

## Responses to the exhibition *The Firehouse Bell Project*, 2013 in Burlington, Vermont.

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### Life Rituals

- *It should ring every time a new baby is born in Burlington.*
- *It rings every time someone falls in love.*
- *The bell should be rung every time a new Burlington baby is born!*
- *It could symbolize thanks and gratitude when something special happened: New baby born, War ended (maybe more than one ring!), Countless other things!*
- *Ring the bell exactly one week after a Burlington resident has a baby. Maybe Morse Code the name.*
- *Ring every time someone is born (or dies?)*
- *Every time a baby is born! It would bring a sense of being alive. It should be rung every weekend and when people are celebrating the city!*
- *Every time a child is born.*

### Art Event

- *When there is an (art) opening, ring the bell.*
- *Have the bell travel around announcing a sort of art-mobile. Could start with First Friday Art Shuttle then could take mobile exhibits/displays to schools or randomly around towns, county, state. One farmers market, summervale, waterfront – partner w/Shelburne Museum, Fleming, etc. Bring art to those who wouldn't otherwise travel to it. Alternate fuel of course,. Bike/Solar etc.*
- *I imagine the bell being used for different purposes than the City Hall Bell – such as to announce the opening of a new show!*
- *Announce begin and end of Art Hop.*

### CIVIC

- *Ring the bell on the morning of a voting day as a reminder to vote!*
- *Ring the bell when there is an event at City Hall Park (lets local citizen know if they hadn't heard/read about it yet)*
- *The bell should ring every time someone gives any amount of money to a homeless*
- *It should ring when a bill is passed in Vermont to keep the public engaged and informed regarding new legislation.*
- *Town Meeting Day*

- *Ring the bell every time an animal is adopted from the CC Humane Society.*
- *The bell could be used to announce civic events, such as voting day, and rung throughout the day to capture (demand) attention and action.*
- *Every time a new business comes to Burlington Vermont!*
- *If the bell coincided with the bus schedule...maybe the 1 (that's the line I most frequently aride), it would be really helpful for me!*

### **Warning**

- *It should ring if there is an emergency.*
- *Aka it may be like a doom bell.*
- *Apocalypse or when warning when all else fails.*

*To celebrate community!*

### **Astral Natural Fantastical**

- *Have it ring at high and low tide.*
- *Have water mist around the bell and ring it when the sun is in position to make a rainbow.*
- *It should ring according to the moon cycle*
- *When it rings 1000 times the aliens will invade the Earth.*
- *At the equinox and solstice and other astral events.*
- *It should warn if zombies attack, have regular Zombie drills (Once a month @ random)*
- *Ring based on light/dark rather than the exact time of day.*
- *Every time the bell rang it would symbolize God telling us someone did the right thing and it would be God's form of giving thanks.*

### **Celebrations Events**

- *I think the bell should be able to ring because the bell would ring for special occasions like Christmas, Valentines Day, etc.*
- *It should ring on holidays and special events.*
- *I think the bell should ring again because it could be used for events.*
- *The bell could be used to celebrate and announce community events, such as the Farmer's Market, First Fridays, Art Hop, Festival of Fools, The Giant Pumpkin Regatta, voting days, First Night, Fourth of July, the last day of school and other special occasions.*
- *When there is a big event.*

- *On the first day of school.*
- *Used for weddings.*
- *How about allowing views from the top. Ringing on special occasions and/or each Noon.*
- *To ring off city wide "fun days" – beautiful weather days when city employees and (anyone else too!) get the day off.*

### **Special Time of Day**

- *Ring at 5:00pm every Friday marking the start of the weekend – "The start of the end"*
- *Ring at local (high) noon each day – a time different than 12:00 (and I believe a bit different each day).*
- *The bell should ring every day at 11:11am and 3:33pm as a reminder for people to smile, enjoy life and strive for excellence. We all need a reminder.*
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### **It should ring, just make sure....**

- *A historic bell has one primary auditory purpose. It must ring! The real issue is when/what purpose?*
- *The bell must ring for a good reason.*
- *Please don't record the sound of the bell and then play the recording rather than ring the bell.*
- *Art can be anything. You just have to find a place to put it. Thank you.*
- *Ring it. It makes us happy. And if it annoys anyone, it doesn't last for very long. They'll get over it.*

### **Historically significant - important to remember**

- *Ring the firehouse bell! Brings back a sense of history and reminds us how we could still exist without technology.*
- *Maybe to commemorate moments in Burlington Vermont history or to open events...the bell could ring!*
- *It should ring again so that people do not forget what a real bell sounds like.*
- *KEEP IT. Just because it no longer serves the technological, communication purpose it once had is no reason to render it silent. We're humans aren't we?*

*WE ASSIGN MEANING TO EVERYTHING. (even the meaningless). We can figure out a new meaning and reason for the bell's dulcet, brassy tones.*

- *As evidence of our past communications, stories and history it should have a place.*
- *The bell should be kept to help preserve the building's exterior historicity. It should be operable for auspicious occasions, but otherwise preserved as is.*
- *Our communal/community history through common objects is part of who we are as a community today – let's remember from whence we came by keeping the bell.*
- *The firehouse bell is a great reminder of how technology has changed over time. The bell is cumbersome weight has been replaced by lighter more concise technology.*
- *Yes! It's history and should ring again. Technology doesn't need to replace everything "old fashioned"!*
- *Yes! Upcycle! New use for historic artifacts!*

### **Turn it into something else**

- *It should be replaced with a bubble machine.*
- *Making a German coo-coo clock-esque animatronic flying monkey that hammers the bell.*
- *This bell is destined to be used in a contemporary statue that rings at meaningful times. The statue should represent Burlington in all its glory. Or be a pterodactyl. Actually, just make it a pterodactyl.*
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### **Loving/Poetic/present tense need for bells**

- *I love the bell.*
- *It's magical.*
- *I love you.*

- *Bells are part of our life. They make us aware of how time moves by. Sacred, honorable, event, move on, take notice, Keep us in step.*
- *The bell RINGING AND BECKONING a community to come together CELEBRATES our accomplishments, ties US TO OUR PAST, resonates for FUTURE GENERATIONS*
- *It will inspire people to write poems!!*

### **Certainty/song titles**

- *The &#x2013! Are you talking about? Just live your life man.*
- *Utiliser de l'électronique!*
- *Function and decoration. Best of both worlds, dingaling, abing bong.*
- *What else is a bell good for? Paperweight.*
- *Soundez justice! Maitenant! S'il vous plaisez!*
- *Just ring that damn bell!*

### **Relationships between old and new technologies**

- *Find a way to make music with different beats, different types – for other to accompany.*
- *It would be really cool to see temporary artwork created with the bell that would be audience-controlled.*
- *Use also some light (lights and sound).*
- *I bet it used to ring and it just takes up power and doesn't do it anymore.*
- *Use public news sources and measure frequency of words like “celebrate” to determine when to ring, only ringing when “celebrate” reaches an extraordinary frequency.*
- *Burlington needs its “symphonies carillon” such as Montreal has its “**symphonies portvaires**” every year...I'll come every year for that!*
- *“Ring the Bell” Create an online capacity for citizens to celebrate achievement by ringing the bell, with LED screen describing their event, but also just people hearing it and knowing that someone's smiling.*
- *Individual in Burlington and texts/tweets the message to a server at the BCA.*
- *Ring the bell for celebratory reasons and associate it with announcement on City Hall website. Call it “Why the bell Rings” or something like that.*
- *Every time the mayor tweets, the bell shall ring!*

- *Everyone is now so programmed by all sorts of personalized ringtones on their cell phones that the sound of a real actual bell actually now sounds unusual.*