



***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) Arts and Culture Department, is pleased to invite municipalities in Massachusetts to participate in the *Making it Public for MA Municipalities* 2024 cohort.

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 in 2024, equipping artists in the region to be better prepared at responding to calls for temporary public art projects. Making it Public for MA Artists is facilitated by [Forecast Public Art](#). Artist registration will open in January 2024; the five-week workshop series will take place from March to April 2024.

Participant Requirements and Timeline

Participating municipalities will be asked to provide at least **two staff members*** who can commit to fully participating in the workshop series (January-April 2024) and conduct a Call for Temporary Public Art (April 2024-January 2025).

Municipalities selected for the 2024 Cohort will:

- Participate in *Making it Public*, a free biweekly workshop series with 6 training sessions over 11 weeks (January-April 2024) facilitated by MAPC designed to support Massachusetts municipal staff in facilitating more inclusive and equitable processes for administering a Call for Temporary Public Art.
- Apply the learnings from the workshop series to release a Call for Temporary Public Art by the end of August 2024. Each participating municipality will receive a \$15,000 grant from NEFA to fund artists selected through the Call for Temporary Public Art in 2024. Additional technical assistance from NEFA and MAPC will also be available (April 2024- January 2025).
- Support the selected artist(s) throughout the process, implementation, and celebration of the public art project in 2025 (e.g. permits, accessing an approved vendor, connecting with other municipal departments, etc.).

Estimated Time Commitment:

- January 23-April 2, 2024
 - o Estimating 2-5 hours/week per participant (to attend the workshop and complete the weekly biweekly assignments). Orientation, workshops and drop-in group office hours are all virtual and will be conducted live on Zoom.
- April 2024-January 2025
 - o Estimating a minimum of:

- 20 hours of work to launch the call
- 20 – 30 hours to administer the call and support the selection process
- 2025
 - Depending on when the project takes place in 2025, estimating 20 hours to support the selected artist(s) throughout the process, implementation, and celebration of the public art project (e.g. permits, accessing an approved vendor, connecting with other municipal departments, etc.).

*OPTIONAL: Participating municipalities are also welcomed to invite an additional third 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. Note: the additional team member should not be expected to administer the Call for Temporary Public Art process, particularly if they are not a municipal employee.

Timeline

August 2023 - October 13, 2023	<p>Accepting applications through Friday, October 13, 2023; Applications will be reviewed and up to 10 eligible municipalities will be selected to participate in the 2024 cohort.</p> <p>Virtual Information Session Tuesday September 12, 10:00am – 11:00 Click here to Register</p> <p>NEFA will aim to notify applicants in late November 2023.</p>
January - April 2024	<p>Making it Public for MA Municipalities runs January 23, 2024 through April 2, 2024.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tuesday, January 23, 2024; 10a-12p – Orientation (required) 2. Tuesday, January 30, 2024; 10a-12p – What is Public Art? 3. Tuesday, February 6, 2024; 10-11a – Drop-in Group Office Hours 4. Tuesday, February 13, 2024; 10a-12p – Foundations of a Temporary Call for Public Art 5. Tuesday, February 20, 2024; 10-11a – Drop-in Group Office Hours 6. Tuesday, February 27, 2024; 10a-12p – Criteria, Application and Reviewer Rubric 7. Tuesday, March 5, 2024; 10-11a – Drop-in Group Office Hours 8. Tuesday, March 12, 2024; 10a-12p – Grant Agreements w/Artists and Chapter 30B 9. Tuesday, March 19, 2024; 10-11a – Drop-in Group Office Hours 10. Tuesday, March 26, 2024; 10a-12p – Supporting Artists Through the Process 11. Tuesday, April 2, 2024; 10-11a – Drop-in Group Office Hours <p>Workshops are bi-weekly on Tuesdays, January 31 through April 2, 2024 from 10a-12p ET. Participation in all 6 workshops is required.</p> <p>Drop-in Group Office Hours - Tuesdays from 10-11a ET, during off weeks: Optional bi-weekly space to speak with facilitators and peers about the homework and/or workshop content as you begin to build you Call for Temporary Public Art. Although Drop-in Group Office Hours are not required, participation is highly recommended.</p>
April 2024 – January 2025	<p>By Friday April 12, 2024 - All participants submit a DRAFT of the Call, Application, Selection Rubric for review and approval by NEFA.</p>

	<p>By Friday May 31, 2024 - All participants submit FINAL Call, Application, Selection Rubric for final approval and DRAFT Grant Agreement for review and final approval before publicizing the call (timing will vary based on when municipality is aiming to publicize the call).</p> <p>By Friday August 30, 2024 - All Participants publicize approved Call for Temporary Public Art</p> <p>Friday January 31, 2025 - Select Artist(s).</p> <p>Additional technical assistance from MAPC and NEFA will be provided from April 2024-January 2025.</p>
2025	Participants support artists through implementation and celebration!

Apply to participate in the 2024 Making it Public for MA Municipalities

[Click here to apply online.](#) Applications must be submitted online by **October 13, 2023, 11:59p ET.**

NEFA will select up to 10 municipalities to participate in the 2024 cohort. Applicants will be notified in late November 2023.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Must be a municipality (city/town) in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
- Must have approval from duly authorized municipal officers:
 - For municipal staff (2-3) to participate in the 2024 *Making it Public* workshop series from January-April 2024
 - To conduct a **Call for Temporary Public Art** between April 2024-January 2025 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 support the selected artist(s) throughout the process, implementation, and celebration of the public art project (e.g. permits, accessing an approved vendor, connecting with other municipal departments, etc.).
- Past participants are not eligible to re-apply.

*Note about funding from NEFA: The remaining 20% (\$3,000) 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 2024, support equitable and inclusive outreach strategies and/or honoraria to reviewers in the artist selection process, etc.). OPTIONAL: Municipalities may choose to match the NEFA grant up to \$15,000 (making total grant available for this Call for Temporary Public Art up to \$30,000).

Selection Criteria

NEFA will select a cohort of municipalities based on:

- **Municipal Commitment and Readiness.** Approval from the necessary municipal authority is required. The municipality's readiness (including staff bandwidth) to both participate in this learning opportunity and apply the learnings to conducting a Call for Temporary Public Art in 2024 is a priority.
- **Geographic/Demographic Diversity.** We aim for the 2024 cohort to represent a range of municipalities from across the commonwealth.

- **Interest and readiness to learn and implement more equitable practices** for supporting more just and vibrant public artmaking. Learn more about [NEFA's public art values](#).

Application Requirements:

- Contact information for 2 municipal staff (and optional additional participant) who are committed to participating in the workshops and implementing the Call for Temporary Public Art.
- **Answers to the following questions:**
 - 1) Who lives/works in your municipality? How would you describe the public spaces in your communities?
 - 2) 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.).
 - 3) What challenges does your municipality face when it comes to supporting more vibrant and just public artmaking?
 - 4) Why is your municipality interested in supporting more public artmaking at this time?
 - 5) What do you hope to learn from being a part of the 2024 Making it Public cohort? How do you envision these learnings fostering more equitable practices for supporting more just and vibrant public artmaking in your community?
 - 6) Please tell us about your municipality's readiness to both participate in this learning opportunity and apply the learnings to conducting a Call for Temporary Public Art in 2024.
- **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 2024) 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.) Supporting materials should not exceed a total of 3 additional pages.

[Click here to apply online.](#) Applications must be submitted online by October 13, 2023, 11:59p ET.

Questions? Please contact Jessica Wong Camhi, Senior Program Coordinator, Public Art at NEFA (jcamhi@nefa.org or Annis Sengupta, Director, Arts & Culture at Metropolitan Area Planning Council (asengupta@mapc.org).