

MINUTES BOSTON CIVIC DESIGN COMMISSION

The meeting of the Boston Civic Design Commission was held on Tuesday, September 5, 2023 and was held virtually via Zoom to ensure the safety of the public, staff members, and the BPDA Board Members during the COVID-19 pandemic, and beginning at 5:00 p.m. Members in attendance were Linda Eastley, Jonathan Evans, Catherine Morris, David Hacin, Mikyoung Kim, Kathy Kottaridis, Mimi Love, Shauna Gillies-Smith, David Manfredi, and Kirk Sykes. Ex-Officio member Deputy Chief of Urban Design Diana Fernandez while and Director of Planning Aimee Chambers was absent. Anne-Marie Lubenau, Laura Solano, and William Rawn, were absent. Elizabeth Stifel, Executive Director of the Commission, was present. Representatives of the BSA attended. Seth Riseman and Scott Slarsky were present for the BPDA.

The Chair, Mimi Love, announced that this was the meeting of the Boston Civic Design Commission that meets the first Tuesday of every month and welcomed all persons interested in attending. She added thanks to the Commissioners for the contribution of their time to the betterment of the City and its Public Realm. This hearing was duly advertised in the [BOSTON HERALD](#).

The first item was the approval of the August 1, 2023 Monthly Meeting Minutes, and the Design Committee Minutes from August 22, 2023. A motion was made, seconded, and it was duly

VOTED: To approve the August BCDC Meeting Minutes.

The Commission moved into Votes of Recommendation for projects from Design Committee.

The first presentation was for **175 North Harvard Street** project in the Allston neighborhood. Tom Gibson, Debbie Balters and Mark Handley presented the project.

Jonathan Evans: Have seen this in multiple meetings and appreciate the work and development of details.

Mimi Love: Clear positive development. Remain concerned about the blank wall on the ART and some more attention to the courtyard design.

Linda Eastley: Agree about the courtyard. If the architecture needs to be blank, could the landscape design be more interesting. Interested in the public realm on North Harvard Street. The Yard and courtyard need more development.

David Hacin: The ART is simple massing and materiality. Is there something about the detailing that is distinctive and memorable. Can there be a conversation between these two brick buildings across the courtyard. Consider how the ventilation towers could be more prominent as such a distinctive element of the ART project.

Shauna Gilles-Smith: No landscape architect in any of the presentations. The courtyard needs work while the housing has improved significantly.

Kirk Sykes: Remember the importance of the long views to announce the building.

There was one public comment from Dan Jaffe who suggested that the ART as an arts organization should incorporate appropriate symbolism in the art program.

It was moved, seconded, and

VOTED: That the BCDC recommend approval for 175 North Harvard Street, Allston with the provisos that the proponent continue to work on how the public art is carried out, the materiality of the buildings, and the landscape of the courtyard and the Yard.

The next presentation was for **40 Roland Street in Charlestown**. David Nagahiro, Sean McKay, and Henry Weinberg presented the project.

David Manfredi: The project has developed over the design committee process. Crosby Park feels improved as there is more green and different kinds of spaces rather than being a plaza. The view from 93 is interesting and shows the development of the curved façade. That development and the introduction of warm tones into the façade is nice.

William Rawn: Happy to see the southern of the two residential buildings has developed to be more like the north building. These are setting up a quality entrance to the city. Reconsider the sign in the open space.

David Hacin: Like the balance being struck on the south elevation of the lab building between the historic remnant and the new building, particularly the amount of masonry.

Laura Solano: The landscape is successfully robust and the streetscape is successful. It brings down the scale of the lab building. The landscape at the residential could reinforce the buildings more. Not sure that a flat lawn is the right approach here. The streetscapes at this part of the project could be more robust.

Mikyoung Kim: Think the project has come a long way. Appreciate the diversity of landscape spaces.

Mimi Love: Thank you for working with us and making impactful changes to the project. Think about how the border with Somerville is coordinated.

Catherine Morris: Think about that relationship with Somerville. Am happy with the project and how the buildings feel like they are supposed to be there.

Public comment was heard from Diane Valle who was concerned about the scale of the project and the potential for a heat island.

There being no further items for discussion, a motion was made to adjourn, and the meeting was duly adjourned at 6:40 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Boston Civic Design Commission was scheduled for October 3, 2023. The recording of the September 5, 2023 Boston Civic Design Commission meeting was digitized and is available at the Boston Redevelopment Authority.