

Cool it with Art

**How artists and organizations
are tackling rising temperatures
with art**



Interested in starting a project like one of these?

Check out “Cool It With Art: A How-To Guide for Tackling Rising Temperatures with Art in Our Communities”

www.mapc.org/cool-with-art

Questions? Need support to use this guide? Contact our Arts & Culture Department!



Types of Interventions



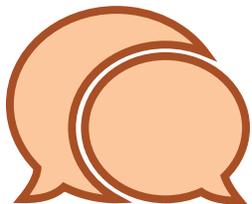
Creative Engagement

Artists and creatives are key collaborators in developing messaging that promotes awareness of climate risks and preparedness measures in the community.



Creative Cooling Infrastructure

Artists and creatives are leaders and collaborators in developing effective public participation and cultural programming that promotes climate preparedness and resilience.



Creative Communications

Artists and creatives develop creative interventions that provide shade and other cooling opportunities in the public realm.

Playstreets

Philadelphia, PA



Streets closed to traffic activated with cooling infrastructure

For more than 50 years, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation and neighborhood volunteers have closed down residential streets to traffic and provided meals and play equipment when school is out in the summer.

The City closed public pools in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and instead equipped volunteers in neighborhoods most affected by urban heat with cooling kits consisting of shade tents, misting fans, cooling rags, super soakers, and other water-play equipment. Some streets were designated “super streets” and programmed with more activities, including mural-making, dance parties, and portable play landscapes.



Photo Credit: Ken McFarlane
Courtesy Philadelphia Parks and Recreation

Playstreets

Philadelphia, PA



Project Partners:

- City of Philadelphia Parks and Recreation
- Volunteer resident Playstreet Leads
- Mural Arts Philadelphia
- Kounkuey Design Initiative
- Tiny WPA

Funding Source:

USDA School Meals Program pays for meals and snacks; raised \$600,000 in six weeks to fund cooling enhancements

Budget:

\$600,000 for cooling enhancements on 100 blocks

Learn More:

www.phila.gov/programs/playstreets



Photo Credit: Ken McFarlane
Courtesy Philadelphia Parks and Recreation

Cry You One



New Orleans, LA

Interdisciplinary art project directly addressing water and coastal land loss

Cry You One is an interdisciplinary project of the New Orleans-based companies ArtSpot Productions and Mondo Bizarro that uses the stories, music, dances and traditions of Southeast Louisiana to respond to the region's interconnected struggles against coastal land loss, cultural loss, environmental racism and displacement.

Cry You One is a site-responsive performance and an online storytelling experience/platform that gives physical, oral and musical shape to the themes of the artists' home: converging cultures, creativity in all its forms, human error, forced evacuation, living with water and the desire for permanence.

Cry
You
One

Cry You One



New Orleans, LA

Interdisciplinary art project directly addressing water and coastal land loss

Project Partners:

- ArtSpot Productions
- Mondo Bizarro

Funding Source:

New England Foundation for the Arts and several others

Learn More:

www.cryyouone.com



Cry
You
One

RisingEMOTIONS

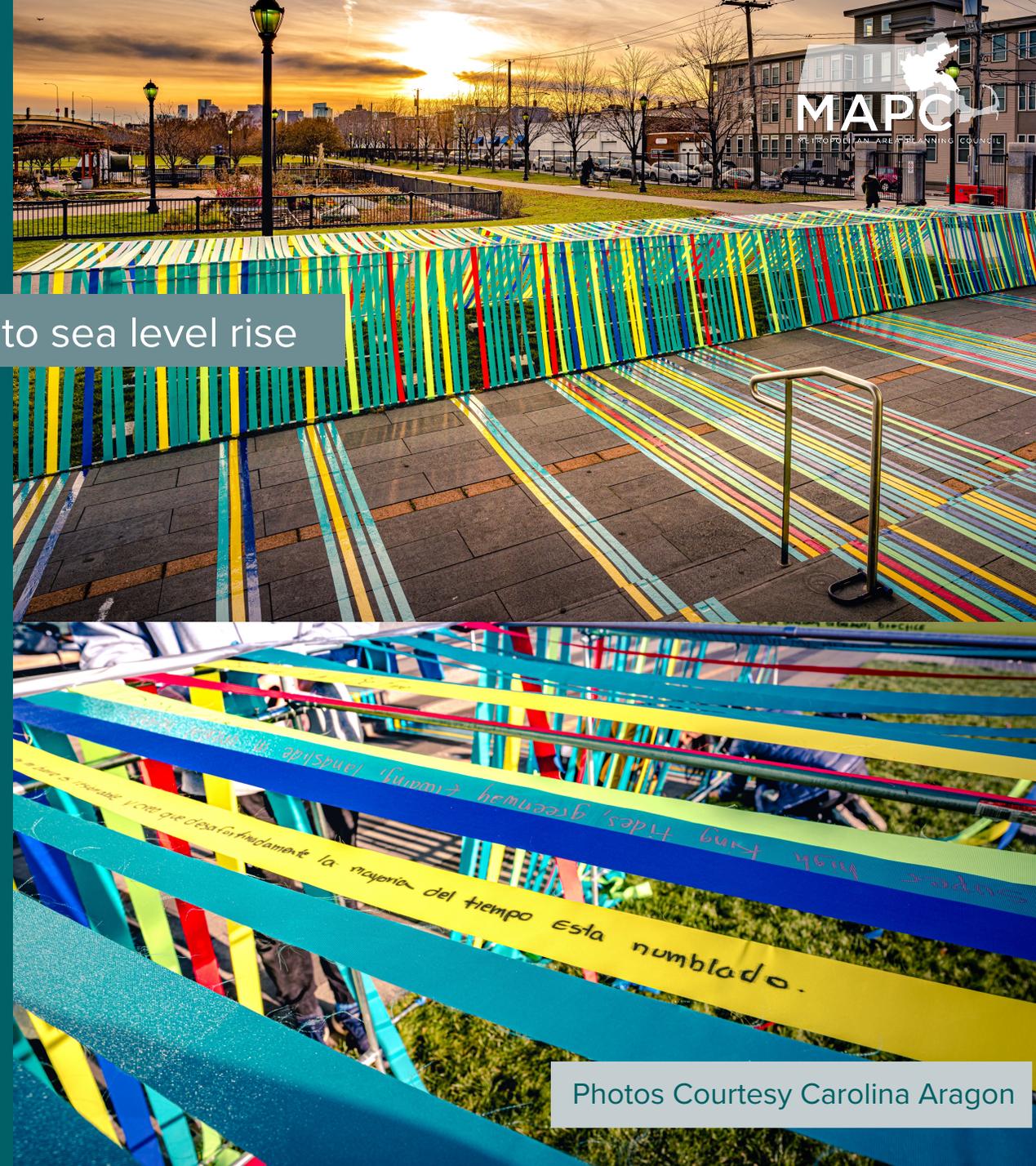


Boston, MA

Collaborative art installation visualizing responses to sea level rise

RisingEMOTIONS is a collaborative art project that pilots the integration of digital technologies and public art to create art that visualizes the public's emotion related to flooding due to sea level rise.

The artwork used an online survey to gather information about how residents of East Boston feel about the effects of sea level rise in their neighborhood. Their responses and emotions were visualized and transformed into an art installation that uses bands of color to represent the future levels of flooding against the backdrop of the East Boston Branch of the Boston Public Library.



Photos Courtesy Carolina Aragon

RisingEMOTIONS



Boston, MA

Project Partners:

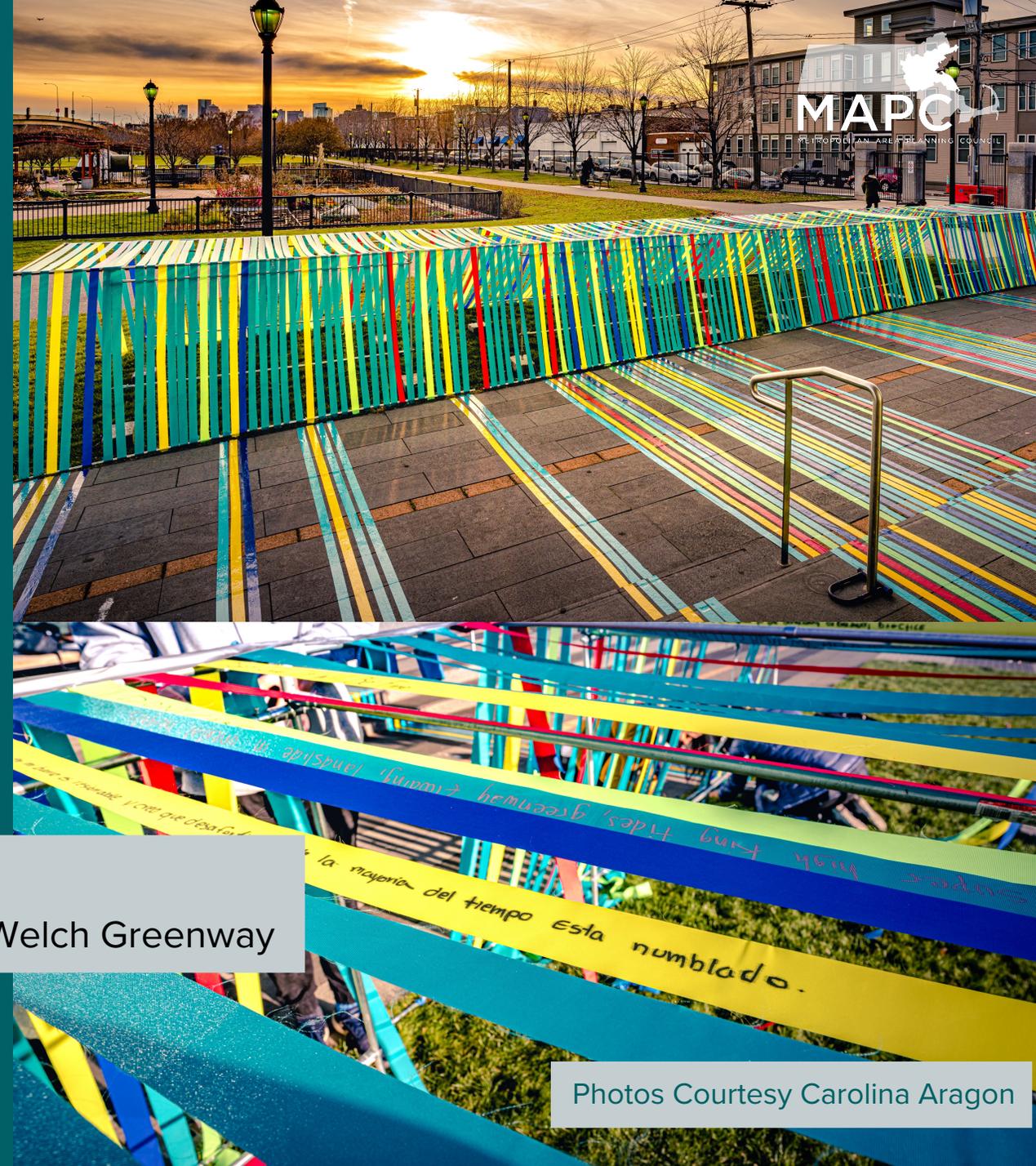
- Carolina Aragon (Lead Artist)
- Narges Mahyar
- UMass Amherst
- Boston Society of Landscape Architects
- Excel Academy
- Boston Public Library
- City of Boston Planning and Development Agency
- City of Boston Environment Department
- Harborkeepers
- GreenRoots

Funding Source:

The Barr Foundation through Friends of the Mary Ellen Welch Greenway

Learn More:

www.carolinaaragon.com/#/risingemotions



Photos Courtesy Carolina Aragon

San Francisco Creative Corps



San Francisco, CA

Local artists commissioned to encourage COVID best practices

The San Francisco Creative Corps is a pilot program that recruited local artists as community health ambassadors to promote healthy behavior during the pandemic.

Launched in 2020, the program employs 30 performing artists to encourage mask-wearing and other best practices and 30 visual artists to paint murals about public health on boarded-up storefronts. The city chose Valencia Street and Washington Square in North Beach as pilot sites because of their high pedestrian traffic, significant amounts of outdoor eating and drinking, low mask compliance and high or increasing case rates.



Philip Hua's mural at the Imperial Garden. Courtesy YBCA.



Pedro Gomez/Ritmoso (left), Ayikwei/KWIC Scott (center) and street performer (right) performing in Washington Square Park. Photograph by Tommy Lau. Courtesy YBCA.

San Francisco Creative Corps



San Francisco, CA

Local artists commissioned to encourage COVID best practices

Project Partners:

- San Francisco Mayor's Office
- Office of Economic and Workforce Development
- Yerba Buena Center for the Arts
- San Francisco Parks Alliance

Funding Source:

San Francisco Office of Economic and Workforce Development

Budget:
\$250,000

Learn More:

www.ybca.org/san-francisco-creative-corps



Philip Hua's mural at the Imperial Garden. Courtesy YBCA.



Pedro Gomez/Ritmoso (left), Ayikwei/KWIC Scott (center) and street performer (right) performing in Washington Square Park. Photograph by Tommy Lau. Courtesy YBCA.

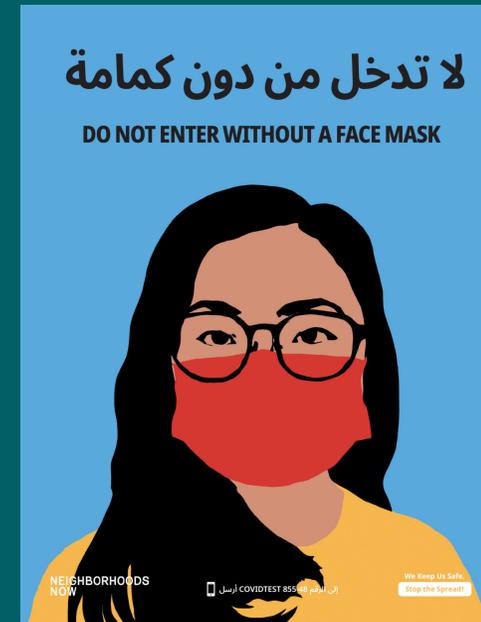
Jackson Heights COVID-19 Poster Campaign

New York City, NY



Artists create free posters for local businesses to use

Neighborhoods Now is a collaborative initiative that connects neighborhoods impacted by the pandemic with leading design firms. As part of the project, the design firm Pentagram partnered with 82nd Street Partnership in Jackson Heights on a colorful, multi-lingual poster campaign that communicates Covid-19 safety requirements in a fun, playful way with a series of masked cartoon creatures. The designers aimed to develop something that would work across language and culture, and that was friendly, engaging and helpful, without looking too “official.” The characters appear in all shapes, sizes and colors, without race or gender. The graphics are bright, colorful and upbeat, and avoid looking deliberately frightening like a “hazard” sign.



Jackson Heights COVID-19 Poster Campaign

New York City, NY



Artists create free posters for local businesses to use

Project Partners:

- Urban Design Forum
- Van Alen Institute
- Pentagram
- 82nd Street Partnership in Jackson Heights, Queens,

Funding Source:

Pro bono work from graphic designers

Learn More:

<https://neighborhoodsnow.nyc>



Red Hook

Cool Streets

New York City, NY



Community helps create public cooling solutions

Volunteer designers teamed up with residents and community organizations to design and build prototypes for public-realm cooling. The goal was to facilitate physical distancing while responding to the challenge of urban heat.

Cool Streets started with an extensive community engagement process, situated in front of Red Hook Initiative, a community organization that hosted grocery donations through the summer. Volunteers asked residents about hotspots and what type of activities they wanted to see in their neighborhoods. Some cooling prototypes included temporary shade installations at food distribution hubs, sprinkler tunnels, movable shaded bench areas, and an outdoor pop-up library.



Red Hook

Cool Streets

New York City, NY



Community helps create public cooling solutions

Project Partners:

- Columbia Center for Resilient Cities and Landscapes
- Resilient Cities Catalyst
- RETI Center
- Resilient Red Hook

Funding Source:
Kaplan Foundation

Learn More:
www.reticenter.org/cool-streets



SplashJAM

Lexington, KY



Interactive temporary splash pad with seating and shade

Based on the demand for water-play places in the neighborhood, the Lexington Downtown Development Authority partnered with Gehl Institute to create SplashJAM in 2016.

The installation included pedestrian safety improvements, park amenities, and an interactive temporary splash pad. With 28 water jets, comfortable seating and plenty of shade, SplashJAM offered visitors an opportunity to relax, stay cool and get out and play. Park guests could also connect to Bluetooth speakers located at the boom box shaped splash pad.



Photo courtesy of Gehl and the Lexington Downtown Development Authority

SplashJAM

Lexington, KY



Interactive temporary splash pad with seating and shade

Project Partners:

- Gehl Institute
- Lexington Parks Department
- Lexington Downtown Development Authority

Funding Source:
Blue Grass Community Foundation

Budget:
\$160,000

Learn More:

<https://gehlpeople.com/projects/lexington-splashjam>



Photo courtesy of Gehl and the Lexington Downtown Development Authority

Zeus Eco-Mural



Los Angeles, CA

Mural with solar reflective coating to reduce surface temp

Created with a solar reflective coating that reduces surface temperatures up to 30 percent, the so-called eco-mural aims to tap into the popularity of street art to start a conversation about climate change.

The mural was conceived by by Kelly Turner, assistant professor of planning at UCLA, who does research on reflective pavements, and implemented by artist Eric Skotnes, street art venture Art and Seeking, and the Arizona State SHADE Lab. The City of Los Angeles has been experimenting with reflective pavements as part of its ambitious heat mitigation goals, but this project was the first example of a purposefully solar-reflective mural.



Photo by Mary Braswell/UCLA

Zeus Eco-Mural



Los Angeles, CA

Mural with solar reflective coating to reduce surface temp

Project Partners:

- UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs
- Eric Skotnes (artist)
- Art and Seeking
- Arizona State SHADE Lab
- Amped Kitchen
- Creative Paving Solutions

Funding Source:

Solar reflective coating donated by Creative Paving Solutions of Arizona; Project underwritten by UCLA's Luskin Center for Innovation and Mural Conservatory of Los Angeles

Learn More:

www.ericสกotnes.net/ucla-x-indecline



Photo by Mary Braswell/UCLA

The Refreshing Waters

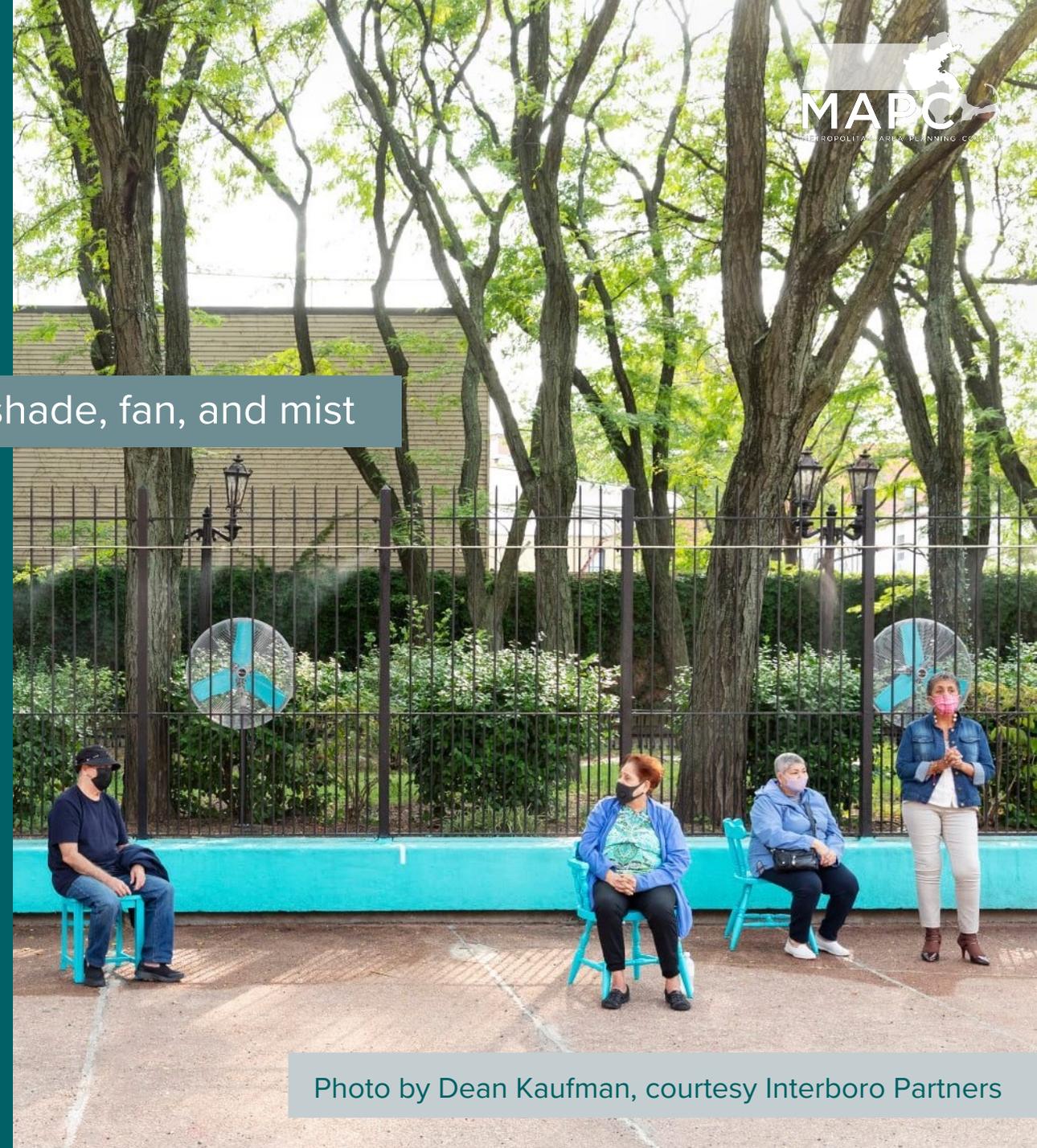


New York City

Temporary outdoor cooling center with seating, shade, fan, and mist

The Refreshing Waters is a temporary outdoor cooling center designed by Interboro partners in close collaboration with the Southeast Bronx Community Organization. The COVID-19 pandemic closed or reduced capacity for many indoor cooling centers in heat-burdened neighborhoods and the installation was a response to the closure of a nearby indoor cooling center.

The Refreshing Waters included a 100 foot long bench, shade, moveable seating, a series of large outdoor fans and a line of overhead nozzles that sprayed a fine mist of cool water.



The Refreshing Waters



New York City

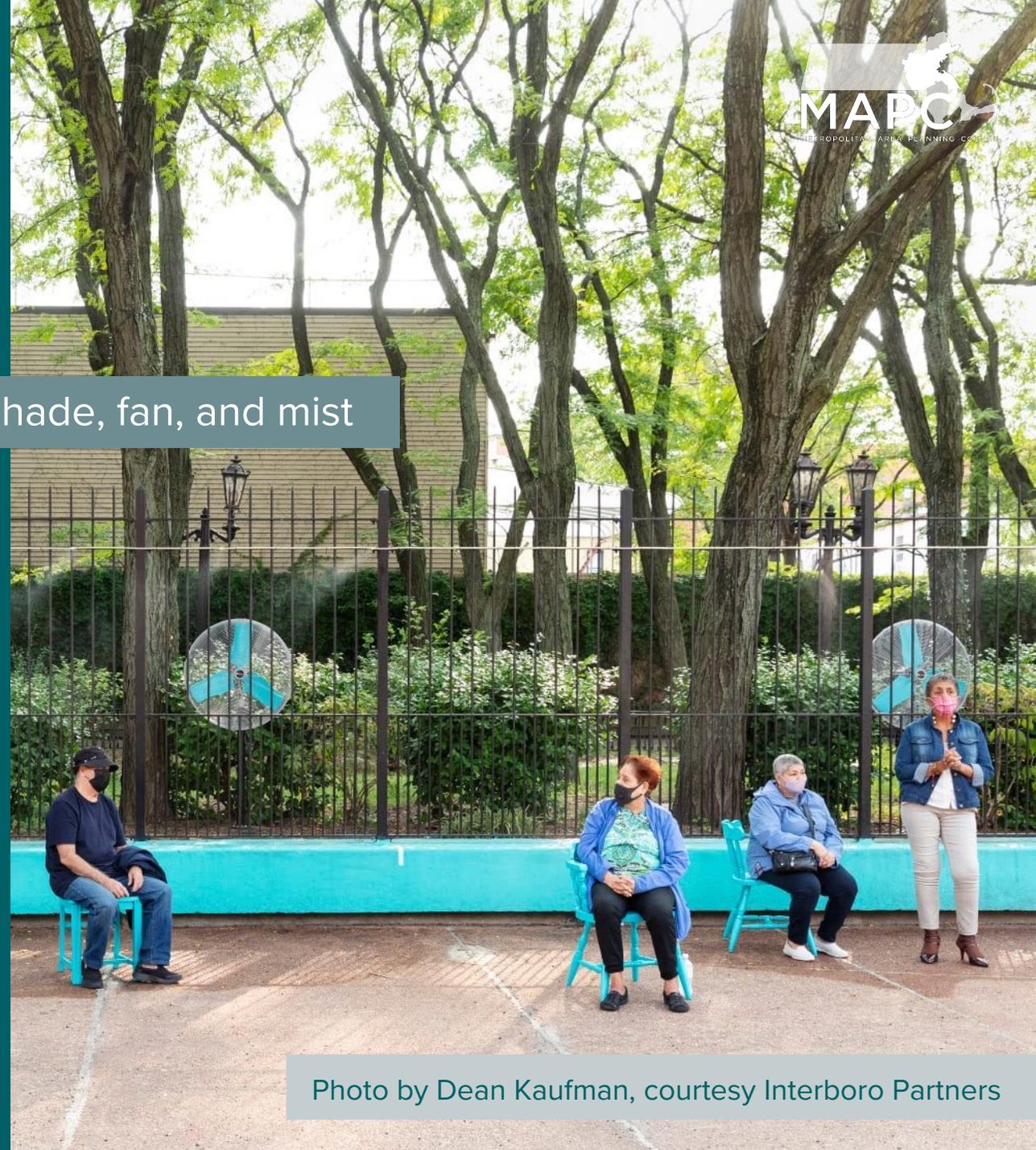
Temporary outdoor cooling center with seating, shade, fan, and mist

Project Partners:

- Interboro Partners
- Southeast Bronx Community Organization
- NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Learn More:

<https://archinect.com/georine.pierre/project/the-refreshing-waters>



Keep Cool Somerville Photovoice

Somerville, MA



Residents offer insight into how they experience heat through photos

The Keep Cool Somerville Photovoice project features photos taken by Somerville residents who recorded their experiences with extreme heat and the actions they took to keep cool the summer of 2020. Their images and stories helped shape a Cooling Strategies Toolkit that will be used by the City of Somerville, community organizations, and residents to better prepare for heat in the future. The Keep Cool Somerville initiative is ongoing with several photovoice participants remaining involved as members of resident Action Teams designing small-scale pilot interventions to promote heat resilience summer 2021.



Keep Cool Somerville Photovoice

Somerville, MA



Residents offer insight into how they experience heat through photos

Project Partners:

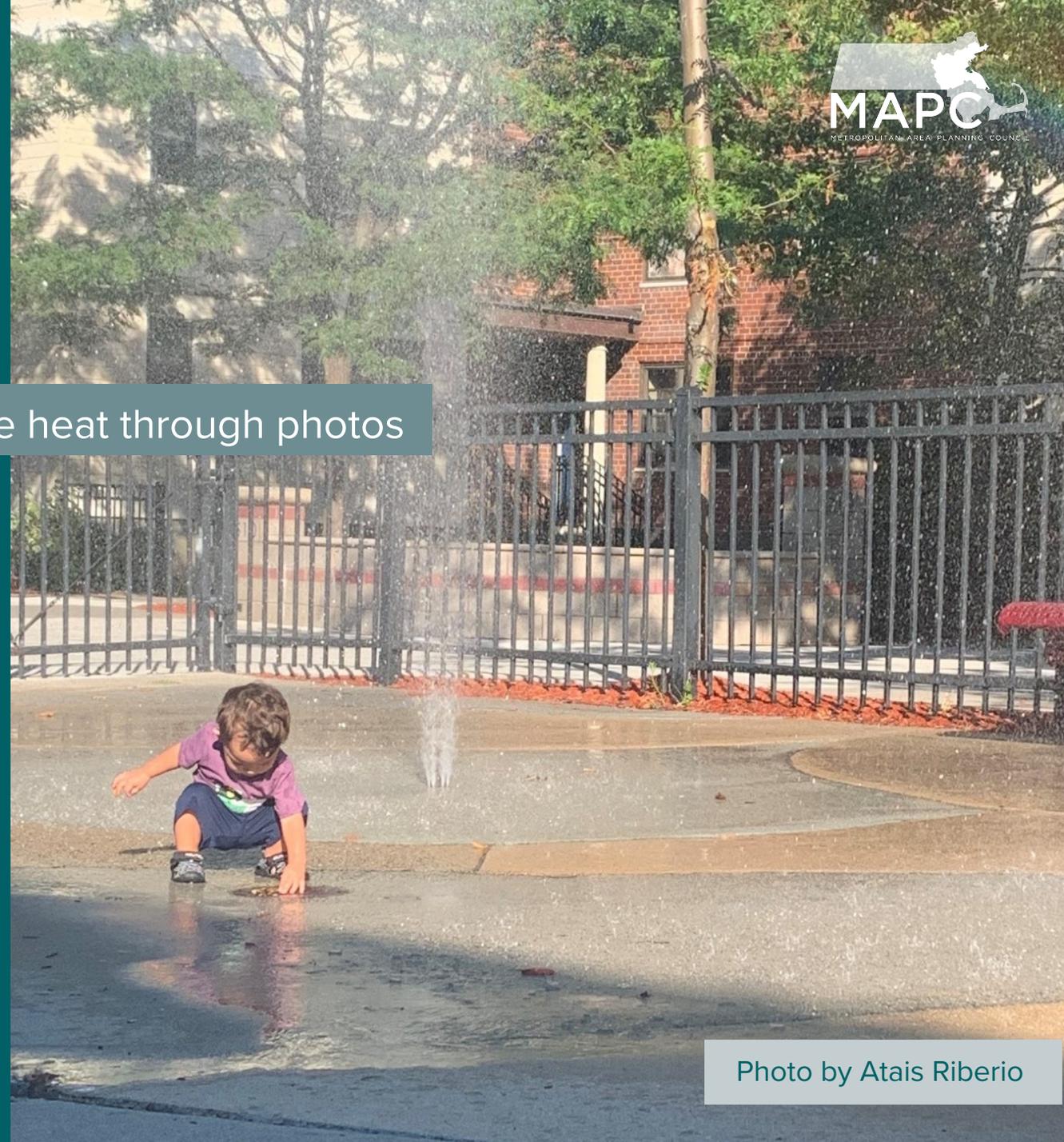
- City of Somerville
- Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Funding Source:
MAPC's Technical
Assistance Program

Budget:
\$4,000

Learn More:

www.mapc.org/keep-cool-somerville



Heat Response

Philadelphia, PA



Residents answer questions about summer heat on postcards

Artist Jenna Robb created and distributed postcards in the Grays Ferry neighborhood. The front of the postcards illustrate people experiencing the heat of the city and the back poses questions about summer heat. The goal is for people to share their experiences of living in one of the city's hottest neighborhoods.

Residents can drop off filled-out postcards at a special mailbox, and the project also includes free Saturday art workshops for children. All of it is part of 'Heat Response,' a Trust for Public Land initiative that aims to use art to build awareness of urban heat.



Photo by Elyse Leyenberger.
Courtesy of The Trust for Public Land

Heat Response

Philadelphia, PA



Residents answer questions about summer heat on postcards

Project Partners:

- Trust for Public Land
- Artist Eve Mosher
- Artist Jenna Robb

Learn More:

www.tpl.org/our-work/philadelphia-heat-response



Photo by Elyse Leyenberger.
Courtesy of The Trust for Public Land

Nature's Cooling Systems Heat Coping Stories



Greater Phoenix

Storytelling workshops help identify hot spots and solutions

The Nature Conservancy work with community-based organizations in Edison-Eastlake, Lindo Park-Roesley Park, and Mesa Care to host workshops about coping with urban heat. Storytelling became the cornerstone for workshops. The team collected testimonials of resident experiences with heat and compiled them into an audio gallery.

Participants identified hot spots in their neighborhoods and brainstormed ideas for heat safety. The effort resulted in a Heat Action Planning Guide to help communities implement solutions.



Nature's Cooling Systems Heat Coping Stories



Greater Phoenix

Project Partners:

- The Nature Conservancy
- Arizona State University's Urban Climate Research Center and Urban Resilience to Extremes Sustainability Research Network
- Maricopa County Department of Public Health
- Central Arizona Conservation Alliance
- Phoenix Revitalization Corporation
- RAILMesa
- Puente Movement
- Center for Whole Communities

Funding Source:

Vitalyst Health Foundation

Budget:

Small part of a larger project with a \$125,000 budget

Learn More:

www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/arizona/stories-in-arizona/city-heat-air-quality/



Photo via The Nature Conservancy

Schools of Thought on Climate Change



Greater Boston

Sculpture and video installation shares focus group findings

“Schools of Thought on Climate Change” integrated focus groups and art to collect and share perspectives on the current and future impacts of climate change. The project focused on workers already impacted by climate change: construction, farming, home health care, and fishing.

MAPC and collaborating artists integrated their findings into a sculpture and video installation, “Schools of Thought on Climate Change,” which helps communicate the focus group findings and generate conversations on the current effects of climate change.



Schools of Thought on Climate Change



Greater Boston

Project Partners:

- Metropolitan Areas Planning Council
- Artist-in-Residence Carolyn Lewenberg
- Artist-in-Residence Hortense Gerardo
- 1199 SEIU
- Red's Best
- MA Chapter of Associated Builders
- Contractors, Harvest New England Conference

Funding Source:
The Barr Foundation

Budget:
\$40,000

Learn More:

www.mapc.org/climate-perspectives



Shade Panels at Park and Rides



Phoenix

Arizona artist Mary Lucking designed three vertical shade panels for three City of Phoenix Public Transit Park and Rides: *Take the Long Way Home*, *In a Big Country*, and *Nothing but Flowers*. The panels, which are 13 feet high and stretch up to 45 feet long along waiting areas, protect riders from the low-angle sun and celebrate the history and features of surrounding communities.

Shade panels designed by artist keep park and rides cool

Photos via Mary Lucking



Shade Panels at Park and Rides



Phoenix

Project Partners:

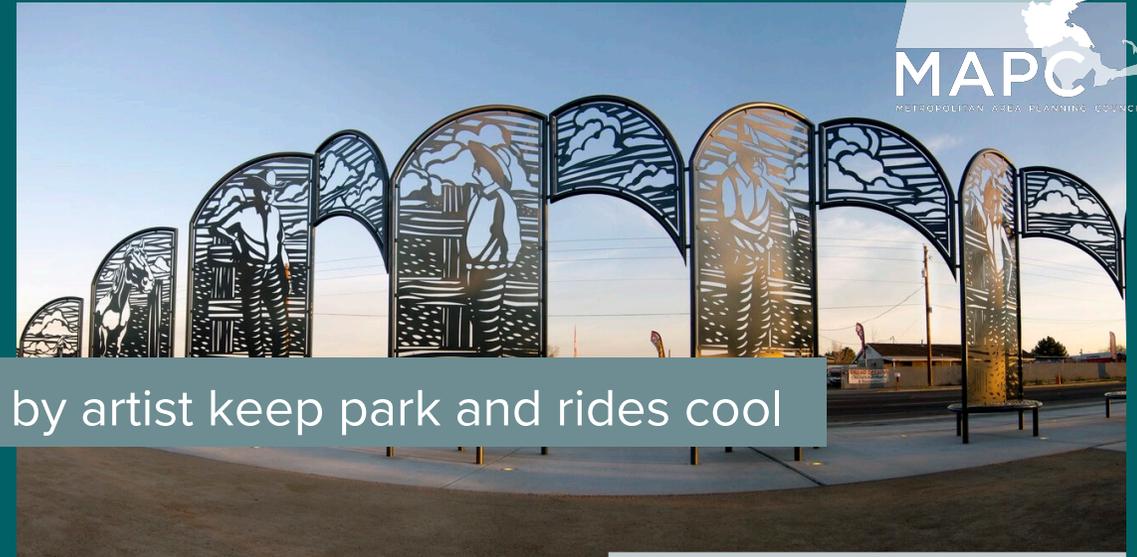
- Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture Public Arts Program
- Artist Mary Lucking

Funding Source:
Transit Capital Improvement Program: Percent-for-Art Funds

Budget for each:
\$296,000, \$87,500, and \$117,000

Learn More:

www.marylucking.com/#/take-the-long-way-home-1



Shade panels designed by artist keep park and rides cool

Photos via Mary Lucking



Refuge 2017: Heatwave



Melbourne, Australia

Performance space doubles as emergency relief center

Refuge is a six-year program led by Arts House, bringing together artists and emergency services to explore social and community resilience and creative approaches to resilience.

In 2017, the emergency response exercise was “Heatwave.” Arts House, a designated Emergency Relief Centre, was transformed with artistic interventions, performances, and collaborations into a place of safety for the local community.



HG57 (Human Generator 57) by Latai Taumoepeau
Part of Refuge 2017, Arts House
Photo by Bryony Jackson via Arts House

Refuge 2017: Heatwave

Melbourne, Australia

Project Partners:

- City of Melbourne
- Arts House
- Emergency Management Victoria
- State Emergency Services
- Red Cross Australia
- Australia Council for the Arts
- Resilient Melbourne
- SES Footscray Division
- The Huddle at the North Melbourne Football Club
- University of Melbourne's Research Unit in Public Cultures
- ACTNatimuk
- Nati Frinj Biennale
- Creative Recovery Network
- Horsham Rural City Council
- Annah Donnelley
- Lee Shang Lun
- Greg Pritchard
- Jillian Pearce
- Kate Sulan
- Dawn Weleski

Funding Source:

Australia Council (government agency), Creative Victoria, University of Melbourne

Learn More:

www.arthouse.com.au/events/refugeheatwave



HG57 (Human Generator 57) by Latai Taumoepeau
Part of Refuge 2017, Arts House
Photo by Bryony Jackson via Arts House

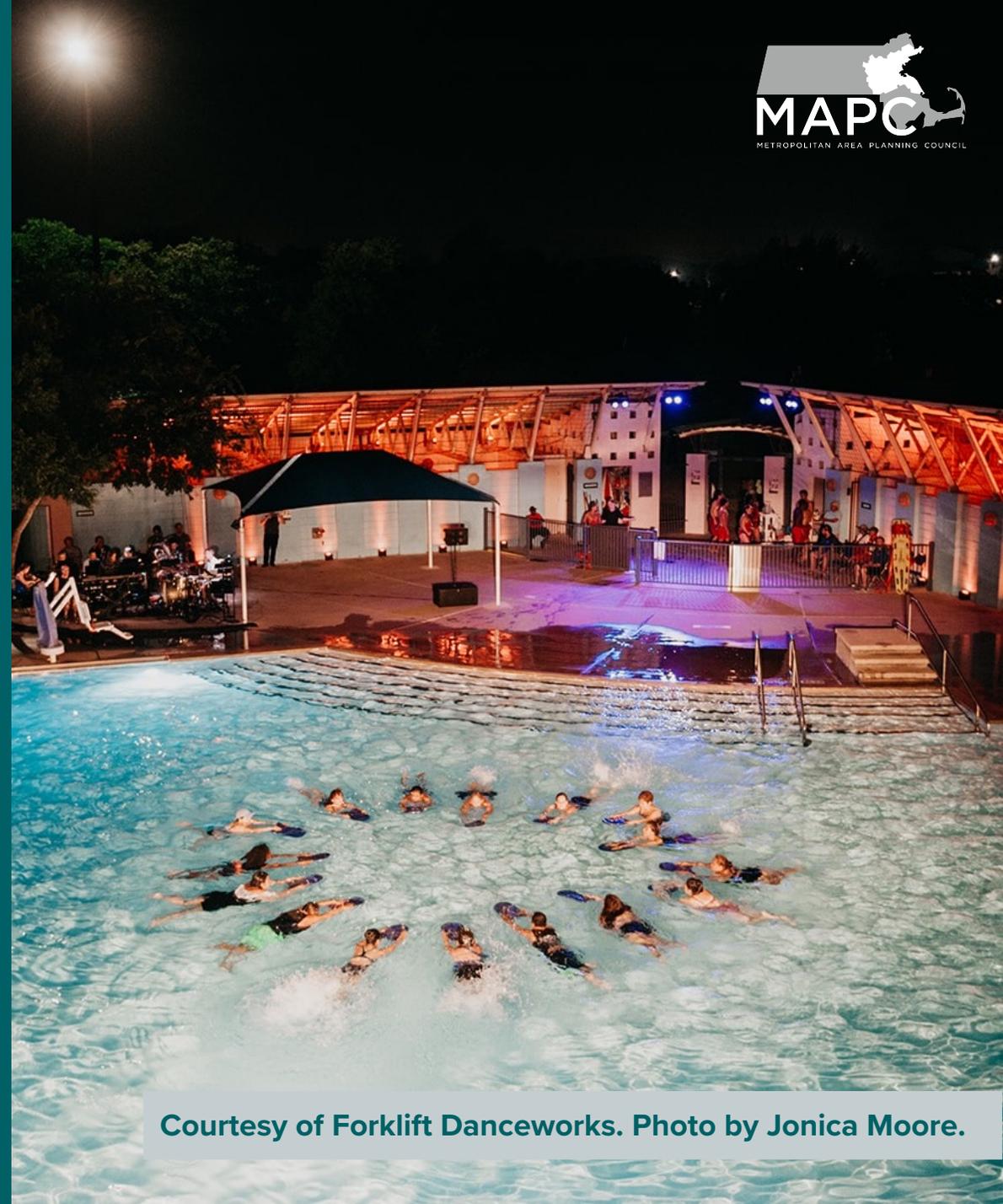
My Park, My Pool, My City

Austin, TX



Performances, art making, events at public pools

My Park, My Pool, My City was a three-year artistic residency led by Forklift Danceworks in partnership with the City of Austin Parks & Recreation Department's Aquatics Division and several East Austin neighborhoods. Using collaborative art making, *My Park, My Pool, My City* activated and amplified civic engagement around the future of Austin's city pools. In addition to three summer performances, Forklift Danceworks hosted and participated in town hall gatherings, community workshops, film screenings, and pool parties leading up to and following each show. The project brought together citizens, city staff and policy makers to encourage people to talk about this policy issue as it unfolds.



Courtesy of Forklift Danceworks. Photo by Jonica Moore.

My Park, My Pool, My City

Austin, TX



Performances, art making, events at public pools

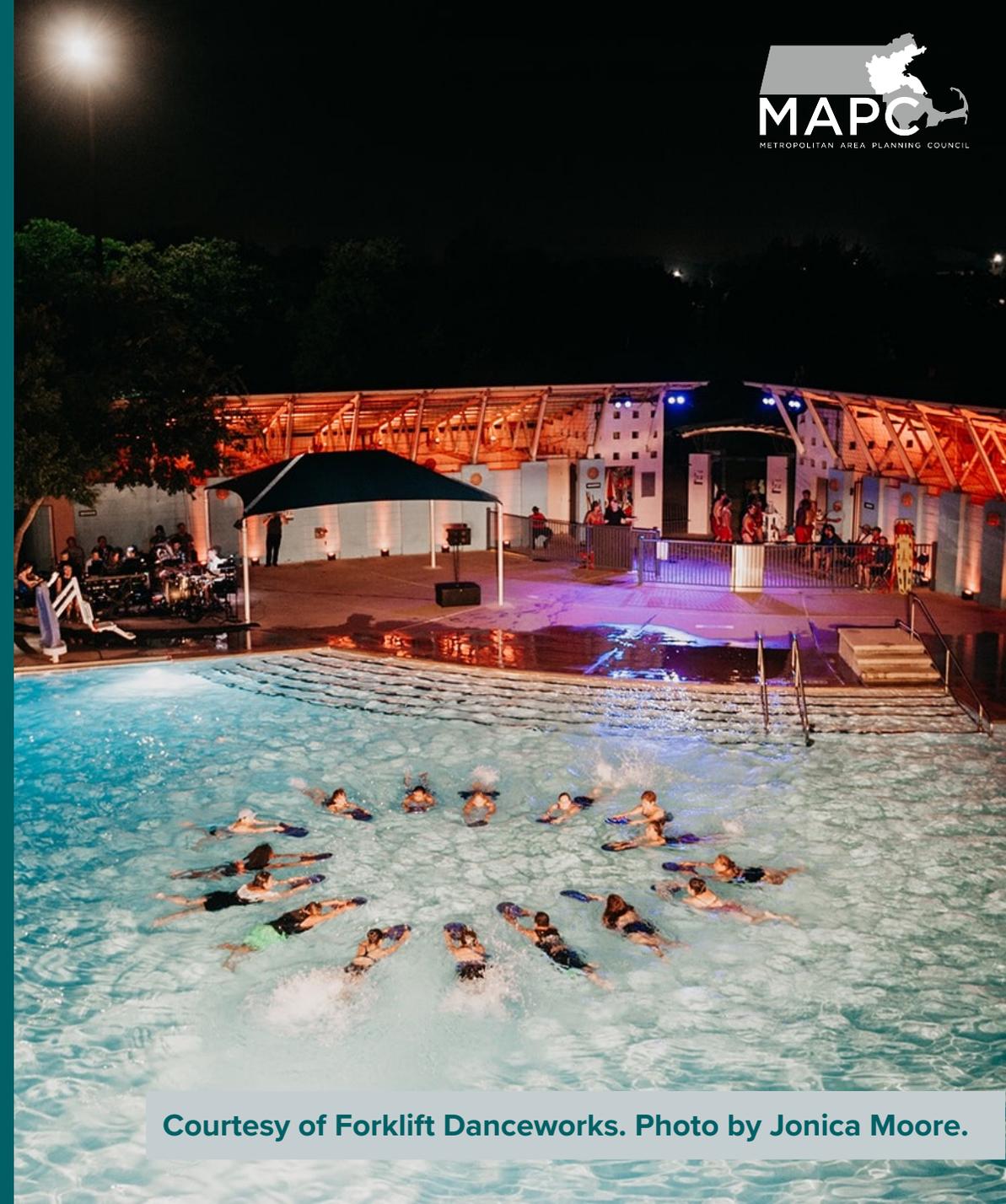
Project Partners:

- Forklift Danceworks
- City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department's Aquatics Division
- East Austin neighborhoods

Funding Source:

National Endowment of the Arts Our Town Program, Cultural Arts Division of the City of Austin Economic Development Department, various foundations and private sponsors

Learn More: <https://myparkmypoolmycity.org>



Courtesy of Forklift Danceworks. Photo by Jonica Moore.

Water Protector Mural and Solar Panels



Duluth, MN

Cultural resiliency collaboration with Indigenous artists

In 2017, the American Indian Community Housing Organization (AICHO) based in Duluth received a Climate and Cultural Resiliency grant of \$100,000 from Enterprise Community Partners to incorporate arts, culture, and creativity into climate resilience projects. AICHO used the grants to partner with tribal and Duluth organizations on projects including the installation of a solar array, composting and water capture systems, a rooftop community garden planted with traditional foods and medicines, and Duluth's first mural by indigenous artists. AICHO also collaborated with Indigenous artists and Indigenous folks that work in tribal natural resources departments and on the reservation to bring awareness to the community on Indigenous ways of thinking and protecting resources, water, land, our air.



Photo courtesy of NSRGNTS. Mural by NSRGNTS artists Votan Henriquez (Maya/Nahua), Leah Lewis (Pueblo/Hopi/Dine'), and Derek Brown (Dine')

Water Protector Mural and Solar Panels



Duluth, MN

Cultural resiliency collaboration with Indigenous artists

Project Partners:

- American Indian Community Housing Organization (AICHO)
- Honor the Earth
- NSRGNTS artist collective

Funding Source:

Enterprise Community Partners
Honor the Earth

Budget:

\$100,000

Learn More:

www.aicho.org/water-protector-mural.html



Photo courtesy of NSRGNTS. Mural by NSRGNTS artists Votan Henriquez (Maya/Nahua), Leah Lewis (Pueblo/Hopi/Dine'), and Derek Brown (Dine')