



Greening Communities by Design!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 3, 2009

Contact: Lucia Droby

E-mail: info@cogdesign.org

Phone: 781-642-6662

COGdesign Awarded 3-Year Grant from Mass Cultural Council

Waltham, MA -- The Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) has awarded a three-year Operating Support grant to the Waltham-based nonprofit organization Community Outreach Group for Landscape Design (COGdesign). These grants are awarded to organizations with track records of excellence and community service.

The MCC's reviewing panel of distinguished institutional leaders gave high ratings to COGdesign's "commendable mission for stewardship of useful public green spaces." The panel also cited "the clear evidence of benefit to diverse communities as well as COGdesign's impressive scope of work."

COGdesign coordinates the efforts of pro bono landscape designers with community volunteers who are involved at each stage of design planning and implementation. "The Mass Cultural Council grant is a validation of the importance of attractive, healthy green spaces in underserved communities," said COGdesign Executive Director Lucia Droby, "and this grant will support our strategic plan for growth in the coming years."

Waltham groups benefiting from the efforts of COGdesign's participating landscape professionals and students include the Philosophy Foundation, the Espousal Center, and the Waverley Place Greenhouse program on the grounds of the UMass Extension Service facility.

In Newton, COG designers have provided landscape design planning for the Carroll Center for the Blind, the Fran Hintsa Memorial Garden, the Newton Center Playground, Washington Park, the Wilde Rd. traffic island, and a master plan for Albemarle Park.

In addition to these local projects, COGdesign has completed more than 70 landscape design projects in eastern Massachusetts, partnering with public and private schools, neighborhood parks, Friends groups, churches, municipal agencies, historic sites, and community gardens.

For more information about COGdesign, please visit the web site at www.cogdesign.org.

The Massachusetts Cultural Council promotes excellence, access, education and diversity in the arts, humanities and interpretive sciences to improve the quality of life for all Massachusetts residents and contribute to the economic vitality of our communities. www.massculturalcouncil.org

