

*2009 Fitchburg
Downtown Paint-In*



*Preserving A Sense of
Place*

*"Crocker Field Through the
Eyes of the Artist"*

Welcome

The 3rd Annual Downtown Paint-In took place between Saturday, June 6 - Saturday, June 13 at Crocker Field. Twenty-three juried artists captured the landscape and architecture designed by the Olmsted Brothers of Brookline, sons of Frederick Law Olmsted, who designed Central Park in New York and the Emerald Necklace in Boston.

Crocker Field was presented to the City of Fitchburg by Alvah T. Crocker in 1918. In a letter dated January 1, 1917 to the Mayor and City Council, Mr. Crocker expressed in part the following:

"Gentlemen:

In my opinion the public schools of the city require an adequate field in which the different out-of-door sports and contests, which count so much in the physical and moral development of our boys, can be held.

The importance of thorough training in baseball, football and other athletic sports is well recognized, and I feel that what can be done to make such training popular as well as more perfect, will be of great benefit to our public spirit and civic unity."

For ninety-one years Crocker Field has seen thousands of boys and girls participating in a variety of sports in this magnificent stadium. In 2001 Crocker Field was designated the *Crocker Field Historic District* and enrolled in the National Register of Historic Places.

We celebrate the talent shared by the artists, as they capture the unique landscape and architecture designed by the Olmsted Brothers in 1917.

Jennifer Jones
President"
Fitchburg Cultural Alliance

Ellen M. DiGeronimo
Paint-In Coordinator"
Fitchburg Cultural Alliance



Gail Bloom

Gates Open

"I feel the yearly Fitchburg Paint-In is a wonderful way to get in touch with the ghosts of the past; their hopes, dreams, and aspirations. Being at Crocker Field was similar to being on a spiritual retreat. It was a great exercise in remembering, appreciating, and honoring its history."

Ann Capodagli

Steps to Fame

"The moment one walks through the heavy iron gates of Crocker Field, you know you are in a special place...you just sense and feel it. The images of past events and the memories they created are still here, and linger in the air. The field house has seen them all, and within its walls preserves them. It was a wonderful experience painting at the site, where so many have climbed the "Steps to Fame."



Keith Chenot
Grand Stand

"Crocker Field itself is a work of art, nestled next to the river. Getting to experience it as a subject of art has been a great pleasure."

Andrienne Clark

A Woodchuck at Crocker Field

"This year I chose a particularly challenging subject, which only allowed me one fleeting moment before it disappeared from view. The woodchuck that emerged unexpectedly from a hole on the banking between the field house and the tennis court completely surprised me, as I was preparing to photograph the roots of a birch tree. The Paint-In renewed my connection to art and Nature..and renewed my spirit."





Bob Cole *Crocker Air*

"Once again the Paint-In has expanded my knowledge about the City of Fitchburg. The view of Crocker Field from "Google Earth" provided the inspiration for my painting. I was reminded of Fenway Park, as they both share the same vintage.



Sharon Koski

Field House-View from Nashua



The Stadium

"Initially I wondered if Crocker Field would inspire me to paint..but, upon arriving , I found many paintings evolving in my mind's eye. The Field House was most compelling. Crocker Field is a jewel in the City of Fitchburg....rich in architectural detail.



Linda M. Lapham
Touchdown

"While painting this picture, I became aware of the many young men, who, over the years, had stood where I was, with the intent of reaching the goal post. May they all be victorious on this wonderfulfield.....Go Fitchburg!"

Juan C. Leon
Crocker Field

"The Crocker Field Paint-In was my first experience painting with other artists...a good experience! I am beginning to realize that Fitchburg is a small city, rich in history and culture.





Debra Hughes Luoma

Keeping on Track

"The tapestry of rich greens and vibrant reds of Crocker Field was inspiration for my painting. I wanted to portray the scope of the field and manicured grounds with its beautiful park-like feeling. Despite the rain, Crocker Field was alive with activity people walking and school children coming to play games. I discovered that Crocker Field is truly an oasis in downtown Fitchburg."

Lori MacDonald

Running in Palce

"My artist-heart was captivated with the potential of multiple paintings from this location. It

wasn't difficult to picture the field alive with athletes and cheering crowds. I was drawn to a cluster of slender tree trunks belonging to a tall well-manicured shrub near the running track...amused by their form and position. They appeared to be running in place! How appropriate! My painting came to life along with this lyrical verse::



A tangle of eager limbs, waiting to be set free....Watching as they run their race.

A victory by One; cheers for the Champion...humankind, rejoice! The forerunner has gone before; Follow Him. One day, freedom! Through the lens of Roma."



Priscilla Mavrikis-Walkerns Crocker Field House. 25 Circle Street 8:19-21)

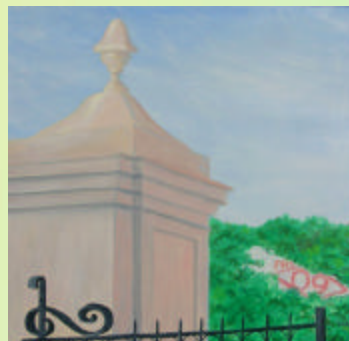
"Despite the rain, I truly enjoyed every moment. Crocker Field is extremely beautiful. From the lush green grass, to the circular iron stairs, to the beauty in the background, I was given the opportunity to create several scenes, but chose the scene of the Field House from Circle Street as my entry. It was very nice to be reminded of the treasures from Fitchburg past. Painting the rock (Rollstone Hill) has become a true Fitchburg High School tradition!"

Martha Needham

Classs of '09

"We had a bit too much rain, but on a sunny day, Crocker Field was lovely. It was very nice to be reminded of the treasures from Fitchburg's past.

Painting the rock (Rollstone Hill) has become a true Fitchburg High School tradition!"



Scott Niemi"

Crocker Field Motiff #1

"Returning to Crocker Field brought back memories of graduations, gym classes and tennis matches. Standing there, I realized how much my life had changed. Painting wasn't a part of my life in those days. After several trips around the track and grounds, I knew I wanted to do something that expressed the landscape, as well as the athletic field. I chose a viewpoint up on a knoll, overlooking part of the field and looking towards downtown Fitchburg. What an enjoyable re-acquaintance with the past!"



Carol Panek-Clark
The Old Ones

"My time was limited this year for painting, but when at Crocker Field, I learned that is a treasure."

Lionel Reinford Crocker Field

"Crocker Field is very stimulating. It compelled me to capture the whole field, the setting, the architecture and the sense of competition. As a resident and a former teacher, it was an honor to celebrate Crocker Field."



J. Marilyn Romano
Memories at Crocker Field 2009

"As a participant in this rewarding experience, I was reminded that for almost one hundred years my family has been enjoying the amenities of Crocker Field, as athletes and teachers. The fourth generation has begun. Many thanks to Alvah Crocker for his generosity and vision for the children of Fitchburg and thanks to those who keep the traditions alive."



Gary Ruuska

Crocker Field House

"I've enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about an architectural and cultural treasure that exists right here in our midst. In painting the Field House, I have tried to capture the dignity that comes with age along with a feeling for the place, as it must have been in 1918. On a bright morning, the sunlight is filtered by a canopy of trees and casts an almost dream-like glow on the back of the building. The dappled light on the stairs invites the visitor to ascend and enter.. These are the feelings I have tried to convey. Crocker Field truly deserves to be seen through the eyes of artists, because it is a work of art."

Sally Sargent

Westerly Corner of Crocker Field

"My experience has been interesting and educating in the sense of the history of Crocker Field. It has been exciting to explore the field and all it has to offer. the western corner with a red building behind the fence with a sections that resembles a fan, a unique set of spiral stairs and the view inside the covered stands, where I captured the roundness of the structure making it almost abstract. Thank you for the opportunity to discover Crocker Field."



Charlene Sawyer

Three Cheers for Alvah Crocker

"Growing up in Fitchburg, I attended many sporting activities on our beloved Crocker Field. Funny though, in the excitement of all that competition (and perhaps on the self-centeredness of youth), I neglected to truly appreciate its wonder. The Paint-In has helped me to do just that. I am grateful for the opportunity and "Three Cheers for Alvah Crocker!"

Ellen Schneeflock

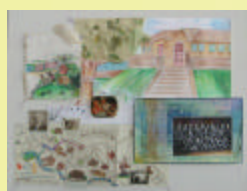
Guardian of the Field

"What, a Paint-In at an athletic field? What will there be to paint? What I found was a charming, beautiful space, steeped in Fitchburg's history. Looking around I was immediately drawn a large tree, which reminded me of a sentinel, a guardian and so, my painting, "Guardian of the Field" was created."



*Ann Shattuck
The Clubhouse*

"I truly enjoyed painting at Crocker Field. It was fun and gratifying. While painting, I heard birds singing and the river bubbling along. It is a peaceful and beautiful field."



*Helen Obermeyer Simmons
Young Guns: Crocker Field Memories*

"Researching the history of Crocker Field at the Fitchburg Historical Society led me to create a series of pen and ink sketches. Spending the week of the Paint-In at Crocker Field I photographed the field and the field house in both the morning and afternoon light. Exploring the photographs and memorabilia in the Field House sparked a series of conversations about school days, teammates, coaches and friends. This journey inspired me to create a mixed media collage in watercolor, colored pencil and cyanotype."

Kathryn Swantee

Walk Around Crocker Field

"What a challenge the Paint-In was this year with all the rain. But on a sunny day I took a walk around Crocker Field and what I saw was a sense of history that I wanted to capture, the intertwining of the old and the new. It inspired me to create a collage of vignettes to tell the story and blend them into one painting. My hope is that it speaks to others of the many years and people who have left their mark on this historical site."



Linda Widstrand Field House of Dreams

"It was very peaceful to walk around Crocker Field in the early morning. I even saw the woodchuck! I was inspired by the architecture of the Field House. After walking around and taking many photographs, my eye kept returning to the Field House. After going inside, I was instantly mesmerized by the many old photos lining the walls. What History has taken place here. I didn't realize what a gem Crocker Field was!"

SPONSORS



The Fitchburg Cultural Alliance is grateful to the artists and volunteers, who contributed to the success of the 2009 Downtown Paint-In at Crocker Field. We recognize Gail Bloom for creating the Exhibition and Celebration Program and Clark Straight for his generous hospitality at the Johnsonia Art Gallery.

The Local Cultural Council (LCC) Program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, humanities, and sciences annually. The program promotes the availability of rich cultural experiences for every Massachusetts citizen. This program is sponsored in part by a grant from the Fitchburg Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.



The Fitchburg Cultural Alliance was formed in 1978 to promote the rich and diverse cultural activities that exist in the community.

