



FORECAST



Making it Public: for MA Municipalities

The [New England Foundation for the Arts](#) (NEFA) in partnership with [the Metropolitan Area Planning Council's \(MAPC\) Arts and Culture Department](#) (MAPC) and [Forecast Public Art](#) (FPA), is pleased to invite municipalities in Massachusetts to participate in the *Making it Public for MA Municipalities 2023 Cohort*.

Municipalities selected for the 2023 cohort will participate in **Making it Public**, a free 5-week virtual training facilitated by FPA designed to equip administrators in strengthening local capacity to support, create, and promote more vibrant and just public art making. FPA has facilitated **Making It Public** across the nation for almost a decade. This particular series has been tailored for MA municipalities in partnership with MAPC's Arts & Culture Department and General Counsel.

Making it Public will cover practical and tactical subject matters for administrators at all stages of their career facilitating public art, such as stakeholder considerations, community engagement, preparing a call-for-artists, equitable selection processes, contracting, and more. Sessions include guest public art professionals, both local and national, adding a depth of knowledge about the field of public art, the profession, and its contemporary issues.

At the conclusion of the training, municipal administrators will have the tools needed to create their own Call for Temporary Public Art. Participating municipalities also receive a **\$15,000** grant from NEFA to fund artists selected through a Call for Temporary Public Art in 2023.

Through **Making it Public** and funding artists through municipalities, NEFA aims to foster a community of practice that is inspiring more vibrant and just public spaces and culture through public artmaking across MA. To learn more about NEFA's vision and values for public art, visit [NEFA's website](#).

A parallel workshop series geared towards MA artists will also be offered simultaneously, equipping artists in the region to be better prepared at responding to calls for temporary public art projects.

Participant Requirements and Timeline

Participating municipalities will be asked to provide 2 staff members who can commit to fully participating in the workshop series (March-April) and conduct a Call for Temporary Public Art (May-December) in 2023. Estimated time commitment for municipal team is 40 hours total.

OPTIONAL: Participating municipalities are also welcomed to invite an additional team member. This may be another municipal staff or a community-based partner who may be interested in supporting your municipality in fostering more vibrant and just public artmaking in your communities.

Timeline

September 13- November 15, 2022	Accepting Applications through November 15, 2022; Applications will be reviewed and up to 10 eligible municipalities will be selected to participate
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	in the 2023 cohort. NEFA will aim to notify applicants in early-December 2022.
January- February 2023	Participating municipalities promote Making it Public for MA Artists, a parallel track geared towards artists interested in public artmaking. (Deadline for artist registration will be late February 2023) Making it Public for MA Municipalities Orientation , facilitated by NEFA (90 mins virtual meeting in February 2023); Date/Time TBD after 2023 Making it Public cohort is selected.
March- April 2023	Municipal it Public for MA Municipalities begins! 5-week intensive virtual workshops. Workshops are virtual, 90 mins each week, with an additional 30-minute pre-recorded video component. 2023 Making it Public for MA Municipalities – workshop series Tuesdays, March 14-April 11, 2023 10:00-11:30a ET
May- December 2023	Workshopping sessions with NEFA and MAPC focused on preparing a Call for Temporary Public Art (May), and the artist selection process (June). Multiple dates will be available to choose from. Municipal staff prepare a Call for Temporary Art and administers an inclusive and equitable artist(s) selection process. Office Hours with NEFA and MAPC available for consultation to municipalities during this period. Calls for Temporary Public Art must be reviewed and approved by NEFA before publicizing.
Possibly through December 2024; depending on project timeline.	Municipal staff support artist(s) in navigating municipal processes (e.g. permitting, insurance, liaison with other municipal departments, etc.); Artist(s) should be selected by the end of December 2023 and artmaking may take place through the end of 2024 or sooner.

Apply to participate in the 2023 Making it Public for MA Municipalities

[Click here to apply online.](#) Applications must be submitted online by November 15, 2022, 11:59p ET.

NEFA will select 8-10 municipalities to participate in the 2023 cohort. Applicants will be notified in early-December 2022.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Must be a municipality (city/town) in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that has not previously participated in Making it Public.
- Must have approval from duly authorized municipal officers:
 - For municipal staff (2) to participate in the 2023 *Making it Public* workshop series
 - To conduct a **Call for Temporary Public Art** between May-December 2023 and re-grant at least 80% of the NEFA grant (\$12,000 of the \$15,000 grant) as payment directly to the select artist(s) through the Call for Temporary Public Art*

- To fund the cost of installing temporary artwork and to facilitate installation through municipal staff or contractors.

NEFA will select a cohort of municipalities based on:

- **Municipal Commitment.** Approval from the necessary municipal authority is a top priority.
- **Geographic/Demographic Diversity.** We aim looking for a range of municipalities from across the commonwealth. Not only will we be looking at the demographics of your municipality but also who you are trying to reach with a Temporary Call for Public Art. Who's missing from your municipality's public art landscape?
- **Interest in learning and implementing** more equitable practices for supporting more just and vibrant public artmaking. Learn more about [NEFA's public art values](#).

* Funding Available to support Municipal Call for Temporary Public Art. AT LEAST 80% (i.e. \$12,000 of the \$15,000 grant) of the NEFA grant must be re-granted as payment directly to the select artist(s) by the municipality. The remaining 20% may go towards the artist(s) selected, or be used towards participating in this opportunity and administering these funds (e.g. provide a stipend to community-based partners to participate in Making it Public 2023, support equitable and inclusive outreach strategies and/or honoraria to reviewers in the artist selection process, etc.).

Application Requirements:

- **Contact information for 2 municipal staff (and optional additional participant).**
- **Answers to the following questions:**
 - 1) Who lives/works in your municipality? How would you describe the public spaces in your communities? Why is your municipality interested in supporting more public artmaking?
 - 2) Does your community identify as urban, suburban or rural? Please tell us more.
 - 3) Please share examples of how your municipality is currently supporting arts and culture efforts in your communities (e.g. existing arts commission, budget, staff, budget, ordinances, public support/partnerships, etc.).
 - 4) What challenges does your municipality face when it comes to supporting more vibrant and just public art making? What do you hope to learn from being a part of the 2023 Making it Public cohort?
- **Upload Letter of Commitment from Municipality.** The letter of commitment should be signed by municipal officer duly authorized to bind municipality to receive grant funding for a Call for Temporary Public Art (January-December 2023) and state a commitment from the municipality to fund the cost of installing temporary artwork and to facilitate installation through municipal staff or contractors.
- **Upload any additional supporting materials** that you think would help our reviewers to fairly assess your application (e.g. Letter of Support from community partner, images of public art in your community etc.)

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Questions? Please contact Kim Szeto, Program Director, Public Art at NEFA (kszeto@nefa.org) or Annis Sengupta, Director, Arts & Culture at Metropolitan Area Planning Council (asengupta@mapc.org).