



City of Cambridge

Executive Department

YI-AN HUANG
City Manager

CMA 2026-271
IN CITY COUNCIL
September 28, 2026

To the Honorable, the City Council:

After nearly 27 years of public service, Jason Weeks, Executive Director of the Cambridge Arts Department, will retire at the end of October to take on a new role with the Artists Association of Nantucket. This transition marks the culmination of a remarkable career that has significantly shaped the cultural landscape of Cambridge.

Since joining the city in 2000 and stepping into the Executive Director role in 2001, Jason has been a driving force behind Cambridge's artistic growth and national reputation for innovative civic arts. His leadership has expanded the City's public art portfolio, strengthened support for local artists and arts organizations, and elevated community-based cultural programming. Signature initiatives include Cambridge Open Studios, Sidewalk Poetry, and the Central Square Cultural District. Most recently, Cambridge Porchfest has reflected Jason's dedication to creative expression, civic participation, and public engagement. Under Jason's leadership, Cambridge Arts was recognized with the MA Commonwealth Award, the state's highest honor in the arts. His contributions have left an enduring impact on the artistic identity of our city.

As we celebrate Jason's accomplishments, we are also committed to ensuring continuity during this transition. Claudia Zarazua, Director of Arts & Cultural Planning in the Community Development Department, will serve as Interim Executive Director of Cambridge Arts while we begin the search process. Claudia brings extensive experience in cultural planning, artist development, and public art strategy and has been an integral partner in advancing major projects across departments.

Per the new City Charter (Section 2-8), prior to posting and conducting the search process for the permanent position, I am available to meet with the Council to discuss City Council's priorities for the department and desirable qualifications and qualities of candidates for the position. The Council can discuss at this meeting, or I recommend referring this discussion to the Government Operations, Rules and Claims Committee or the Neighborhood and Long Term Planning, Public Facilities, Arts, And Celebrations Committee.

Please join me in recognizing Jason's exceptional service to Cambridge and in congratulating him as he embarks on this exciting new chapter.

Very truly yours,

Yi-An Huang
City Manager

