



Q&A from Making it Public for MA Municipalities 2023 Info Sessions 9/26/22 and 10/14/22

For more information regarding Making it Public for MA Municipalities 2023 application process and participant requirements, please go to MAPC's website: <https://www.mapc.org/resource-library/making-it-public-2023/>

Tech Tip: The [Making it Public for MA Municipalities 2023 application](#) is hosted by SurveyMonkey, which does not allow you to save your work while it's in process. **We strongly recommend copying the questions into a separate document to draft your answers and then returning to the online application to paste in your responses.**

Q: What are examples of projects conceived by municipalities in the Making it Public 2022 cohort?

A: Of the nine participating municipalities in the 2022 cohort, four have released their calls for temporary art. Some project examples from these calls include three-dimensional outdoor works of art on public waterways and pop-up outdoor reading rooms in collaboration with a public library system.

Municipalities are not required to nor expected to include a concept in the application package. The training offered will include time to workshop ideas for calls for temporary art.

Q: What makes an application competitive?

A: Municipalities are not required to nor expected to include a concept for a work of Temporary Public Art in the application package. Instead, municipalities are encouraged to describe their readiness to expand their local capacity to support, create, and promote more vibrant and just public art making. As an offering of the New England Foundation for the Arts, the program upholds [NEFA's values](#), and the selection process will consider applications' alignment with those values as well as a demonstrated readiness and momentum to increase your public art program's capacity.

Q: How many municipalities will be accepted into the 2023 cohort?

A: We anticipate accepting 8-10 municipalities.

Q: What can municipalities expect from the technical assistance workshops offered throughout the year?

A: While the Making it Public 5-week training will deliver content that applies broadly to all participating municipalities, technical assistance workshops offered by NEFA and MAPC will help you distill your concepts for approval, and flexible office hours will allow you to troubleshoot specific issues you're facing as you develop your Call for Temporary Public Art and run your selection processes. These workshops and office hours will bridge the gap between the conclusion of the trainings in April and the deadline to release your Call for Temporary Public Art in December.



Q: Is feedback provided to municipalities who apply and are not chosen for the Making it Public cohort?

A: Yes, NEFA and MAPC welcome ongoing conversation with all applicants. If your municipality is not selected for the 2023 cohort, you will be given the option to request feedback.

Q: What qualifies as “temporary” public art and what is the motivation behind encouraging this type of project?

A: We consider public art that is installed/exhibited for up to 18 months to be “temporary.” This includes ephemeral, performance-based installations. Focusing on temporary public art creates more equitable access to the program, as these types of projects pose fewer barriers for emerging artists are less likely to require a municipality to provide additional matching funds (beyond the \$15,000 grant offered to MIP participants) to realize.

Q: Which municipal roles are best-suited to participate in the training workshops?

A: The 2022 cohort included a wide range of municipal roles as participants, e.g. staff in Planning, Economic Development, Community Relations, and Housing departments. It is helpful to include staff who will be involved in the call for art process and would benefit from learning about procurement considerations. There is no requirement as to which staff a municipality must send as participants.

In the 2023 cohort, municipalities are offered a third optional participant slot for members of municipal boards, committees or arts organizations who will be involved in the drafting and release of the call for temporary art. The municipality may use funds eligible for administrative costs (up to 20% of the grant amount) including, but not limited to, an honorarium to individuals for their time in participating as a volunteer.

Q: Do municipalities in the cohort work together on Calls for Temporary Public Art with artists who participate in the Making it Public for MA Artists track?

A: The programs for municipalities and artists are parallel tracks and there is no requirement to work with artists who participate in the program. The Making it Public for MA Artists track aims to deepen the pool of artists across Massachusetts with training and resources addressing just and equitable public art practices. Calls released by the 2023 cohort will be shared with the artists who participate in the artist track.

Q: Does the curriculum include best practices on setting artist fees and pricing?

A: The curriculum in the municipal track does not cover this subject in detail as appropriate pricing varies based on project. Office hours offered after the trainings can be used to examine this issue as it relates to specific projects. The Artist track addresses pricing and fees to assist artists in realistic planning and budgeting.

Q: Are schools eligible to apply?

A: Staff within schools are eligible to participate as one of the two municipal staff assuming the application includes a commitment from duly authorized municipal officers. Past participants



have not included school staff as the calls for art have not been managed by a school department. It is helpful to consider where the training knowledge is most useful to “live” within your municipal structure.

Q: Understanding that the application does not require a project concept, is it okay for a municipality to have a project in mind when applying? Or is this seen as a limiting factor?

A: You can have a concept when applying. Consider including a description of how the learning opportunity to create more just and equitable public art practices will relate to the concept, site, or neighborhood you have in mind.