

AU/Alfred State student groups spearhead village bus shelter project

1/19/07

The Alfred University student group Community Outreach Through The Arts (COTTA) and the Alfred State Architecture Club will host a "charrette" on Sunday, Jan. 28, from 1-6 p.m. on the second floor of Alfred Village Hall involving their project to rebuild the village bus shelter. Anyone interested in providing input for the project is invited to attend. The French word "charrette" means "cart" and is often used to describe the final, intense work effort expended by art and architecture students to meet a project deadline. This use of the term is said to originate from the cole des Beaux Arts in Paris during the 19th century, where proctors circulated a cart, or "charrette," to collect final drawings while students frantically put finishing touches on their work. The Alfred charrette will include discussion of potential designs. Alfred residents, faculty, students, and business owners are all encouraged to come to present their ideas and thoughts on the project. The student groups hope to have a design for the Alfred Planning Board to review at its February meeting. It is anticipated that final review would take place in March. AU's COTTA is a student initiative pursuing public art projects to enhance the aesthetics of the village of Alfred. COTTA provides students with an educational experience in public art-making while providing the village with the renovation and beautification. The bus shelter is COTTA's pilot project. COTTA is funded in part by a Community Initiative Grant from the School of Art and Design at Alfred University. The current Alfred bus shelter is approximately 30 years old, constructed with tongue and groove floor boards; the shelter shakes when jostled. To date, COTTA has developed four concept designs to replace the existing structure.