



JOSEPH A. CURTATONE  
MAYOR

# Somerville CPA



## CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE RESIDENT FEEDBACK ON FY17 PROJECTS

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Kristen Stelljes

### COMMENTS FROM COMMUNITY MEETINGS ON JANUARY 11 & JANUARY 31

#### January 11 (11 comments)

*Susan Maday, Healey Teacher:* Ms. Maday supports the Healey project because of the benefit it provides to the school community but also the play space it provides to the surrounding community. Families get to know each other from the surrounding community while their children play on the weekends and develop relationships that cross language barriers and economic status. She added that she is inspired by all of the projects.

*Andrew Arbaugh, Healey Parent:* Mr. Arbaugh supports the Healey project. The Healey is a great school but the play space is lacking and the school deserves a play experience equal to the quality of the school. The Master Plan is beautiful and inspirational and deserves to move forward.

*Barbara Strell, Healey Teacher:* Ms. Strell supports the Healey project because it would improve the play space available to the school students.

*Greg Nadeau, Healey Parent:* Mr. Nadeau supports the Healey project. He wrote the CPA grant application for the master plan and is very excited about the opportunity to bring the master plan into fruition. He shared a petition with signatures of 40 additional individuals who support the Healey project.

*Brandon Wilson, City of Somerville:* Ms. Wilson stated that all of the projects are wonderful. She said as the director of historic preservation, the Grace Baptist Church is a very important project that requires additional funds to ensure the historic building is preserved. The Healey project said it is a wonderful project and the partnership between the Friends of the Healey and the City should be supported. The Butterfly Pocket Park is a good idea and she can speak to Ms. Antonino's commitment to open space in the City. She shared her strong support for the Somerville Museum project. The Museum is an important partner to the City's historic preservation projects. The Museum needs additional funding because of the requirements placed on them by the Historic Preservation Commission, the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board, and by the suggestions they received from the neighbors. Becoming accessible is essential to the Museum's future.



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*Barbara Mangum, Somerville Historical Society:* Ms. Mangum shared her support for the Milk Row Cemetery project. The Ghosts of Somerville every year reaches a lot of people and teaches residents about Somerville's history. The master plan is now out of date and needs to be updated.

*Mark Niedergang, Ward 5 Alderman:* Alderman Niedergang thanked the Committee for their work and encouraged them to fund all of the projects at least partially. He shared his support for the Healey project to improve the asphalt play space which is an embarrassment to the City and is a matter of social justice. Alderman Niedergang also supports the Butterfly Garden Pocket Park. The plantings there could be greatly improved and he has found Ms. Antonino to be very committed and persistent in her efforts to improve Somerville's open spaces. He is certain she will be able to recruit people to support the maintenance of the project.

*Bill Noll, Somerville Resident:* Mr. Noll supports the Butterfly Garden for its educational value. It is a very inexpensive project, but a good value. Projects like this would be a great benefit to the City. He said that native species are meant to be here and they will succeed in the space. Mr. Noll also expressed his support for the Somerville Museum. There is no other resource in Somerville for residents to access the history of Somerville like the Museum. Making a building is accessible is expensive and should be supported.

Mr. Noll shared his concern that no affordable housing were presented this year. Mr. Bauer explained that the CPC allocates 45% of CPA funds each year to affordable housing and these funds are managed by the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. As a result, the CPC does not consider affordable housing projects. Mr. Noll then asked how individuals could apply for affordable housing projects. Mr. Bauer responded that they should apply to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, but the CPC on occasion does consider requests for affordable housing funding.

*Charan Devereaux, Somerville Artist:* Ms. Devereaux supports the Somerville Museum projects. Somerville is very lucky to have an institution by the Museum and she is inspired by the commitment of the Museum's volunteers. Her Union Square at Work exhibit was shown at the Museum and her late mother-in-law was not able to attend because she was wheelchair bound.

*Jean Millette, Healey Parent:* Mr. Millette supports the Healey project. He noted that the schoolyard is an open space issue and more open space is needed in Somerville.

*Tori Antonino, Somerville Resident:* Ms. Antonino expressed her support for the Milk Row Cemetery Project. She thinks the space could contribute to pollinator restoration and be a way for those who are not here anymore to contribute to repopulating the monarchs. She would also like to see the Somerville Museum get the elevator.



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### **January 31 (4 comments)**

*Barbara Mangum, Somerville Historical Society:* Ms. Mangum expressed her support for the Henry Hansen project. She is a conservator and can see the park could use upgrading. She is also very much in favor of Veteran's Services taking on this park and the memorials around the City. Memorials need to be well-thought out so they can serve as places of reflection.

*Chris Mancini, Groundwork Somerville:* Groundwork is a partner on the Blessing of the Bay Park project. The park is not currently being accessed as open space which means there are a lot of opportunities for improvement. People do not feel there is safety because of the way the park is open to the street and there is nothing to do when you get there. Groundwork is already working on invasive species removal in the park.

*Matthew Collins, Winter Hill School teacher:* Mr. Collins is advocating for his kids that are desperate need of play space. The playground provides a safe space for the kids and when it is improved, even more kids will take advantage of the space.

*Alderman Mark Niedergang, Ward 5:* Alderman Niedergang encouraged the CPC to fund them all, particularly the ones with smaller budgets that can be fully funded and fund larger ones at least partially. He expressed his support for the Henry Hansen Park and the Winter Hill Schoolyard. Henry Hansen Park provides green space where there is limited existing space. It is a little quiet area and a neglected memorial with tremendous potential. The Winter Hill playground is an abomination. The kids in the school are among the poorest in the city and it is incumbent upon us to improve it as a justice issue.

### **WRITTEN COMMENTS ACCEPTED JANUARY 3 TO MARCH 16, 2017**

#### ***Comments covering multiple projects***

**From:** Courtney O'Keefe

**Received:** January 5, 2017

Dear Kristen,

I hope this email finds you doing well.

I would like to support the following projects in receiving CPA funding in 2017:

- Somerville Museum ADA Project, Somerville Historical Society
- Renovation of Henry Hansen Park, City of Somerville
- Community Path Survey, City of Somerville
- ArtFarm, City of Somerville



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Thank You,  
Courtney K. O'Keefe  
Email | [Courtney@CourtneyOKeefe.Com](mailto:Courtney@CourtneyOKeefe.Com)

**From:** Kate Wheeler  
**Received:** January 24, 2017

Dear Ms. Stelljes,

I'm writing you in support of releasing CPA funds to two important projects. The Somerville Museum's ADA project is essential for our city. The Museum has an essential role to play in preserving our city's identity and has fought for its existence successfully, surviving based on a community of many many Somerville residents who are volunteers and care about it so much..

Equally important is ArtFarm. A project that reclaims a neglected site and turns it into a thriving place for younger people and creatives.

Although these two may seem to lie at the opposite ends of some spectrum, both are essential projects to keep Somerville economically and spiritually alive.

Best wishes,  
Kate Wheeler  
72 Properzi Way

**From:** Allison Bland  
**Received:** February 21, 2017

Hi Kristen,

I am writing to express my support for the Blessing of the Bay Boathouse Park Revitalization and ArtFarm applications. I like these projects because they will begin to turn under-used and unused spaces into our city into spaces where people can come together. In particular, ArtFarm sits at the intersection of three neighborhoods in Somerville. The project would make this area feel like part of our community instead of a desolate and garbage-filled place to avoid.

Thank you,  
Allison Bland  
21 Indiana Ave, Somerville



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**From:** Matt Timmins

**Received:** February 25, 2017

Hi Kristen,

Are you enjoying this fine spring like week? I was just reviewing the proposals for Somerville grants and enjoyed reading how much thought and detail is going into each proposal.

I'm wondering if the Blessing of the Bay proposal includes any detail about the reconstruction of the boathouse and how that might look. You can only infer so much based on the slides.

I also like the idea of redesigning Henry Hanson Park. That is a little gem that often gets overlooked as many pedestrians pass by on the way to Maguon Square.

Lastly, I would hope that the Winter Hill school receives strong consideration in their proposal to build an improved outdoor play space and living garden area.

Thank you for taking the time to review so many good ideas for our community and please let me know if you need any more information.

Sincerely,

Matt Timmins  
96 Bartlett Street

**From:** Suzanne Lubeck

**Received:** March 11, 2017

I unfortunately cannot attend the meeting on March 22nd, but I thought I'd just relay a few enthusiastic comments on the proposals, as an interested Somervillian.

First I want to commend the clarity of the information/proposals and process. I sometimes just skim the Somerville Journal for info., but this CP info. caught my attention and kept my attention because all the info. was readily available/accessible.

Somerville's efforts to improve the quality of life for it's inhabitants are steadfast, though often moves at an arthritic snail's pace.

Some of these proposals are so exciting and would remarkably improve the quality of life for what seems like "doable" expense. It's exciting.

First, I am really excited to see the **Healey School** plans. I know that location as my kids once attended the Healey School, the overlook can be lovely. Adding a soccer field to the city's number of fields we know is beyond critical. Having a beautiful corridor for the neighboring residents would improve quality of life/sense of pride, immeasurably. It's such a gorgeous innovated proposal, it brings me to writing



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you. The design seems to flow, includes many pleasurable details, and is meant to be a place "*to just be*" naturally; *not* a stack of artificially planned straight trees with no intention of soul to breathe... (I just made that up.)

I'm also very excited by the ***Blessing of the Bay proposal***. I am an artist, and my subject is often Somerville. I highlight the fact that we *do* actually sit on the shores of the Mystic River...a concept largely, sadly inaccessible for the most part, until now. Oh please, add a spot to comfortably enjoy the water to spaces on Somerville's roster. (That "visual" of the women by the water is perfect.) I wonder if you can imagine the impact of usable waterfront....(huge.) That boathouse too, could be such a fun space for meetings, gatherings, tea, a rest spot.

I also am a runner and would love to have a 3 - 4 mile circuit to run, between the loop around the Mystic by the boathouse and Assembly Sq....

Making the **Somerville Museum** ADA compliant should be fast tracked. As being quite involved with Somerville Open Studios (we hang our premiere exhibit there) I am considerably aware of the problems in the community an inaccessible space causes.

**Butterfly garden**, why not. The more the better. Very well presented. Get going.

I am also enthusiastic for the **Art Farm**, and that should definitely get underway. At least start with some green, some water, a shaded area and sheltered area for performances, food, etc. I think of Lawn on D, and how hugely popular that is.

People just need an open space *to be*. Let the rest evolve.

Much appreciation, I look forward to the progress.

Sincerely,  
Suzanne Lubeck

**From:** Gilad Skolnick

**Received:** March 12, 2017

Dear Kristen Stelljes,

I am writing in support of:

1. The Community Path Survey
2. The Butterfly Garden Pocket Park.
3. Henry Hansen Park Renovations.



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These are great projects that would benefit a wide range of people. Improving the community path will reduce traffic, help the environment, and improve the surrounding neighborhood.

A butterfly garden will also enhance the area, benefit the environment and educate everyone.

Henry Hansen's park does resemble a bus stop and was not fully completed. The area doesn't have many parks and this would greatly improve Magoon Square.

Thank you,

Gilad Skolnick  
18 Tennyson St. Somerville

**From:** Heather Van Aelst  
**Received:** March 12, 2017

Hello,

I'm writing to comment on the choice of projects to receive CPA funding grants in 2017. There are a number of good projects worthy of funding, but I'd like to particularly support two: the Art Farm and the Community Path Survey.

The Art Farm has the potential to be a landmark project, capable of bringing attention, events, and people to a long underserved part of Somerville. But even more importantly, it will bring a greener, active public space to my neighborhood that's in keeping with the strong arts and artisan spirit of the Brickbottom district. Advancing it to the next stage is exactly the kind of project that CPA funds should support.

The Community Path stands to make an enormous impact on the city as a whole - if it's ever built. With the recent Green Line Extension cost reductions, a complete CPX was the biggest loss. The CPA funding isn't on a scale to replace that, but it is a step Somerville can and should take to advance planning and eventually lead to a fully built path.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Heather Van Aelst  
1 Fitchburg St C304  
Somerville MA 02143



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**From:** Pennie Taylor

**Received:** March 16, 2017

Greetings Kristen,

Thanks for taking our feedback! It was great to be at meeting #2 of the CPA presentations. I'm writing to support the following projects, which seem to most effectively consider accessibility, green space, use by the community, and protecting assets we have with necessary improvements:

To improve access (i.e. make ADA-compliant), and increase the biodiversity of, green spaces in Somerville:

- Somerville Community Growing Center
- the Morse-Kelley pocket park butterfly garden

To improve open spaces used by Somerville's students:

- Winter Hill Community Schoolyard
- Healey Schoolyard Landscape Design

To improve accessibility for people with disabilities, allow programs to continue to reach an inclusive audience, and protect Somerville's cultural heritage:

- Rehabilitation of Grace Baptist Church
- Somerville Museum ADA project
- Milk Row Cemetery

After seeing and reading over the presentations (and thanks for making those available online), I feel the above projects will either be fully realized with the CPA money, or the funding will allow an important step in planning- that the related organizations are ready to take- to ensure that these incredible resources can be utilized by our neighbors.

Thanks again for considering community feedback- and good luck deciding!

With my best,  
Pennie Taylor  
8 Quincy St. #2 02143

**From:** Tori Antonino

**Received:** March 16, 2017

To the Community Preservation Committee,



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I am Tori Antonino of Green and Open Somerville, applicant for the Butterfly Garden Pocket Park on Morse Kelly Playground.

I want to encourage you to vote to fund this project.

I understand there was some doubt as to the plant palette's viability in this location. Hopefully the letters of recommendation from Dan Jaffe and Anna Fialkoff who run the botanic garden at Garden in the Woods will reassure you.

David Falk, the designer for the Pocket Park, is an ecological landscaper who is a leader in the native plant movement.

If doubt remains and if the current design would deter you from funding the project, please know that I am open to suggestions and am willing to bring in experts in the field to speak with you directly as to what will work and why.

I believe this project will be of great benefit to the community.

It will be a pilot project for making community built Pocket Parks throughout the city to create passive natural places in currently underutilized spaces.

It will enhance the community and bring people together as neighbors and community groups build and maintain these spaces.

It will provide homes for native pollinators whose numbers are in crisis directly because of our removal of the native plant species they need to survive.

It will bring awareness to the public of the need for native plant species and the need to rebuild ecosystems for planetary survival.

It will create beauty simply and cheaply. Landscaping is the cheapest most efficient way to increase the value of a property.

Pound for pound this project is the most cost effective at transforming an area from an eyesore to a place of gathering, natural beauty and sanctuary.

I would [also] love to see the following projects be funded.

The Growing Center Rehabilitation

ArtFarm

The Growing Center and ArtFarm are community assets like none other that exists in Somerville and the region.



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The events they host from the Maple Syrup Boil down (Growing Center) to the end of season ho-down (ArtFarm) are wonderful community gatherings. The work both groups throughout the year provide a sense of place, pride and community for Somervillens.

The Milk Row Cemetery Open Space Plan is important to me as well because historic places and maintaining the place of people who are interred is respectful.

Thank you and good luck with your decisions.

Tori Antonino

**From:** Brandon Wilson

**Received:** March 16, 2017

Dear CPC Committee Members,

I attended both sets of presentations for this year's CPA round of funding and wish to give my full support for 2 applications that I believe are particularly worthy, both due to their need and the content of their request. As a co-founder of the Somerville Growing Center during the Capuano Administration I am so pleased that the Center has not only been able to survive, but even more impressively thrive over the past 20 years! This next phase is important to their continued success, and is a most appropriate way both to honor the achievements of the hundreds of volunteers who have helped this previously vacant eyesore become a model demonstration for urban agriculture.

The Somerville Museum shares many of the same attributes, depending upon a host of volunteers over several decades to create a place that can showcase Somerville's rich history and diverse cultural mix. They have come so far, but without continued support from the City that they celebrate so effectively, they cannot survive and flourish.

Both non-profit organizations are treasures that Somerville is lucky to have in its midst, so I hope that the Committee will choose to reward them for their dedication and passion by funding their CPA requests.

Sincerely, Brandon

**From:** Maureen Barillaro

**Received:** March 16, 2017

Dear Kristen,

I have been looking over all of the projects for this year's CPA funding. They are all of great importance to our city. I am particularly in support of the Community Path, Art Farm, butterfly park, school yard projects, The Growing Center and The Blessing of the Bay Boathouse.



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It is important that all of the projects receive some funding and that no project gets left behind. There are not that many projects, so leaving any of them out of the running would be a humiliation to the participants who have put so much time and effort into the process thus far.

I fear the butterfly park is on the chopping block because it is an unusual project. This is precisely the reason why it needs the CPA funding. So that the city has an opportunity to open the door to new ideas and means of increasing green space, which we so desperately need in Somerville.

Thank you for doing such an amazing job spearheading the CPA funding process.

Sincerely,  
Maureen Barillaro

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***Grace Baptist Church, Somerville Hispanic Association for Community Development***

**From:** Lourdes Demallistre

**Received:** January 12, 2017

Hi Kristen,

Sorry that I couldn't go to the meeting last night because I was working. I support the Grace Baptist Church Project. SHA4CD is doing a great job serving the community from this building. There is a Family Shelter, an affordable Day Care, a Food Pantry and the "Kids in Need Program" where they help kids to get clothing, back to school supplies, toys, etc. It would be very helpful if they can restore this historical building.

Lourdes Demallistre

**From:** George Born

**Received:** March 7, 2017

Kristen -

I would like to express my support for funding for the rehabilitation of the historic Grace Baptist Church on Cross Street, provided adequate supervision ensures that the historic and cultural values of the property are preserved and enhanced.

It is quite evident that the building is historically and architecturally significant. Religious buildings as a category are important as gathering places, as sacred places, and representations of community ideals. It is clear that in 1892 the original builders of the church took pains to create a monumental structure that would be aesthetically striking as well as long lasting. The architect, Edward Melville Bridge, employed the Romanesque revival style, reflecting an awareness of the celebrated H. H.



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Richardson's work in Boston and elsewhere. Its tall tower soars against the skyline of residential and commercial buildings nearby. Its semicircular bay projecting toward the street on its front facade provides a notable variant to the rectilinear forms found elsewhere. Its carefully laid brick masonry delights the eye with its rich red coloration.

Specifically within the purview of the work under consideration is replacement of its slate roof. New materials, if required, should match the original as much as possible. Repointing of masonry is also planned; new mortar should match the old in terms of hardness/softness, texture, and color. Finally, ADA compliance, a worthy goal, should be accomplished with design sensitive to the architectural and cultural values of the property. As the application materials contain floor plans and no elevations, I am unclear on the visual effect of the proposed ramp and lift.

As a resident of East Somerville and as a member of Somerville's Historic Preservation Commission, I have often admired this building. I am glad it is a candidate for funding for much-needed repair work.

I understand that the building has been designated as a single-building historic district. Consequently, I am glad that the board has an opportunity to review the proposal to make certain that it complies with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. I am also hopeful that if awarded funding, there will be preservation restrictions to guard the public investment in this historic building.

Thanks for providing me an opportunity to comment -

George Born  
14 Arlington St., Apt. 2  
Somerville

**From:** Rosemary Ramos

**Received:** January 12, 2017

Hello, I'm Rosemary Ramos. Last night I couldn't assisted to the meeting. I'm excited to know that you are considering to help with that project. They are doing an excellent job with the community.

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***ArtFarm, City of Somerville Arts Council***

**From:** Mark Alston-Follansbee

**Received:** January 24, 2017

Hello CPA Committee. I urge you to fund the Somerville Arts Council proposal for CPA funds to support the development of ArtFarm. We are excited about this project, how inclusive the work has been in the development and implementation stages, and see this as a wonderful space for all of our diverse community to come together and be enriched in body and soul. Thank you, Mark

Mark Alston-Follansbee  
Executive Director  
Somerville Homeless Coalition



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**From:** Robert Smyth  
**Received:** January 24, 2017

Dear Kristen Stelljes,  
I am writing to express my support for the CPA application to support the development of ArtFarm.

It is a project that will provide many benefits to the residents of Somerville. ArtFarm is a project that will provide a space where communities, from all parts of the city can gather for events that highlight their culture it's art, food, and heritage. We are a city filled with many rich cultures and having a place to showcase our ethnic diversity will nurture understanding, communication and appreciation. As well as foster the perpetuation of our diverse culture make-up that Somerville has come to be known for.

ArtFarm will provide space for urban agriculture, increase open space in the city, and support historic preservation. These are all goals of the City's SomerVision innovative.

In short, ArtFarm is a unique project that will benefit the city and it's resident's in a host of ways.

Sincerely,  
Robert Smyth  
29 Josephine Ave.

**From:** Aaron Cohen  
**Received:** January 24, 2017

Hello,

I am writing today to express support for ArtFarm. I think the project will bring much needed vibrancy to that area. Also, this type of innovative project is exactly the kind of endeavor Somerville needs to remain on the forefront of Boston communities.

I appreciate you taking the time to record my support!

Aaron

**From:** Ruth Roudiez  
**Received:** January 25, 2017

Hello and thank you for welcoming comments on funding decisions. I'd be very happy to see the Art Farm project take off, I think that part of Somerville is going to become a vibrant community in the future and this project helps it in that direction.

Thanks,

Ruth Roudiez  
Somerville resident



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**From:** Ken Field

**Received:** February 1, 2017

Whom It May Concern,

We of the HONK! Festival Organizing Committee are writing in strong support of CPA funding for the ArtFarm project and site.

HONK! is a much-loved and internationally known annual festival of activist street bands from around the world, now in its 11th year. Free and open to the public, HONK! brings together as many as 30 bands and 600 musicians, gathering in Somerville and surrounding communities to meet, workshop, and perform for the public. In past years we have been extremely grateful for the availability of the raw ArtFarm site for use during HONK!. There is no comparable area location that would accommodate our numbers and our music-making activities.

We believe that ArtFarm has a huge & unique potential to serve an even greater role within the Somerville and greater Boston communities, but further infrastructure improvements are needed.

Further development will make Artfarm more appealing to festivals and events such as HONK!, while providing physical and issue-based opportunities for community stake-holders to gather.

With improvements, ArtFarm's capacity to serve as a social and cultural center for the rapidly developing Union Square/East Somerville neighborhoods would be significantly enhanced. Furthermore, it could provide open space for passive recreation as well as community gardens for the area, including for the nearby Brickbottom artist studio/housing complex.

As a creative incubator piloting solutions to issues surrounding economic development and the arts, ArtFarm has enormous potential to impact the cultural landscape of East Somerville, Somerville as a whole, and the greater Boston region. We respectfully urge you to approve CPA funding that will make this possible.

Thank you,  
Ken Field, for the HONK! Organizing Committee

**From:** Alicia Walker

**Received:** February 23, 2017

Dear Ms. Stelljes,

I wanted to send a note to express my support of the CPA funds for the development of the ArtFarm. I am a resident and working artist in the Brickbottom Building and truly believe this project will build



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upon and enhance the vibrant and continually growing community of artists in Brickbottom and Somerville. I know Somerville as a city takes pride in its history and longstanding arts identity that was in part established by the Brickbottom community.

The Art Farm space has already been shifting towards a wonderful community and arts space with the allowance of the Somerville Arts Council. I have had the privilege of being a part of Project Mum, an arts council project that has used the bare Art Farm lot twice already. It was a joy to see so many of our residents of all ages, cultures and identities come out and join together for a night of dancing. I can only imagine how wonderful it will be to host more regular community gatherings that support arts music and dance once there is some infrastructure to work with.

As you know, there is absolutely no green space in the Brickbottom area, some of the side walks are not even passable, but our community goes out and gardens the street plots and cleans up to beautify our city. We would be overjoyed with public outdoor space and green space for this part of the city, for gardening, beautification, and connecting our amazing diverse community of Somerville.

I look forward to seeing how these funds will be applied to continue to help shape a healthy, sustainable, artistic community.

Best,

Lolli Hoops aka Alicia Walker  
Brickbottom Resident.

**From:** Adelaide Smith

**Received:** February 23, 2017

As Somerville continues to be seen as a Mecca for artists and creativity, the Art Farm is a perfect addition. Its location is easily accessible and would be a good fit for the transformation of the Brickbottom area.

Lots of time, energy, hard work by neighborhood groups and money should be rewarded by finalizing the commitment to the Art Farm.

Thank you,  
Adelaide Smith  
1 Fitchburg St. Unit C220

**From:** Robert Goss

**Received:** March 4, 2017

Hello: I am writing to support the CPA funding for Art Farm.

I am one of the founding members of Brickbottom Artist Building. I worked on the project as a staff member of the Fort Point Arts Community (FPAC), and after we found the building on Fitchburg St, was



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elected president of the group.. I was in the little blue trailer outside the building during demolition and construction, and moved in on April 1,1988.

I remember how the neighborhood looked when we (Brickbottom Artist Group) first visited,the former cold storage warehouse. There were burned out cars, where we know have parking lot. Many members dropped out after this visit, since they could not imagine the building and neighborhood ever becoming a place to live and work. ! But with the continued support from the city of somerville, and every Mayor since Eugene Brune, things have come a long way..sidewalks, street lights ,trees etc.. One of the major "eyesores" was the old Transfer station. Garbage trucks, blowing trash, smells and rats were things we had to tolerate. Everyone at Brickbottom was thrilled when the transfer station closed and we were told it would become an "Art Space" for Brickbottom and the Arts council.

Sitting in the old garbage site, watching the Weber Dance co. performance of"Looms and Lillies" was an amazingly odd and beautiful experience.. The city provided chairs, sound system, projection, lights and a dance floor. Not much else was there but many of us felt as if the site had been transformed from a dump to a theater..Even when it started raining and we had to leave and go back to Brickbottom, it was still magical.

The concept of this location becoming a place for Art, Theater, Music, Dance, Gardens and more is fantastic. I remember Mayor Brune calling Brickbottom "the gateway to Somerville ". The Art Farm can be this and more. A community space, for Somerville residents and visitors to be able to be together, enjoy, and participate in a cultural , fun , healthy "oasis".

No other city has anything similar to what the Art Farm can become. It could become a "place to be" for everyone. The potential is unlimited. Just as the Brickbottom Building generated local and national press coverage, The Art Farm can do the same.

I would be glad to talk to people about Brickbottom, the neighborhood and its potential.

Thank you,

Robert Goss

**From:** Chris Mesarch

**Received:** March 10, 2017

Dear Ms. Stelljes,

As a longtime resident of Somerville I would like to express my support for ArtFarm and for awarding CPA funds to help insure the development of this project. ArtFarm will create a thriving public space out of a dead area, as well as being an innovative and creative use of this space.

Thank you for your consideration of ArtFarm for these funds.



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Yours truly,  
Chris Mesarch  
1 Fitchburg St. C306  
Somerville, MA 02143

**From:** Svetlana and Stuart Camiel  
**Received:** March 12, 2017

Dear Ms. Stelljes,

We are long-time residents/owners of 2 properties at the Brickbottom Artists Building.

We ask you to strongly consider Brickbottom application for CPA funding for further development of ArtFarm.

Our 150-family community is an attraction for Somerville and specifically to our neighborhood. Unfortunately, our residence lacks public space and is exposed to noise and pollution from the highways and railroads next to the building.

ArtFarm initiative has been a very welcome change for the neighborhood. We are very excited by the public space and revitalization of the landscape. We are also certain that it will also be incredibly useful for the residents from Union Square, Cobble Hill and East Somerville.

Thank you in advance for your support of our vibrant community!

Sincerely,

Svetlana and Stuart Camiel  
Owners, B453/B456  
Brickbottom Artists Building  
1 Fitchburg Street  
Somerville MA 02143

**From:** Tracy Munn  
**Received:** March 12, 2017

Dear Ms. Stelljes,

I have lived at the Brickbottom Artists Building for 24 years. When I first moved in, the neighborhood was something of an industrial wasteland. It is better these days, but we remain isolated—even marooned within all the train tracks and McGrath overpass—and the neighborhood is impersonal. There is so much vibrancy within the Brickbottom community, and we have brought so much of our talent and energy to the benefit of the city of Somerville, I feel we are overdue for investment in our locale.



JOSEPH A. CURTATONE  
MAYOR



The ArtFarm offers a significant opportunity to anchor the east end of Somerville in community values. With the expansion of the green line, the redevelopment of Union Sq., the new zoning model, and the eventual grounding of McGrath ... it will be extremely important to preserve what areas we can for innovative and unique human activity. The ArtFarm is that.

I strongly support CPA funding for development of the ArtFarm. I hope you will, as well.

Thank you,

K. Tracy Munn  
1 Fitchburg St., #C410

**From:** Debra Weisberg and Ramón Bueno

**Received:** March 15, 2017

Hi

We are long-time Brickbottom residents and would like to express our support for the ArtFarm project application for Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds.

This project will build on the existing creative presence in the Brickbottom district, pioneered by the Brickbottom Artists Building on Fitchburg Street, complemented subsequently by the Joy Street Studios. The ArtFarm by design will engage the wider Somerville-at-large community —especially the neighbors in Union Square, Cobble Hill and East Somerville— exploring new possibilities in the use of public space for healthy practices in urban agriculture and the way arts and culture mesh with community participation.

We believe that the Brickbottom Buiding and arts community has been a positive contribution to the City of Somerville, both through its lively daily presence in the neighborhood, its monthly exhibitions of local artists' work, its participation in the annual Somerville Open Studios and especially the well-attended Brickbottom Open Studios each November, the 30th of which will be held in 2017. Our community has uniquely blended into the previously existing non-residential business community in the neighborhood. The ArtFarm will create a welcoming entrance to Somerville (from Cambridge and Boston) that builds on that history and will help counter impacts from the existing traffic and pollution as the Green Line Extension extends on both sides of the Brickbottom district in the coming years.

The active participation and energy behind the evolution of the ArtFarm project and the serious backing it has gathered so far demonstrates its worthiness and the wider interest it has generated. With the support of Community Preservation Act funding, ArtFarm can become a reality and achieve its potential as a valuable contribution to building community in Somerville. At a time of rapid development in its surrounding areas in the City, ArtFarm can provide a balancing human element for neighbors and residents to engage in friendly, enriching activities in the same spirit Somerville has been fostering for a long time.

We hope the ArtFarm project will be seriously considered and that it receives the backing it seeks under Community Preservation Act.



JOSEPH A. CURTATONE  
MAYOR



Cordially,

Debra Weisberg and Ramón Bueno  
1 Fitchburg Street, B550  
Somerville, MA 02143

**From:** Paula Brody

**Received:** March 15, 2017

Dear Ms. Stelljes:

I am so delighted that we're going to have the ArtFarm in the Brickbottom neighborhood. I'm not sure if you already have firm plans for the space, but if you don't, I'd like to offer some suggestions.

If there are spaces in which various kinds of artists are actually able to work, it would be wonderful if they allowed the public, especially children, to see how art is made. It would be fabulous if there were regular classes in the making of art for children and teens, perhaps on weekends.

It would be great to have a bandstand with enough space around it for a big crowd--perhaps for dancing--with lights for night performances. (In my imagination the music would be acoustical, rather than blaring over big speakers.) And it would be terrific if the stage were large enough, and had backstage space, to allow for full theatrical performances.

I hope there are trees and plantings, benches so older people can rest, permanent chessboards and a strip of grass for bocce players--attracting neighborhood people who think they're not interested in the arts--and some kind of safe, grassy area where small children can play.

I may be envisioning too much for the size of the lot, but I do believe the space could bring together hundreds, even thousands, of neighbors, many of whom don't even realize there's a Somerville on the other side of the McGrath.

Sincerely yours,  
Paula Brody

**From:** David and Patricia

**Received:** March 14, 2017

Regarding the Community Preservation Act funds for phase one development David and I are original owners and residents of Brickbottom Studios. We encourage art farm as a place to grow community, as well as plants and trees ie to grow plant culture and social culture. For thirty years we have lived here without a park. We do our part contributing to the identity of Somerville as an art city. We see a park for both arts events and green growing things as a way to continue and enlarge our contributions. We lost many trees in the neighborhood due to the clearing for the Greenline construction. It would be a blessing for some trees to return. so we can gsther for cultural and docial events near by our home and



JOSEPH A. CURTATONE  
MAYOR



work space. We are 150 households here paying our share of taxes and wishing for a park. As the neighborhood changes with new zoning it is expected that there will be many more residential units here. Why not make it appealing for the future people as well?

Thanks,

David Campbell and Patricia Cobb  
1 Fitchburg St. C416

**From:** Lois Josimovich

**Received:** March 14, 2017

Dear Ms. Stelljes,

The Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers (MAPS) is pleased to support ArtFarm, Somerville's CPA proposal for a creative, flexible public space featuring a self-sustaining art and urban agricultural laboratory that will foster community engagement through the arts, green technology, culinary entrepreneurship, urban agriculture, and community-building activities. This will be an exciting addition to the Brickbottom neighborhood.

We have seen how the Somerville arts community has embraced artists and musicians from the Portuguese-speaking community, and look forward to having the city's multicultural traditions continue with the planning and use of this new space. We can also imagine that our Brazilian, Cabo Verdean and Portuguese constituents in Somerville will have much to contribute to all of the other types of activities planned at ArtFarm. This project is yet another way to demonstrate Somerville's welcoming, supporting and celebrating the cultures and contributions of immigrants from all over the world.

On behalf of MAPS, thank you for this opportunity to support ArtFarm.

Sincerely,

Lois Josimovich

Director of Development, Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers (MAPS)

**From:** Artisan's Asylum

**Received:** March 14, 2017

Dear Kristen,

Please let this letter serve as Artisan's Asylum's support for CPA's funding of the Somerville Arts Council's ArtFarm project. As a community arts space, this project will provide new pathways for our artists and makers to engage with and enrich the Somerville community. We believe ArtFarm will be an invaluable resource for Somerville as an open space for recreation and community engagement, and look forward to being one of the organization to co-activate this new open space with education and public art. Please feel free to contact me if you require any additional information,

Sincerely,



JOSEPH A. CURTATONE  
MAYOR



Jess Muise  
Member Services Coordinator  
Artisan's Asylum  
jess@artisansasylum.com  
617-284-6878 x103

**From:** William Kipp  
**Received:** March 16, 2017

To whom it may concern,  
Please go ahead full with the "ARTFARM" and make Somerville the "Paris of Massachusetts." Thank you. (postcard)

**From:** Robert Smyth  
**Received:** March 16, 2017

To whom it may concern,  
I write in support of Somerville's "ARTFARM" as it will provide a cultural gateway to the entire city! Great move if you do it. (postcard)

**From:** Somerville Arts Council Board  
**Received:** March 16, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

We write on behalf of the Somerville Arts Council Board, to provide our strongest support for CPA funding for the ArtFarm project.

The Board serves in an advisory role to the staff of the Arts Council, and as volunteers to many of the Arts Council's events and activities, such as the ArtBeat, Porchfest, and Ignite! festivals, among dozens of others. The Council is one of the most forward thinking, energetic, and effective departments of its kind in the state, if not the country. For over 20 years it has developed an impressive track record of ongoing commitment to the arts, culture and economic development of the community. The evidence of its impact can be viewed, in part, through the numerous grants, events and archives on the website, as well as the wealth of ongoing, artistic production - and civic engagement of artists - within the population of Somerville.

In our capacity as advisers and volunteers, we are convinced of both the fiscal soundness and creative vision of the Arts Council's plan to activate the ArtFarm space, as well as their administrative capacity to do so in an efficient, realistic, responsive, sustainable way.

The Artfarm proposal reflects core Somerville values as reflected in Somervision, and also pushes the city forward in a number of exciting new directions. At its core, Artfarm will provide a space to cultivate community, arts, and sustainable urban agriculture. With the requested CPA funding for infrastructure enhancements, Artfarm could become a national model of post-industrial landscape reuse and activation, enabling a range of year-round activities, from performance and community meetings, to



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gardening and education. It will be a key site for incubating new ideas, new kinds of events, and new connections spanning East Somerville, Union Square, and Brickbottom – rippling out to the entire city and Boston area.

The Council has developed the plan for ArtFarm over the past two years, receiving inputs through community meetings with hundreds of Somerville residents, extensive research, and partnerships with local stakeholders and organizations. SAC has already secured two competitive grants for ArtFarm, one from the national ArtPlace America, the second from MassDevelopment. The project’s successful progress to date demonstrate Artfarm’s promise of further uniting culture and development to enhance the livability of Somerville, as well as the leadership of SAC in forging this vision into a productive reality.

Without local money from Somerville itself, though, the project will not be able to achieve its desired effect. The potential of ArtFarm is tremendous; we urge you to evaluate the plan carefully and approve CPA funding as requested.

Sincerely,  
Kelvy Bird (Chair), Matthew Kaliner, and the Board of the Somerville Arts Council.

**From:** Somerville Open Studios Board  
**Received:** March 16, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

We write on behalf of the Somerville Open Studio (SOS) Board, to provide our strongest support for CPA funding for the Somerville Museum ADA Project and the City’s ArtFarm project.

Now in its 19th year, Somerville Open Studios is an annual city-wide celebration of the vibrant and diverse art scene of Somerville. Artists of all genres and career levels open up their studios to the public for the weekend. Somerville’s Open Studios is among the largest such events in United States, opening the doors to 350 or more artists each May, and attracting thousands to the city. We are a group of artists who volunteer all year round, to celebrate art and artists who live and work among us, and support the creative and civic life of Somerville.

The arts have flourished in Somerville in no small part due to the leadership, hard work, and forward thinking of the Somerville Museum and the Somerville Arts Council. Both are crucial incubators of creativity, anchor institutions that work to preserve the cultural vitality of Somerville, while crafting a more inclusive future. However, both organizations need additional funding to meet their potential. The Somerville Museum, one of the great architectural jewels of the city, has consistently been held back from audiences, events, partner organizations, and other opportunities because of its lack of compliance with costly ADA regulations. We at SOS use the Museum as a meeting space throughout the year, and most importantly to host the “First Look” group preview show, where each participating artist can exhibit one piece of art to represent their work. Each year, “First Look” grows into a remarkable collection of art, a social hub, and often the first stop for visitors during the weekend of SOS. What is more, First Look is open for nearly a month (April 23-May 20 this year). There is no other space in Somerville that would allow for an exhibit on this scale, especially one so central and convenient to the city. As an organization determined to make local artists’ work accessible to all, we at SOS are especially



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eager to see the Museum receive the proper funding from CPA to redesign its entrance for people with disabilities and to achieve ADA compliance. The CPA funding would have tremendous spillover effects, not just enhancing the Museum, opening it to previously excluded groups, and allowing SOS to grow our First Look event every spring, but it could ripple out through different organizations and groups that have not been able to use the Museum in the past. The effect on the local arts ecology, and quality of life for Somervillians, could be substantial.

Although SOS largely works independently of the Arts Council, and the Open Studios event itself is distributed city-wide, across hundreds of homes and studios in every neighborhood of the city, we artists and citizens are also keenly aware of the stellar work the Arts Council does, and need for greater arts infrastructure in Somerville, including large anchor institutions. This is clear in regard to the Museum, as described above, but also the Armory and its role as community space for artists who cannot show their art out of their home during the weekend of SOS. And, in the future, this could be true for the ArtFarm. The ArtFarm is a truly visionary project, a nexus of culture, community, development with agriculture. It's a site with year round potential, one that could knit together the city and especially the neighborhoods of Brickbottom, East Somerville, and Union Square, through new kinds of events, programming, and collaborations. Some SOS Artists have already participated in events hosted the nascent ArtFarm, like the successful 2016 Agfest, and are excited to engage with more of this kind of cross-disciplinary, creative, and innovative programming the ArtFarm will unlock. The site needs additional funding to be truly activated, and so we write strongly to support CPA's financial support of this project.

With the CPA's support for both the ArtFarm and the Museum, two of Somerville's great cultural institutions – one quite venerable, one just beginning – will be given a crucial lifeline that will ensure a better and more inclusive future for all. We believe this combination to be an excellent use of CPA funding.

Sincerely,

Hilary Scott (Chair), Stanley Eichner (Vice Chair), Matthew Kaliner, Aram Comjean, Teresa Dovidio, Kolika Chatterjee and the Board of the Somerville Open Studios

**From:** Rebecca, Brian, and Augustin Didier

**Received:** March 16, 2017

Dear Ms. Stelljes,

My family and I live in the Brickbottom Artists Building at 1 Fitchburg Street in Somerville. My husband and I have been here for more than a decade now, and we've raised our son—now eight—in this wonderful, creative, unusual, civically-engaged community. While we acknowledge what some might consider minuses making our home in an industrial area, we still can't imagine living anywhere else. Our son often begs us to promise we will, in fact, ALWAYS live here!

We moved to this building when the Waste Transfer Facility was still alive and active, and we rejoiced in its eventual razing. We have also joined others in our community in hoping to see the proposed ArtFarm eventually replace it. While we embrace the industry around us and actually consider it part of what



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makes our home “home,” we also believe that all in the neighborhood—businesses and residents—would benefit from an area devoted to greenery, growing, and the arts. We also feel that the artists in our building and those in East Somerville and Union Square would benefit from a community space where they can share their work with each other and with others. We would love an open area, free of trash and other detritus, for our son and other children in the area to play in, to explore, and in which to learn about agriculture and the arts.

Please help us usher in a new and exciting period for the Brickbottom area—one where we spend less time picking up garbage others have dumped here, mistakenly thinking of it as a lost world, and more time inviting Somerville and Cambridge and Charlestown to join us below McGrath and across the tracks, in what could be a true oasis for all to enjoy.

Thank you for your consideration and your energy.

Rebecca, Brian, and Augustin Didier, C118A, The Brickbottom Artists Building

**From:** Mini Ann Polumbaum  
**Received:** February 19, 2017

Because there’s a real dearth of independent, repertory movie theaters in our area, it would be really wonderful if a movie theatre could be built at the ArtFarm, that rather than playing all the schlockier films that’re played at the multiplex cinemas that dot the highways & byways of the Bay State, the Boston area, and the United States, in general, it played Classic films, independent films, special films, and that the community at large could have input as to the movies that played at this movie theatre.

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***Blessing of the Bay Boathouse, Mystic River Watershed Association and Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation***

**From:** Emma Schneider  
**Received:** January 30, 2017

Dear Ms. Stelljes,

I am a Somerville resident and volunteer with Groundwork Somerville at WSNS. I am writing to express my support for MyRWA’s application for a CPA project to improve Blessing of the Bay Park. Taking care of our public green spaces is of the utmost importance and MyWRA does an excellent job considering how ecology and environmental justice can work together.

Thank you for your support over the years to preserve and restore our public buildings and parks!

Sincerely,  
Emma Schneider



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MAYOR



**From:** Denise Ichino

**Received:** February 7, 2017

Hi Kristin,

I wanted to write to support the Blessing of the Bay Boathouse park revitalization. It is a beautiful area that is vastly underused by Somervillans -- how many even know there IS waterfront in Somerville? I think the proposal would be a huge improvement over the area as it is now!

Denise

**From:** John Reinhardt

**Received:** February 18, 2017

I am writing as a long time Somerville resident and home -owner to express my strong support for the Mystic River Watershed Association's (MyRWA's) proposal to revitalize and enliven the Blessing of the Bay park. This stretch of the Mystic River is a tremendously underutilized natural resource literally at Somerville's door. MyRWA's proposal is a great first step towards involving Somerville residents in making this space better conform to the Community's needs. This an especially powerful opportunity based on MyRWA's over all perspective on the entire Mystic River stemming from their Mystic Greenways Program.

Thank you for your consideration

**From:** Wesley Tate

**Received:** February 7, 2017

Ms. Stelljes,

Just wanted to take a quick moment to communicate my support for the Mystic River Watershed Associations plans to begin renovation our neighborhood park. I am a current resident of the 10 Hills neighborhood (Bailey Rd) for the past 5 years, am very concerned about the mystic waterway, and have been eagerly awaiting action to improve this park. Currently, it is largely ignored, despite being one of the few green spaces in the entire city of Somerville. The river views and access is obstructed and in the summer, it is often overrun with ragweed, and the space could provide so much more to my community.

This project is especially important to our neighborhood as an environmental offset to the horrendous toxic highway.

Thank you for your consideration and any help may provide towards progress on this important neighborhood initiative!

Very Respectfully,

Wesley Tate



JOSEPH A. CURTATONE  
MAYOR



**From:** Doug Campbell

**Received:** February 7, 2017

Hello,

I'd like to write in favor of the Blessing of the Bay project receiving Community Preservation Act funding. I am in favor of anything that can be done to increase access to the Mystic River and awareness of this resource.

Thank you!

Doug Campbell

391 Broadway Apt 407

Somerville, MA 02145

**From:** Catherine Rizos

**Received:** March 5, 2017

Kristen,

I am writing in support of the Mystic River Watershed Association's proposal for a community-driven redesign of Blessing of the Bay Park. Because green space is so limited in Somerville, I think it's important to preserve and enhance the parks that already exist in the city. One of the most positive things about this project is that the park is open and accessible to all. It will help all Somerville residents enjoy the park and the Mystic River year-round. This project has not received CPA funding before, and I would encourage the City of Somerville to invest in it this year.

Thank you,

Catherine Rizos

1 Woodbine Street

Somerville

**From:** Lucas Rogers

**Received:** February 7, 2017

Dear Ms. Stelljes,

I understand the City is taking comments on a proposed CPA funded improvement project to the park land surrounding the Blessing of the Bay. See

[http://archive.somervillema.gov/sites/default/files/Blessing%20of%20the%20Park%20Park\\_MyRWA.pdf](http://archive.somervillema.gov/sites/default/files/Blessing%20of%20the%20Park%20Park_MyRWA.pdf)

and [http://archive.somervillema.gov/sites/default/files/EDF%20form\\_Blessing%20of%20the%20Bay.pdf](http://archive.somervillema.gov/sites/default/files/EDF%20form_Blessing%20of%20the%20Bay.pdf)

I respectfully make the following comments:



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Somerville CPA



1. Use native plantings suitable to a waterfront location. Use wetland species where appropriate. Replace lawn with native wildflower meadows. Native plantings will improve water quality, be lower maintenance in the long term, create habitat, act as a carbon sink, create learning opportunities for youth and adults, and be incredibly beautiful.
2. Minimize the use of asphalt, rubber, astro-turf and other excessive hardscaping. Do not over-build the space. Allow it to be a respite from the City. Create welcoming spaces using the landscape itself, and "soft" features such as plantings and natural banks. Use peastone or gravel for paths wherever feasible.
4. Provide and maintain shaded areas, in particular through the use of existing trees and new native shade trees.
5. Be judicious in cutting trees and brush to create views. A little goes a long way.
6. Encourage pedestrian and bicycle links to the area. Install Hubway, to allow persons to reach the park without cars. A fantastic Hubway link could be made between the new Assembly Square Mall Orange Line Station and Blessing of the Bay. Resist the temptation to cover our precious parkland with additional parking.
7. Keep the park cool, and mitigate the urban heat island effect, by following recommendations 1 through 6 above. Climate change is here, and it will hit cities hard.

Thank you!

Lucas Rogers  
11 Westwood Road  
Somerville, MA 02143  
617-283-6407

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***Butterfly Garden Pocket Park at Morse Kelly, City of Somerville Parks & Open Space and Green & Open Somerville***

**From:** Brendan Shea

**Received:** January 11, 2017

I just learned about the proposed butterfly garden proposed for 259 Lowell Street and while I can't attend tonight's hearing, I wanted to voice my strong support of such an endeavor.



JOSEPH A. CURTATONE  
MAYOR



Low cost and impactful projects like this are what the city needs! I love Somerville, live here, run a business that employees 18 people here, but wish we had more green space! This is a start and I hope to see more initiatives like this in the future!

Regards,

Brendan Shea  
72 Church Street resident

**From:** Ben Ewen-Campen  
**Received:** January 20, 2017

Dear Ms. Stelljes,

I'm writing to offer my enthusiastic support for the creation of the Butterfly Garden Pocket Park proposal on the Summer Street side of Morse Kelly Park. I've lived around Wards 2 + 3 for nearly a decade, and love the idea of a park built for and by the local community. I'm particularly excited about the idea of it focusing on pollinators and local ecosystems, something I can deeply about, and think would be wonderful for people of all ages to enjoy.

I'd be more than happy to volunteer for the park's installation, and would be happy to talk more about this at any time.

Thanks very much,  
Ben Ewen-Campen

**From:** Alderman Dennis Sullivan  
**Received:** January 24, 2017

Dear Community Preservation Act Committee:

I write in support of the butterfly garden pocket park on the Summer Street side of Morse Kelly Playground. The applicants seek to take an underutilized space and turn it into a functioning ecosystem sanctuary for butterflies, bees, insects, birds and people. Somerville is in severe need of this type of space. The benefits of this project will be a real asset to the city.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dennis Sullivan



JOSEPH A. CURTATONE  
MAYOR



**From:** Jacob Kramer

**Received:** January 24, 2017

Dear Kristen Stelljes,

I'm writing with a brief note of support for the Butterfly Garden Pocket Park at Morse Kelly-- I've taken the opportunity to review the proposal. It seems thoroughly considered and worthwhile. I used to live on that block, and I would love to see the space be more diverse and inviting to our local pollinators.

Best,

Jacob Kramer  
8 Quincy St.  
Somerville, MA

**From:** Anna Fialkoff

**Received:** March 5, 2017

Dear Michael,

I'd like to recommend David Falk as a designer for the Summer Street Pocket Park. I'm a horticulturist at Garden in the Woods in Framingham, MA, part of New England Wild Flower Society. I've been working with David for two plus years and feel confident in his growing knowledge of the New England flora and his application of that knowledge in horticultural settings. According to the site conditions David described to me, a south-facing slope with dry compacted soils, his plant list looks thorough and well-thought-out for the Summer Street Pocket Park. Purple-love grass is a beautiful warm-season grass that thrives in highway margins and other hot, dry, compacted soils. New England blazing star is a show-stopping native with a deep root system, and can adapt to a variety of conditions. Yellow wild indigo and lupine also have deep roots systems and grow naturally on the coastal sandplain of Massachusetts, so they are tough, yet charming plants that can go with little water for long stretches. Lastly, bayberry is perhaps a more well-known plant in the industry and is used in shopping center parking lot islands and roadside plantings for its salt-tolerance and shining foliage year-round. I would be happy to speak with you more about many of the other plants on David's list and qualifications for this project. Please feel free to contact me in the future.

Best,

Anna

[afialkoff@newenglandwild.org](mailto:afialkoff@newenglandwild.org)

(508) 877-7630 X3404

Horticulturist

New England Wild Flower Society



JOSEPH A. CURTATONE  
MAYOR



**From:** Dan Jaffe

**Received:** March 3, 2017

To whom it may concern,

After reviewing the list of plants put together by David Falk for the Summer Street Pocket Park site in Somerville, MA I would be hard pressed to put together a better list of species that could tolerate the conditions present. David explained that the site is south-facing, sloped and urban which often translates to very sunny, dry, and potentially compacted. A number of the plants on his list are ones that are grown often on roadsides and highway medians specifically because of these site conditions (*Eragrostis spectabilis* and *Schizachyrium scoparium*), while other species are common species in coastal environments where they deal with sand and salt spray regularly (*Lupinus perennis* and *Baptisia tinctoria*). Additionally, he's included species that are often chosen for parking lot islands such as bayberry (*Morella caroliniensis*) and summer sweet (*Clethra alnifolia*). I was recently up in Maine collecting seed off of a population of *Solidago puberula* which was growing out of pure sand on a roadside over a bridge, there is not a plant on the list that I would not recommend for the site conditions present.

I've worked with David for the past few years now and have complete confidence in his abilities as a landscape designer, I constantly find myself recommending him for work of this sort. With good establishment practices, there is no reason to think that this plant list would not succeed on the site.

Dan Jaffe  
Propagator and Stock Beds Grower  
New England Wild Flower Society

**From:** Mandy DeBurro

**Received:** March 4, 2017

Hi,

I wanted to let you know I support the Butterfly garden. Using our space to create natural biodiversity is important to me! Let's continue to be a leader in creating space that supports all.

Thank you for keeping this garden on a list of priorities for funding.

Regards,

Mandy DeBurro  
Somerville Resident  
Prospect Hill



JOSEPH A. CURTATONE  
MAYOR

# Somerville CPA



**From:** Katherine Martin Widmer

**Received:** March 7, 2017

I support the butterfly garden and hope you will prioritize this wonderful idea.

Thank you,  
Katherine Martin Widmer

**From:** Melissa Lowitz

**Received:** March 16, 2017

Hi Kristen,

My name is Melissa Lowitz, I'm a Somerville resident and member of Somerville Climate Action. I'm writing you in support of the Butterfly Garden Pocket Park at Morse Kelly project that is being considered for CPA funding this year by the city of Somerville. This project is a great starting point to encourage more native plant gardens that can create more biodiversity in the city while serving as an educational space as well. The space being proposed is underused so this is a great opportunity to put this space to use creating a more aesthetically, biologically and educationally pleasing area for animals and people.

The cost for this project is so minimal, so I hope the city can find the money to fund it so that it can spark more opportunities for similar projects in the future. I'm also interested in volunteering to help plant this garden if it goes forward.

Sincerely,  
Melissa Lowitz  
Somerville Climate Action

**From:** John Jorgenson

**Received:** March 16, 2017

As a resident of Spring Hill Terrace and avid walker, the Butterfly Pocket Park on Morse Kelley Playground is appealing. I pass by there everyday and think what a waste of space.

That this area could become a beautiful natural space with native plants is inspiring to me as an artist and as an environmentalist.

Please vote to fund this project.

Thanks,  
John Jorgenson



JOSEPH A. CURTATONE  
MAYOR



**From:** Fenna Krienen

**Received:** January 25, 2017

Hi! I am a Somerville resident (Ward 3, Vinal Ave) and I want to voice my support for this effort. I love our parks and want to see more of them, especially when it is a community led effort!

Best wishes,  
Fenna Krienen

***Community Growing Center, Friends of the Community Growing Center***

**From:** Michelle de Lima

**Received:** January 23, 2017

Hi Kristen,

I am writing to support the SCGC's application for CPA funds. The Growing Center is a wonderful community resource that has served the city of Somerville for many years. The Friends of SCGC have demonstrated their ability to effectively and efficiently use resources to create a welcoming and beautiful space for residents to use and enjoy in myriad ways.

CPA funds would allow the Growing Center to make needed changes to infrastructure and layout to ensure that the Center remains a safe, functional, and vibrant place. The amendment to the application requesting funds to hire a landscape architect is a wise move that will guarantee that the redesign follows best practices and is in compliance with city regulations.

Thank you for considering the SCGC's application and for all the work you're doing to preserve open space in Somerville.

Sincerely,  
Michelle de Lima

**From:** Lauren Bell

**Received:** February 13, 2017

Hello,

Regarding the Somerville Community Growing Center, I'd like to say that this valuable community resource is one that we've treasured for over 9 years. Our relationship began as a recreational opportunity to make friends in the community among those with very small children, at the popular Friday drop in playgroup. Over the years it has changed and evolved in so many ways; participating in the children's programming offered (including The Teddy Bear Picnic and Fairies in the Garden), offering my own programming (such as the Potluck Halloween and various homeschool meetups and classes),



JOSEPH A. CURTATONE  
MAYOR



and attending events like yoga classes and musical concerts. Many of the events held there are very anticipated, like the maple syrup boil down. My children and I highly value time spent there, and we've cultivated a community over the years. One of the amazing aspects of the vibrant offerings at the Growing Center is that they are provided through many hours of volunteer help. It provides a great opportunity for community service in Somerville, too.

We hope the city will support their FY17 application for CPA funding. We want the site to have access to necessary improvements and upgrades so that it continues to be a safe and welcoming green space for many years to come.

Thank you,  
Lauren Bell  
8 Madison St

**From:** Jacob Kramer  
**Received:** March 16, 2017

As a volunteer with the Community Growing Center, I'd like to voice my support for their project proposal.

Somerville suffers from a lack of green space, and though the Growing Center is a wonderful place, access is currently limited to general public because of certain hazards. It is also inaccessible to people with mobility issues. I'm in support of the renovations, and encourage the CPA to fully fund the proposal.

Sincerely,  
Jacob Kramer  
8 Quincy St. #2  
Somerville, MA 02143

**From:** Erin Hasley  
**Received:** March 16, 2017

Dear Kristen Stelljes,

Just writing to add to the voices of support, for the Somerville Community Growing Center. My band (so+so) and I love to host an afternoon of music at the Growing Center, and we have enjoyed doing so since 2007.



JOSEPH A. CURTATONE  
MAYOR



I participated in one of the focus groups for the site upgrade/renovation, and it is good to know that the future of the Growing Center is being planned very conscientiously, for all to enjoy.

Sincerely,  
Erin

**From:** Liza Kitchell

**Received:** March 16, 2017

To the CPA Board:

I would like to express my enthusiastic support for the Somerville Community Growing Center's grant application for 2017. The changes that are in the planning stages for the Growing Center are much needed, and will make the space so much more dynamic and useful to the community. I am very excited about the changes that are taking place, and I ardently hope that the CPA board will approve the next stage in planning for the Growing Center.

As a somerville resident, the Growing Center has a special place in my life. I have been involved with the Growing Center for more than 17 years. I first encountered the Growing Center as the mother of a one year old. It reminded me of a garden that I used to play in as a child, and seeing the garden made me want a similar experience for my own daughter. I became a volunteer (very easy!) and began hosting our mom's groups there. It was lovely just sharing the space with other parents and small children.

Over the years I have continued to participate as a volunteer, helping to keep up maintenance of the garden and also hosting events (to insure that the garden is open to the community). I have volunteered for spring and summer children's camps so that kids could use the garden and experience more outdoor play throughout the year. I have hosted camp-outs (where we saw bats!). I directed a children's theater program, *Wild Tales*, for two years at the Growing Center. The kids in the program wrote original plays and then performed them in the garden. I still co-direct one of our annual fundraisers, "Fairies in the Garden," where I help families make magical wands and fairy houses. I also have hosted sing-alongs, open to the public, for many years. This year, I was awarded a SAC grant to create a more vibrant music program at the Growing Center, and we are now launching our new Summer Song Series in June with a Spanish language family-fun day, *MusiFiesta!*

The Growing Center is a busy place! People are learning, first hand, about urban farming skills, bees, composting, soil. There are cultural events from March through October. But most important, I feel, is the unstructured play that I see children engaging in when they're at the Growing Center. I love the joy I see when children climb trees, crawl around in the bushes, jump off of walls, peer in the (now-defunct) pond, and basically just run around and have fun.

It's what the place is all about.



JOSEPH A. CURTATONE  
MAYOR



What all of this proves to me is that the Growing Center is used a lot by the community - and it is starting to show its age and wear. So in order to serve the next generation - millennials, families, seniors - we need to take care of the Growing Center. Wonderful plans are in place to redesign it. This next stage in the redesign would help the Growing Center get much closer to that goal of securing the garden for the community for the next twenty years!

Please fund the Somerville Community Growing Center's grant application! Thanks!

Sincerely,  
Liza Kitchell

**From:** Helen Snively  
**Received:** February 14, 2017

Dear Ms. Stelljes,

I just want to send a line of endorsement for the Somerville Growing Center application. Though I live on the Cambridge side of Inman Square, I've known Lisa B for at least 20 years and have been involved in many garden-related activities with her and others at the center. I've seen them put on dozens of great little programs and support 100s of kids and adults in learning more about nature, climate, bees, compost. you name it. They are an important force for educating the community about all those topics, and for continuing to build community in a time when we all need it.

Now they seem to have a great plan for renovating and solidifying their work. I hope the city can find the funds to support them.

That's all.. just one more strong endorsement..

Helen Snively

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***Healey Schoolyard Design, City of Somerville Parks and Open Space***

**From:** Sandra Janiluinas  
**Received:** March 13, 2017

Hello Ms. Stelljes,

I am a parent of two children at the Healey School and also a life long resident. I support the School Yard Landscape Design project. I strongly feel that the neighborhood and school community deserves green space and recreation resources equal to the rest of the City. The Healey Mystic Master Plan provides the right vision for that area and our children would benefit greatly from having a green space in that school community!!



JOSEPH A. CURTATONE  
MAYOR



Your support would be greatly appreciated!!

Thank you.

Sandra Janiluinas

**From:** Megan Knottingham

**Received:** March 12, 2017

Hi Kristen,

I hope you had a good weekend. I just wanted to send a quick note to make sure that Somerville teachers are represented during decisions surrounding the Healey School Yard Landscape Design project. This is my third year doing the third/fourth grade loop at the Healey School. Our students and the nearby community need a green space and play areas, the type of which are more available in the rest of the city. Our huge expanse of flat asphalt does not provide the necessary opportunities for our students to play as they deserve. I look forward to a date in the next few years during which recess is more joyful and active, and the residents of the Mystic, Winter Hill, and the Ten Hills neighborhoods can come together in a beautiful recreation space. The Healey Mystic Master Plan provides the right vision for the area.

Thank you so much for your time,

Megan Knottingham  
Third Grade Teacher  
Arthur D. Healey School

**From:** Beth Bernstein

**Received:** March 12, 2017

As a long term staff member at the Healey (20 years!), I support the School Yard Landscape Design project. I believe that neighborhood and school community deserve greenspace and recreation resources equal to the rest of the City. Significant consultation and collaboration have been invested in developing the Healey Mystic Master Plan. I believe that it provides the right vision for the area. Please continue to support this s project! The success and wellbeing of our students and community are counting on it!!

Beth Bernstein



JOSEPH A. CURTATONE  
MAYOR



**From:** Albert Dvornik

**Received:** March 12, 2017

Hi Kristen!

As a Somerville resident and a Healey School parent, I support the School Yard Landscape Design project, and I hope that the Healey Mystic Master Plan Phase II design will continue to be a priority for funding from the Community Preservation Act.

I believe that the continuation of funding will be greatly beneficial not just to the school community but to the neighborhood at large, which is lacking in quality green space. In the longer term, this fits with the broader vision of the Healey Mystic Master Plan, which I also support and believe in.

Albert Dvornik

Ward 6

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--bert

**From:** Rebecca Grunko

**Received:** March 12, 2017

I am a teacher and parent at the Healey School and I support the plan because I feel that the whole community could benefit from better green space and recreational space. I feel that the Conversation Fund money would be well used for this purpose.

Rebecca Grunko

ESL Specialist, parent of a 5th grader

**From:** Kat Rutkin

**Received:** March 12, 2017

To whom it may concern:

I support and the School Yard Landscape Design project. I am a parent at the Healey and a neighborhood resident. I believe that neighborhood and school community deserve green space and recreation resources and that the Healey Mystic Master Plan provides ta start to a needed greening of a neglected corner of the city.

Sincerely,

Kat Rutkin, neighborhood resident and parent to Healey K student



JOSEPH A. CURTATONE  
MAYOR



**From:** Mike Chmielewski  
**Received:** March 13, 2017

Hi,

I am a parent of a 3rd-grader (and hopefully an incoming kindergartner), and I support all the efforts to redesign the Healey backlot and the cliff down to the Mystic Apartments. Quite honestly it is currently a mess of blacktop and concrete. Renovating it to add green space would help smoothly link the school to a large part of its community, as well as providing additional fields for the larger Somerville community.

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Mike Chmielewski  
[mikec@123mail.org](mailto:mikec@123mail.org)

**From:** Sabrina Jannuzzi  
**Received:** March 13, 2017

I support the Healey School yard project. I am a parent at the Healy and would like to see [end of message].

Thank you Kristen half of my message was left off. I think the project will be great for the Healy community because the rest of the some of the schools have wonderful play areas and green space.

**From:** Donene Williams  
**Received:** March 13, 2017

Good afternoon,

This is a quick note to express my support for the School Yard Landscape Design project. I'm the parent of a former Healey student, and we maintain deep connections to the school and neighborhood. I'm excited about the vision for improved green and recreation space envisioned in the Healey Mystic Master Plan.

Donene Williams  
17 Cedar St.  
Ward 5  
617-429-5132



JOSEPH A. CURTATONE  
MAYOR



**From:** Luke Miratrix

**Received:** March 14, 2017

I wanted to write with a bit of support for the Mystic River master plan and that entire vision. As Somerville grows and changes, I think it is really important to make sure that our pre-existing communities, especially given that the Healey school serves some of our more impoverished communities, are part of the overall picture. The master plan ensures that all people of Somerville have access to green space and recreational resources of quality.

I am a parent of two children at Healey, but I support the plan more for the larger community that lives in this area than for my kids in particular

- Luke Miratrix

**From:** Dave Zraket

**Received:** March 13, 2017

Hello Ms. Stelljes,

I'm writing to express my support for the Healey School Yard Landscape Design project. I am a parent at the Healey. I believe that neighborhood and school community deserve greenspace and recreation resources equal to the rest of the City and that the Healey Mystic Master Plan provides the right vision for the area.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dave Zraket  
25 Kingston St

**From:** Kevin Andrew

**Received:** March 16, 2017

Greetings Kristen!

I support the School Yard Landscape Design project. I am father of two students (ages 13 and 11) attending the Healey. Neighborhood and school community deserve greenspace and recreation resources. The Healey Mystic Master Plan provides the right vision for the area. Please call or write if you require additional feedback. Enjoy your day!

Kevin Andrew  
617-504-2387