

News Release

** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **

Agassiz Baldwin Community Awarded \$400,000 Capital Grant

Construction to Begin on Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center

CAMBRIDGE, MA — June 14, 2009. The Agassiz Baldwin Community (ABC), a not for profit corporation providing arts-related community programs throughout Cambridge, received a \$400,000.00 Massachusetts Cultural Facilities grant for the construction of the Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center. This is the largest sum awarded by the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund for arts-related capital projects in the Commonwealth this year.

Designed by Cambridge-based architects PCA Inc.,(Prellwitz Chilinski Associates) the new Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center will provide art classroom studios and exhibition space to house arts programs for school-age children in Cambridge and studio/exhibition opportunities for practicing artists. The Center is scheduled to open in summer 2010. Named in memory of Maud Morgan, a lifelong Cambridge artist and a champion of arts education, the new facility will be on the site of an historic carriage house, located adjacent to the ABC headquarters at 20 Sacramento Street. The Center will also incorporate site-specific artwork created by 8 Cambridge artists.

A total of \$1.2 million already has been raised for this project. Phase I , including renovations, site work and handicap access to the main building, was completed in 2005. The \$400,000 completes the funding needed for Phase II, construction of the building, and enables ground breaking to take place this September 09. Phase III includes landscaping, furnishings and site specific art work, and fund raising is currently underway to secure the final \$250,000 needed to complete this final Phase

“The Center fills a critical community need,” said Terry Delancey, Executive Director of the Agassiz Baldwin Community. “Visual arts programs are almost non-existent in Cambridge, and children in particular are getting less and less arts education in school. We’re truly grateful to the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund for recognizing the city-wide benefits that the Maud Morgan Visual Arts Center will provide.”

“The new facility will combine the historic character of the neighborhood with an inviting feel that celebrates the first city-wide visual arts center for children and artists in Cambridge,” added PCA Co-founder and Principal Wendy Prellwitz. “The

size of the award is very fitting for the long-awaited benefit for the community; we're so thrilled that this much-needed project will finally come to fruition!"

Administered through a collaborative arrangement between MassDevelopment and the Massachusetts Cultural Council, The Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund provides Capital Grants, Feasibility & Technical Assistance Grants and System Replacement Plan Grants for nonprofit cultural organizations in the Commonwealth. To achieve its goal of increasing investments from both the public sector and the private sector to support the sound planning and development of cultural facilities, all grants from the Fund must be matched with cash contributions from the private or public sector.

About the Agassiz Baldwin Community: The Agassiz Baldwin Community, formerly known as the Agassiz Neighborhood Council, is a non-profit corporation that provides programs, services and events with a focus on children and the arts, and provides a forum for community discussion and participation.

About PCA: Prellwitz Chilinski Associates is a Cambridge-based architectural firm of 30 people who enjoy putting design into action on behalf of clients. Since 1982, PCA's thoughtful, award-winning design has generated one success after another. PCA projects thrive in the marketplace and bring lasting value to the community. Learn more at PCA's website: www.prellchil.com

About the Mass Cultural Council: The Massachusetts Cultural Council is a state agency that promotes excellence, access, education and diversity in the arts, humanities, and sciences to improve the quality of life for Massachusetts residents and contribute to the state's economic vitality. MCC is committed to building a central place for arts and culture in the everyday lives of communities through a combination of grants, services, and advocacy for cultural organizations, schools, and artists. MCC receives an annual appropriation from the state Legislature and funds from the National Endowment for the Arts and other sources.

About MassDevelopment:

MassDevelopment, the state's finance and development authority, works with businesses, financial institutions and local officials to stimulate economic growth across the Commonwealth. During FY 2007, MassDevelopment financed or managed 211 projects statewide representing the investment of more than \$2 billion in the Massachusetts economy.

###

Contacts:

Terry Delancey, Executive Director
Agassiz Neighborhood Council
tdelancey@agassiz.org

Wendy Prellwitz, AIA, Principal
wprellwitz@prellchil.com

Alex Moore, Marketing Coordinator
amoore@prellchil.com