



staff photo/Richard Foley

Boston's biggest event of the summer, the coming of the Tall Ships, produced a crowd of 2 million spectators Saturday, July 11.

## Possible relocation of Harbor Art Gallery

by Cecilia Wong  
Mass Media staff

Despite UMass/Boston officials' denial that the Harbor Art Gallery may be moved to an unsuitable new site to accommodate the relocation of offices from the recently closed Downtown campus, the Harbor Gallery director is taking every precaution to forestall any such plans.

Harbor Gallery director Kathy Bitetti said she received information from three different sources last week that the gallery will be moved next month.

"If we don't take any concrete action now, and the university administration is considering the plan of [relocating the art gallery], then they're going to do it," Bitetti said.

Bitetti said once she heard wind about the possible relocation of the art gallery, she appealed to Charles Desmond, vice chancellor for Student Affairs, to preserve the present space of the Harbor Gallery.

According to Bitetti, Desmond said the administration has no intention of doing anything that would jeopardize the present site of the art gallery, but he cannot promise that the art gallery will not be moved.

"I'm very careful with the language used by the administration," Bitetti said. "I'm not taking any chances that they might mess with the gallery."

Furthermore, a news article which appeared in the Boston Herald dated July 10 confirms Bitetti's worst suspicions. The article says: "UMB vice chancellor Jean MacCormack confirmed that a move [of

the Harbor Art Gallery] was being considered."

The same article also quoted Bitetti as saying, "Right now we're in a centrally located spot that was designed as a gallery. The proposed new location is a catwalk in the Administration building that has no heat, no ventilation, low ceilings, no electricity and no access to bring large art works in."

However, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs Steve Schwartz expressed surprise when he read the Boston Herald article about the possible move of the Harbor Gallery.

"I'm puzzled at this rumor," Schwartz said. "I think it's the gallery space among many others which are being looked into for various functions. So far I haven't seen any architectural plans which indicate the relocation of the gallery."

"If a decision is reached that the present space of the art gallery could be better utilized, the university will certainly consult with the appropriate party," he added.

The proposal to relocate the gallery, which university officials said is not finalized, has drawn criticism from directors of museums in the greater Boston area. Among them are the Museum of Fine Arts, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Institute of Contemporary Art, DeCordova Museum, Boston Center for the Arts and Mobius, all of which has written letters in support of the student-run gallery. The letters were addressed to Desmond.

Joining in protest of the plan is UMB Student Trustee David Loh, who said, "I've been informed that the move is going to happen and I think it's really a bad idea that



staff photo/Teague Quinn

This may very well be the new home for the Harbor Art Gallery, in the catwalk corner between the Admin bldg. and the Healet Library.

fails to consider the students' needs."

Harbor Gallery has been in operation for

nearly 20 years and has featured works by

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