

## **Pathways: Art at the Water Street Bridge**

Fitchburg Cultural Alliance, Fitchburg, MA

Mary Chapin Durling and Gillian Christy

### **What does your artist need?**

1. Money
  - a. Amount in hand
  - b. Will fundraising be required of the artist
2. Clearly defined budget
  - a. Does the money include site demo
  - b. Lighting
  - c. Plaque
3. Expectations
  - a. Defined in Contract
  - b. Contract with milestones
  - c. Contract with payment schedule
4. Facilitate meeting
  - a. Stake holders
  - b. Community groups
5. Trust
  - a. Space for artist to create
  - b. Time for artist to fabricate

### **What does your project need?**

1. Spend time with your dream; then the practicality and capticty to execute and accomplish it
2. Develop a “people/work plan”—and assign point people
  - a. Activities
  - b. Volunteers
  - c. Legislators & city officials
  - d. Grant writing
3. Develop a “money” plan
  - a. Project budget
  - b. Local funds
  - c. Grants
4. Cast your engagement net wide
  - a. Involve city councilors
  - b. Involve DPW (or equivalent)
5. Feed your artist; feed your community
6. Expect a rocky path
7. Be nimble—there is always a solution

The timeline specifics and details:

Jan. 2007	\$ awarded Adams grant
Fall 2008	\$ applied and awarded NEFA Northern New England Public Art grant
Fall 2008	NFA: call to artists; submission; collation sent to collaborators
Feb. 2009	community panel convenes and selects Gillian Christy
Spring 2009	Gillian accepts
May 2009	Gillian's introduction to the community and FCA
June 2009	a. visioning session with Fitchburg Arts Academy middle school students b. research and conversation at the Historical Society c. conversation and meal with FCA members and community d. trolley tour of downtown
Aug. 2009	Day at the Bridge: conversation about the project, public art and the meaning of Fitchburg with those who use the Water Street Bridge as part of their daily life. Not necessarily arts consumers.
Fall 2009	a. <i>Art &amp; Community</i> talk as part of CenterStage at Fitchburg State University: presentation of Gillian's artistic process to FS students and general community b. Gallery Exhibition: <i>Sculptures In &amp; Out</i> . As part of CenterStage's art gallery exhibitions, Gillian's work was in the gallery and installed on the campus Quad.
Oct. 2009	Forge-In Day: blacksmith festival—general conversation, gathering ideas and comments from the community.
fall 2009	ARRA funds application
Dec. 2009	presentation of design
Jan. 2010	\$\$ ARRA funds awarded
Winter 2010	DOT derailment: presentations, meetings, conversations, applications, denials and decisions
Winter 2010	new site visioning and conversations
Spring 2010	first meeting of collaborators with DeMoulas representative
Spring 2010	first meeting with Gillian and DeMoulas at site
Spring 2010	presentation of design #2
Spring 2010	next phase: request to install on DeMoulas' property; contract; FCA ownership/gifting issue and legal ramifications
Summer 2010	\$ DeMoulas contribution secured
Summer 2010	Fabrication begins at Gillian's studio Fitchburg State intern works with Gillian Fitchburg photographer documents work
Sept. 2010	City Council issues: gifting to the city; process through committees
Sept. 2010	site work begins: brick pad laid
Oct. 2010	presentation of sculpture to City Council by Gillian with collaborators
Oct. 2010	Forge-In Day: conversation and dissemination of installation and ribbon-cutting
Oct. 2010	installation: City Council and interested community members become hands-on participants in the installation
Nov. 2010	Ribbon-cutting: funders, legislators, mayor, councilors, FCA and community members attend ribbon-cutting in a torrential down pouring First Thursday event