University's architects guided attendees through a virtual tour of the university's new Northwest Laboratories. A PowerPoint presentation and scale model gave a clear picture of the structure's eventual visage. The presentation addressed concerns

about noise, traffic and construction (see story, page 2).

3. Lesley University outlined its plans to annex more space for student housing, and announced that it has issued an RFP (Request for Proposals) for the expansion of White Hall, at Everett and Oxford Streets.

The university continues its discussion with the MBTA over the air rights for the Porter Square station, and announced that Oak Tree has removed itself from the bidding (see story, page 2).

4. Agassiz board member Steven Diamond announced plans to continue to organize community members who are concerned about development along Mass. Ave. The group - including citizens from Agassiz, Neighborhood 9 and Porter Square - held its first meeting on Monday, October 4 to discuss their vision of the future of Lower Mass. Ave.

The group will draft a statement that it will present to the City of Cambridge, Harvard and Lesley.

### NEXT ANC MONTHLY MEETING:

**Tuesday, October 19th at 7:30 p.m.**

**Baldwin School Dining Hall -**

**28 Sacramento St.**

**Oxford St. Entrance,  
ring buzzer for entry**

### **Agenda:**

**Lower Mass. Ave. Development**

## Harvard Unveils Plans for Northwest Building

The architects that are working on Harvard's new Northwest Laboratories project offered a detailed presentation at September's ANC meeting. Using a scale model and an elaborately animated PowerPoint presentation, architect Craig Hartman (Skidmore, Owings & Merrill) and landscape architect Laura Solano (Michael Van Valkenburg & Associates) walked neighborhood members through the 436,000 gsf structure, which is due to be completed in 2007.

Hartman said that the structure is now in the "design and development phase," and that the team is working to define its "definite massing and its look." Hartman allayed neighbors' concerns about a parking garage attached to the structure at the corner of Gorham and Hammond Streets. Neighbors had asked about the possibility of a visible intake valve, which Hartman said would be obstructed by mounding on the side of the structure.

The structure will be chiefly devoted to science laboratories and classrooms, with "as much program as possible below ground." That means that as much open space as possible will be extended northward.

Hartman's PowerPoint virtual tour outlined the structure's "integrative approach to sciences," linking the museum building and the laboratories into one cohesive structure.

The structure will feature a verdant Museum Quad, and the areas will be connected by a series of pathways. "The landscape has to bind everything together," said landscape architect Solano. "Circulation has to be very clear and [make for] a pleasant walk."

see "Harvard" page 3

## Lesley Issues RFP for Expansion of White Hall

At September's ANC meeting, Lesley's VP of University Affairs, Paul Karoff, outlined the school's "long-range campus plan," which includes increasing the amount of on-campus student housing. A key component of this effort will be the expansion of the university-owned White Hall, located at the corner of Everett and Oxford Streets.

Karoff reported that the university had issued an RFP (Request for Proposals) to increase the building's residential capacity. Bids were due September 27. The university hopes to select a firm by mid-October, with construction planned from summer 2005 to September 2006.

The university also plans to take over all of 815 Somerville Ave. (it currently occupies a portion of the building) and 1663 Massachusetts Ave., which currently houses an Alamo Car Rental. It will also reclaim space on the second floor of the Porter Exchange, once the current occupant's lease ends later this year. The university has begun housing students in a building owned by the Episcopal Divinity School on Brattle St.

The continuing question of who will own the air rights over the Porter Square MBTA station also re-emerged. Oak Tree has removed itself from the bidding, and Lesley will continue its discussion with the MBTA.

Karoff explained that the plans for the expansion of White Hall include a refurbishing of the facade to make it more aesthetically pleasing, as well as the addition of two stories to make room for student housing. Karoff assured attendees that, despite the addition to the height of the structure, it would not exceed the height of nearby Harvard buildings (56 ft.).

see "Lesley" page 3

# Recycle More Paper!

A recent study found that Cambridge residents throw out at least 1000 tons of paper annually! Recycling paper is easy. Just remember:

- "If it rips, recycle it"- as long as it is free from food waste and isn't a hard cover book.
- Recycle all magazines, junk mail, mixed paper and paperboard, such as cereal and tissue boxes.
- Place your paper waste in a paper bag, not plastic.
- There's no need to remove staples, paper clips, spiral bindings or even plastic windows on envelopes.

Have you visited the new Department of Public Works website at [www.cambridge-ma.gov/theworks](http://www.cambridge-ma.gov/theworks)? Surf the recycling pages to order another recycling bin, locate donation outlets, discover ways to reduce waste and much more!

*"Lesley" continued from page 2*

Community members raised concerns about the level of noise caused by the construction, and by the ventilation system at White Hall. Karoff assured them that the university will maintain "a contract with Human Services to double-check the noise level."

The Lesley representatives emphasized that, as it is a construction project roughly one-tenth the size of Harvard's, the addition to White Hall will cause minimal disturbance to the community.

**Have a parking space near Lesley University that you would like to lease? Contact Heidi at (617) 875-9264 or [heidimp2@yahoo.com](mailto:heidimp2@yahoo.com)**

*"Harvard" continued from page 2*

The museum yard will be populated by "high-limbed, deciduous trees." Solano described the Museum Quad as a "public landscape."

The Science Quad, on the opposite side of the structure, will be "playful, with seasonal interest." Some of the Hammond St. fir trees may be moved to help fill out this area.

The facility's North Lawn, set back 100 ft. from Hammond St., features a grove (perhaps of horse chestnut and hedge maples, among others) that will be "a threshold to the landscape," and provide "a fantastic view down Hammond St."

Hartman added that the structure as a whole, which will be composed of brick, wood and glass, will feature "landmark-quality architecture" that "extends the material fabric of Harvard, brick and stone, but also [connotes] sciences and the 21st century."

The structure, at its highest point, will be equal in height to 60 Oxford St. Hartman acknowledged the community members' noise concerns, tracing potential noise to three sources: 1) scientists and students, 2) Everett St. traffic into the facility's low-grade parking structure and 3) a mechanical structure on the roof of the building. Hartman said the challenge in designing this final component is that the shorter it is, the noisier it is, and that a quiet structure would have to be taller than 60 Oxford St.

Community members expressed concerns about mitigating noise during the construction of the complex. Harvard's Director of Community Relations, Mary Power, assured the crowd that "We have committed to having another community meeting before we meet with the planning board" to clarify this issue.



## Community School Update: Afterschool Program Overview

*We asked Agassiz's new Afterschool Director Barb MacEachern for an update on this year's activities.*

This year, we have three sites: Kindergarten, 1st-3rd grade and the new 4th-5th grade at North Hall. North Hall is an exciting opportunity for the 4/5 to have special and distinctive age-appropriate afterschool programming. They are focusing on a peaceful, respectful, community based space. The 4/5 are given a choice to work on their homework or to go outside to the Common or Y field on a daily basis. We are in the process of offering cross-center choices for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders. These choices will take place on Tues., Wed., and Thurs. at 4:30 in the Baldwin space. Tuesdays we will offer a music class with our own on-site music master Steve Mayone. He has many different activities in mind, including instrument-making and song-writing. On Wednesday our sports queen, Katie, will lead the 3/4/5 in special age appropriate gym games. Thursday will be our Tech day, with Ayano leading technology and science based activities. Meanwhile, back at North Hall, Lauren and Ayano will offer a steady and exciting choice program.

The 1-3 site continues with creative arts, cooking, baking, sewing and physical activities. These activities are lead by our teachers, Mahbub, Tanika, Katie, Gina and Steve. We also offer some homework assistance and are in the process of hiring a certified teacher to fill the position of Homework Specialist. All of this is orchestrated by our fabulous site director Isaac! We also have a new administrative assistant, Sarah, whose voice you hear on the other end of the phone

The K program continues on its successful path under the leadership of Emily and her fabulous sidekick Jared. Look out for the October theme of "dirt" - should be a fun one! We are

lucky to have 3 great interns from Lesley University: Angel, Emily and Jammi.

We anticipate having martial arts, drama and creative movement specialists beginning in November and going on through the winter months.

We are always looking for donations, games, cooking utensils, pots, pans, computers, things to take apart and back together etc... If anyone would be willing to donate a TV and/or a radio, we would be especially grateful.

As always I welcome any questions, comments and suggestions that will help us have a successful year and I encourage everyone to stop in and say hello, join in an activity or just hang out!

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## We Want Your Help! Volunteer October 23 at Annual Serve-a-Thon!

Once again, the Agassiz Neighborhood Council is partnering with the national nonprofit organization City Year for its annual Serve-a-Thon. City Year volunteers will be joining Agassiz staff on **Saturday, October 23** to help beautify the Agassiz Community Center and Sacramento Street Gallery at 20 Sacramento Street.

For this event, we welcome volunteers from the neighborhood. Come for the morning, the afternoon or help out all day! We'll be giving the building's interiors a fresh paint job and making sure the yard is raked and ready for winter. Breakfast and lunch (and, as it will be Saturday morning, LOTS AND LOTS OF COFFEE) will be served!

For more information, or to sign up to help out, visit [www.cityyear.org](http://www.cityyear.org) or contact Rob Watson at (617) 349-6287 x 10 or [rwatson@agassiz.org](mailto:rwatson@agassiz.org).

Cultural Happenings - Call 349-6287 for information



## Sacramento Street Gallery

**ONE PERFECT WORLD** by ROB ROVENOLT

SEPTEMBER 17 - OCTOBER 15, 2004

Gallery Open Weekdays 9-5



The Sacramento Street Gallery proudly presents work of Rob Rovenolt. The artist says, " This world, far from perfect, is all I know. In the South end of Boston, I'm looking out my window at a grand Victorian streetscape, whose tranquility is shattered by sirens and sights that jar my senses back into a 21st Century urban reality. A common thread throughout my thirty years as a professional artist has been my fascination with the juxtaposition of the ordinary and sublime elements of everyday life. These collages, constructs and tableaux are manifestations of my need to order and make some sense of my thoughts and surroundings. I strive to attain a balance in my life by guiding 'worlds' that speak for me. It is my sincere hope that they speak to you as well."

FUNDING PROVIDED IN PART BY



MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL



*Introducing Art: A Performance Series for Children Presents*

## ODAIKO

**Wednesday, October 20th, 2004**

**2:00 PM**

Experience the ancient art of Japanese taiko drumming - students will go onstage to play the taiko drums with Odaiko members.

**Admission \$2.00 per person, \$5.00 for families.**

For more information, contact Rob Watson at 349-6287 x10.

Groups must reserve in advance. All Cambridge after school programs admitted at no charge.



Registration has begun for Cambridge Community Television's (CCTV) fall term!

\_\_\_ Sign up for courses in video production, editing, computers and other electronic media.

\_\_\_ View the full list of classes at [www.cctvcambridge.org](http://www.cctvcambridge.org).

\_\_\_ Call (617) 661-6900 to register or for more information.

\_\_\_ FREE Orientation for newcomers on Wed., Oct. 6 at 6:30 P.M.



# Start the Art!



SAVE THE DATE!  
OCTOBER 22nd, 2004  
4:00-8:00 PM

For a GALA OPEN HOUSE to celebrate our new look at 20  
Sacramento Street with renovations completed!

and

see the 4th ANNUAL SMALL WORKS EXHIBITION AND SALE  
Cambridge artists support the Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center

For more information, call 617-349-6287

## Other Local Cultural Events and Programs

Cambridge Art Association presents:

Works on Paper  
Oct 8-Nov 9, 2004

Juried by Andrew Witkin  
Director, Barbara Krakow Gallery,  
Boston



Danny Swain Dance Company Presents

“Fall and Recover”  
An Evening of Modern Dance”

Oct. 15 & 16 @ 8 P.M.; 563 Mass. Ave.  
\$15 at the door; call (617) 547-9363 to reserve

### FRETWORK AT THE LONGY SCHOOL OF MUSIC



Monday, October 18, 2004  
7:00 PM

Edward M. Pickman Concert Hall  
Early Music Department Event

**Master Class: Fretwork**

World-renowned early music viol consort  
conducts a master class for advanced viol  
consorts from Longy and the Viola da  
Gamba Society, New England.

With Fretwork members  
Richard Campbell, Bill Hunt  
and Richard Boothby.

Admission: \$10, free with Longy ID and for  
members of the Georges Longy Circle.

*This event is sponsored by Longy in  
collaboration with the Viola da Gamba Society.*  
Info: 617+876-0956 x500

*Photo available in digital format upon request.*

FRETWORK Photo by Hugo Steinhilber

# Community Calendar

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 11TH**

**COLUMBUS DAY (ANC closed)**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13TH 6:30 p.m.**

**Informational Meeting: Porter Square Drainage & Surface Improvements Project  
Rm. 305, Porter Exchange Building, 305 Mass. Ave.**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19TH 6:00 p.m.**

**ANC Board Meeting  
20 Sacramento Street 2nd Floor**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19TH 7:30 p.m.**

**ANC Monthly Meeting (See page one for agenda)  
Baldwin Dining Hall, 28 Sacramento Street**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20TH 2:00 p.m.**

**INTRODUCING ART presents:  
ODAIKO  
Baldwin School Stage, 28 Sacramento Street**

Download The Whistler at [www.agassiz.org](http://www.agassiz.org).

The Whistler is published monthly September - June by the Agassiz Neighborhood Council, distribution 2,000. Call (617) 349-6287 to receive by mail or to be advised by email of its posting on the web each month at <[www.agassiz.org/whistler.html](http://www.agassiz.org/whistler.html)>. Items of interest to the neighborhood may be submitted for consideration, no later than the 15th of the month prior to publication date.

## The Whistler September 2004



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**DO NOT FORWARD**

We at the Agassiz Neighborhood Council would like to thank our neighbors for bearing with us through the recent construction and renovation to our building. The next couple of weeks will see much activity as the improvements come to their completion. If you have any questions or concerns about the project, please contact Steve Winter at (857) 205-1451 or at [steven\\_winter@hotmail.com](mailto:steven_winter@hotmail.com). You may also speak with Dan from S&H Construction, who is working on-site. And don't forget to come to our gala open house October 22 to celebrate the improvements to our building!