

# MEMORIAL INFORMATION

## The Story of the Boston Women's Memorial

**1994-1996:** In May of 1994, the Task Force announces the selection of the subjects of the memorial: Correspondent Abigail Adams, Publisher Lucy Stone and Poet Phillis Wheatley. These three women share a strong Boston identity, a place in national history, a passion for social justice, and the ability to inspire and impact people through the written word. The Boston Landmarks Commission and The Boston Parks Commission grant conceptual approval. The site located on the historical Commonwealth Avenue Mall is reserved. With initial funding from the Edward Ingersoll Browne Fund of the City of Boston, UrbanArts, Inc. is hired as the Public Art Consultant for the project to facilitate the artist selection process.

**1997:** The work of the Task Force is complete- they have determined feasibility, explored initial logistics, and chosen the subjects. The Boston Women's Memorial Site Committee is formed. The Site Committee, retaining many of the members of the original Task Force, expands to include residents of the Back Bay, business representatives, and individuals with knowledge of the history and cultural traditions of the area. The Site Committee is responsible for setting the criteria for the artist, selecting the appropriate site on the Fairfield to Gloucester block of the Mall, and serving as the liaison with the community during the artist selection process.

**1998:** Using UrbanArts artist selection process, the ideas and thoughts of the community are intertwined with the rigorous process guided by the professionals on the Artists Panel. The Panel narrows the search for an artists to five finalists who are asked to create final models for presentation to the Panel and the Site Committee. In July of 1998, artist Meredith Bergmann is chosen by the Panel to create the Boston Women's Memorial. Final approval granted by the Boston Art Commission in December.

**1999:** The Committee focuses on securing the \$425,000 necessary to create, install, and maintain the Boston Women's Memorial- \$385,000 to create the sculpture with the additional funds used to create an educational program and endow the Memorial. The Committee begins to formulate the educational component in collaboration with the Boston Public Schools and The Boston Women's Heritage Trail. A video with an independent producer is planned.

**2000:** A generous gift from the Barbara Lee Family Foundation and other donors allows the artist to begin her work. The Boston Women's Memorial Committee focuses its work on a benefit planned for March 9, 2000, to raise funds and awareness of the memorial.

**2001-2003:** Bergmann's work on the Memorial continues. The sculptures are reviewed and approved by a panel of historians, artists, and various professionals at all stages of each statue's metamorphosis. With funding from an anonymous donor, the Boston Women's Heritage Trails develops a curriculum to support the Boston Women's Memorial. Curriculum materials include: background information about the Memorial and its three subjects, additional information about the Memorial and its three subjects, additional information about Boston's history and other important women who were contemporaries of the subjects, primary source materials for classroom activities, reproducible activities for teacher use, and an extensive resource manual for expanded classroom teaching opportunities. The pilot curriculum is introduced in the Boston Public Schools by teachers at all levels. The Memorial is dedicated on October 25th!

## Visit the Memorial

Exit Emmanuel Church to the right, walking down Newbury Street away from the Public Garden. Turn right onto Fairfield Street, and then left on Commonwealth Avenue. The Boston Women's Memorial is located in the center of the path, in between Fairfield and Gloucester.