



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 **Making it Public**, a free training facilitated by FPA designed to equip administrators in strengthening local capacity to support, create, and promote public art.

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, administrators will have the tools needed to create their own Call for Temporary Public Art.

These participating municipalities will be eligible to receive a **\$10,000** grant from NEFA to fund artists selected by way of a Call for Temporary Public Art in 2022. Through **Making it Public** and funding artists through municipalities, NEFA aims to foster a community of practice that is inspiring more vibrant public spaces and public culture through public artmaking across MA. To learn more about NEFA's vision and values for public art, visit [NEFA's website](#).

Since 2014, FPA has facilitated **Making It Public** across the nation. This particular series has been tailored for MA municipalities in partnership with MAPC's Arts & Culture Department and General Counsel. MAPC will share lessons on how to commission public art within the Massachusetts context based on the public art commissioning process approved by the Inspector General's office and piloted in Lynn, Massachusetts in 2020.

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 2022. Estimated time commitment for municipal team is 40 hours total.

November 12- January 4, 2022	Accepting Letters of Interest from MA municipalities through January 4, 2022. (Deadline extended)
January 2022	NEFA and FPA staff will review and select 8 eligible municipalities to participate in early January 2022.
January 2022	<i>Registration opens (1/24/22-2/18/22) for artists to participate in Making it Public: for Artists. Participating municipalities are encouraged to share Making it Public: for Artists with artists in their region.</i>

March- April 2022	<i>Making it Public</i> : 5-week intensive virtual workshops. Workshops are virtual, 90 mins each week with an additional 30-minute pre-recorded video component. Starts week of 3/14/22, and ends week of 4/11/22.
May-December 2022	Prepare and distribute a Call for Temporary Art; administer selection process. MAPC and FPA will work in partnership with the Massachusetts Association of Regional Planning Agencies (MARPA) to offer up to 4 hours of 1-on-1 consultation to municipalities after the completion of the five-week workshop series.
August-December 2022	Administer grant(s) and support for Temporary Public Art

Letter of Interest from Municipality

Please submit a letter of interest to publicart@nefa.org by December 17, 2021. Municipalities will be notified of NEFA’s selection by early January 2022.

Municipalities should submit a letter of interest (maximum 3 pages) to NEFA’s public art team that includes:

1) Description of readiness to participate in *Making it Public* and conduct a Call for Temporary Public Art in 2022. This includes the following:

- Identification of two staff members – please include titles, departments, emails - who are interested and available to participate in the workshop.
- Municipal commitment that staff will be able to dedicate approximately 40 hours between March 2022 and December 2022 toward completion of the training and call for art divided as follows:
 - Participation in five 90-minute weekly virtual sessions and watching 4 half-hour instructional videos (March/April 2022) – 9.5 hours total
 - Creating and distributing a Call for Temporary Public Art (May-Dec 2022) – 3 hours
 - Administering selection process (May-Dec 2022) – 8 hours
 - Administering grant agreement and supporting artmaking (May-Dec 2022) – 16 hours
- Municipal commitment to fund the cost of installing temporary artwork and to facilitate installation through municipal staff or contractors.
- Signature of municipal officer duly authorized to bind municipality to receive grant funding for a Call for Temporary Public Art in the allotted timeframe- May thru December 2022. (i.e. publicizing the call and conducting the artist selection and administering the grant to artist/s)

2) Background of arts and culture efforts supported by the municipality.

- Have you worked with artist(s) before, and in what capacity?
- May include explanations of department budget and staff, ordinances, public support and/or existing art commission.

3) Explanation of challenges and/or potential growth areas for establishing municipal processes for supporting more equitable public artmaking in the community.

- What do you hope to learn through this process?
- What might successful implementation of learnings from *Making it Public* look like for your municipality?

Municipalities will be selected based on:

- **Readiness.** Approval from the necessary municipal authority is a top priority.
- **Geographic diversity.** For this first round of *Making it Public* in MA we aim to select a range of municipalities from across the commonwealth.
- **Alignment with shared values** around developing municipal processes for supporting more equitable public artmaking in the community.

Funding Available to support Municipal Call for Temporary Public Art

Municipalities that are selected to participate in the *Making it Public* workshop series are eligible to receive a \$10,000 grant from NEFA to either seed or match funding to be granted to artists through the **Call for Temporary Public Art** in 2022.

Eligibility Requirements for funding:

- Must be a MA municipality selected to participate in the 2022 *Making it Public* workshop series
- Municipal commitment to conduct a **Call for Temporary Public Art** in 2022. Call for Artists for Temporary Public Artmaking must be publicized between May-December 2022.
- Municipal review process of temporary public art proposals and must exemplify applied learnings from the *Making it Public* workshop series.
- Approval from duly authorized municipal officers to re-grant 100% of the NEFA grant (\$10,000) as payment directly to the select artist(s) by the municipality.
- Municipal commitment to fund the cost of installing temporary artwork and to facilitate installation through municipal staff or contractors.

50% of funding will be issued from NEFA to the municipality upon publicizing the Call for Temporary Public Art.

50% of funding will be issued from NEFA to the municipality upon completion of the artist selection process.

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).

Letters of interest will be accepted via email to publicart@nefa.org January 4, 2022. 11:59 PM ET (deadline extended).