

## **Belmont Art Association Meeting: November 14, 2019**

**Location:** Belmont Gallery of Art, Homer Building, Belmont, MA during the BGA's *Elemental* show.

**Members Present:** Paul Beckingham (Webmaster), Bert Halstead (Treasurer and Membership Coordinator), Kay Hudgins, Susan Kottler, Mary Lee, Dari Paquette (Co-Chair), Derrick, Ken Stampfer, Fleur Thesman, Jane Wentzell (Recording Secretary).

### **Business Meeting**

1. **Belmont Cultural Council Grant Proposals:** The Belmont Cultural Council (BCC) has announced that they received requests for \$20,000 in funds that they distribute annually after disbursement by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Perhaps because of the high number of requests, the BCC has decided to fund the BAA's proposal for painting the transformer boxes and not to fund the proposal for our four public workshops, because there are not enough grant monies to accommodate all requests.

2. **Transformer Box Project:** The artistic painting of transformer boxes was first proposed by Dari Paquette, Co-Chair, in September. Martha Bazakas researched how Arlington and Newton execute their transformer box art programs, developed a plan for Belmont, and along with Dari and Naomi presented that plan to the select board, which gave unanimous approval to proceed with a grant proposal. Martha also got the go-ahead from Belmont Traffic Advisory head Tom Clancy and the Belmont Light Department.

To see examples of these transformer boxes designed and painted by local artists, you only have to remember the attractive and creative transformer boxes on the sidewalks in Arlington and Newton. In Belmont, the hope is to start with three to five boxes in the first year. The cost of painting each one would be about \$300 to cover materials.

Artists in Belmont will be invited to apply to the BAA with one to three design proposals at the beginning of 2020, after the show is underway. A committee made up of representatives from the BAA, BGA and the town administration will decide which designs are chosen, and the number of boxes to be painted will be determined by the amount of the Cultural Council award. Artists who are selected will be responsible for painting their assigned box. \*(Please see October Meeting Minutes for a more complete discussion of this topic.)

Although we did not receive the grant for public workshops, we may still plan workshops in the coming year for our membership and the public if our teacher-members volunteer to lead them.

3. **BAA Members Show "2020 Vision: What We See":** Our members' show is coming in January, and the Call for Entries has gone out by email. It is also on our website. The name for this show is "2020 Vision: What We See". The deadline for submissions is December 9<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm, and Gillian Ross from Gallery Twist is our guest juror. Our members' show will be inclusive and representative of our membership, with at least one piece per entrant chosen to show the breadth of our organization. Work should not have previously been shown at the Belmont Gallery of Art, unless approved by the exhibition managers. The dates for the show are January 16 to February 28.

4. **BAA Open Discussion:** We discussed our members' current shows and activities and various framing opportunities. As the meeting was being held in the BGA during a group show, "Elemental," Dari, Susan, Jane, Kay and Fleur talked about their art in this show. Paul told us about his intensive three-day plein air workshop in California last month.

5. **Next Meeting:** Our next meeting will take place on Thursday evening, January 16<sup>th</sup> at the BGA, from 7-9 pm. We will have the opportunity to see our newly hung show, 2020 Vision, while discussing BAA business.

Recording Secretary: Jane Wentzell, 617- 489 - 0412

Edited by Martha Bazakas and Dari Paquette