Making it Public Workshop Series for Municipalities

Frequently Asked Questions – December 7, 2021

Artist Eligibility

1. When the Call for Artists is placed and marketed, what types of artists are eligible? Does it have to be an individual, can it be a group, such as a high school art class?

   Massachusetts-based artists over the age of 18 are eligible for the Calls for Temporary Art. Through the Making it Public Calls for Temporary Public Art, we aim to help Massachusetts municipalities reach artists they might not otherwise access. Through an open, fair, and transparent process, we want to see MA-based artists funded and equitably compensated for their work. If groups of artists or youth artists are funded, the Call should ensure that they are all equitably compensated for their work.

   Artist eligibility for Calls for Temporary Public Art may vary depending on the scope of the project. NEFA welcomes artists of all artistic disciplines interested in creatively engaging the public realm. Artists may be self/community-taught, institutionally trained, or a combination of both.

   NEFA aims to invest in artists and the creative process and foster public art practices that are dynamic and aesthetically impactful, and authentically honor the integrity of the people, places, stories, and ideas that are engaged in the process and presentation of the artmaking.

Project Eligibility

2. I was wondering if this grant would cover projects such as painting utility boxes around Town (attached are some examples of what we’d have in mind), or if it will only cover a certain kind of public art? Murals, sculptures, etc. Or will it cover any kind of public art project?

   Projects of all artistic disciplines are welcome. Public artmaking may be visual 2D or 3D installations, performative, ephemeral, and/or multidisciplinary.

   The Making it Public Workshop for Municipalities Series intends to build the capacity of municipal staff to expand the range of public art opportunities available in Massachusetts. Participating municipalities are expected to develop Calls for Art in alignment with the values of the New England Foundation for the Arts Public Art program. 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.

3. Does the project completed have to be temporary in nature or could the funds go towards a more permanent project?

   Given the limited grant amount ($10,000) provided by NEFA and the content of the Making it Public workshops focusing on Temporary Public Art calls, we do not encourage using these funds for a permanent public art project. Calls for public art that are eligible for funding from NEFA through this collaboration should be for temporary public artmaking.
Timeline for Completion

4. With the Call for Temporary Art being distributed between May and December, and artists being chosen by December, what would be the deadline for installation?

Municipalities are expected to post their completed Calls for Temporary Public Art between May-December 2022. Public art projects are expected to be installed and/or engage the public realm by the end of August 2023.

Funding

5. The call states that municipalities will be receiving a $10,000 grant from the New England Foundation for the Arts. Is that grant a separate and distinctive application? Any information about the granting portion, application requirements, and administrative requirements (timing) would be helpful.

Accepted municipalities will enter into an MOU agreement with the New England Foundation for the Arts that stipulates timelines and requirements for accessing grant funds. These funds will not require a separate grant application process. Half of funds will be released contingent on the municipality publicizing a Call for Temporary Art that commits to regranting 100% of NEFA funds to the selected artist or artists. These funds should be received and recommitted to the artist. This initial allocation prior to artist selection is intended to enable the municipality to provide selected artists with an initial grant allocation upon selection.

The second half of the funds will be released to the municipality contingent on the municipality selecting an artist or artists before the end of December 2022. These funds will be recommitted to the artist by the municipality based on payment schedules outlined in the Call for Temporary Art.

6. The Call names this requirement: “Municipal commitment to fund the cost of installing temporary artwork and to facilitate installation through municipal staff or contractors.” What do you mean by funding the cost of installation? Isn't this already covered by the $10,000 grant? How much might be needed to cover these costs?

In cases where the temporary installations funded through this grant program need to be secured to public property in manner that constitutes construction or alteration of public works under MGL Chapter 30, section 39M, the municipality will contract directly with a contractor in accordance with the provisions of MGL 30-39M or work through an existing municipal contract for construction of public works. One example of an installation cost estimate for pouring a foundation footing to support a large scale, permanent sculpture in 2021 was around $9,000. Costs will vary based on project specifications and other factors.
Staff Eligibility

7. Can one of the two staff people be a staff “affiliate” such as someone on a city Board or Commission? That is, if a municipality has one city hall employee and one person from the Cultural Council or other Mayor-appointed committee, would that be acceptable?

The workshop series is structured to accommodate the schedules of full-time municipal employees. Requests for staff affiliates to fill the second staff position will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Applications that include staff affiliates should indicate that the identified participant understands the time commitment and has the approval of their supervisor, as well as the time and capacity to participate in the workshop series.

8. If a municipality has only one staff person dedicated to arts and culture, what are other appropriate positions to participate in this training?

Positions appropriate for this training will vary by municipality and should include individuals who will take an active role in the development and execution of the public art process. Examples of staff positions include but are not limited to planning and community development, parks and recreation, public works, libraries, or other municipal entities interested in engaging in public art processes.

Workshop Timing

9. The workshops in March-April: What day(s) of the week will the training workshops be held?

Workshop sessions will be held weekly on Tuesdays starting on March 15th. Pre-workshop videos will be shared on March 7th for viewing prior to the 15th. Workshops will be held between the hours of 9am and 5pm, with the exact timing to be announced in January.