



Ruthanne Fuller  
Mayor

## City of Newton, Massachusetts

Newton Historical Commission

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Peter Dimond Chairman

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Barney Heath  
Director

January 10, 2022

Dan Brody, Chairman  
Newton Community Preservation Committee  
Planning & Development Department  
1000 Commonwealth Avenue  
Newton Centre, MA 02459

Re: New Art Center/Church of the Open Word Proposal

Dear Chairman Brody,

At its January 4, 2022 meeting, the Newton Historical Commission voted to support the request of the New Art Center for CPA funding to explore the potential use of the historic buildings of the Church of the Open Word on Highland Avenue as the Art Center's new home.

The Commission views the property, historically known as the Swedenborgian Church, as an important part of the Newtonville National Register Historic District, and enthusiastically considers the New Art Center's project as an important step in restoring and renovating the historic church and parish house. Key to our support is that the stone buildings, constructed in 1888-1893, were designed by the well-known architecture firm of Cram and Wentworth, have significant architectural character-defining features, and are an important part of Newtonville's history.

The Newton Historical Commission is proud to endorse the potential restoration of this important historic property. Please contact us if you have questions.

With all best wishes,

Peter Dimond  
Chairman, Newton Historical Commission

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