



## ***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* 2026 cohort. Making it Public for MA Municipalities aims to support municipal staff in commissioning temporary public art with more inclusive and equitable processes that focus on principles of fairness, transparency, and accountability in public procurement. To learn more about NEFA's vision and values for public art, visit [NEFA's website](#).

The curriculum aims to support municipal staff in commissioning temporary public art with more inclusive and equitable processes that focus on principles of fairness, transparency, and accountability in public procurement. In addition to the training, participating municipalities receive a \$15,000 grant to conduct a Call for Temporary Public Art.

*A parallel workshop series geared towards New England artists will also be offered in 2026, equipping artists in the region to be better prepared at responding to calls for temporary public art projects. Making it Public for New England Artists is facilitated by [Forecast Public Art](#). Artist registration will open in January 2026; the five-week workshop series will take place from March to April 2026.*

### **Eligibility Requirements**

- Must be a municipality (city/town) in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
- Must have approval from duly authorized municipal officers:
  - For 2-3 municipal staff to participate in the *Making it Public* 2026 trainings from January-April 2026 (For smaller municipalities that may not have 2-3 staff who can commit to this training, please contact NEFA's public art team at [publicart@nefa.org](mailto:publicart@nefa.org) to discuss alternative options.)
  - To administer a **Call for Temporary Public Art** in 2026 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, 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 2026, 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

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**Questions?** Please contact Kim Szeto, Sr. Program Director, Public Art at NEFA ([kszeto@nefa.org](mailto:kszeto@nefa.org)) or Annis Sengupta, Director, Arts & Culture at Metropolitan Area Planning Council ([asengupta@mapc.org](mailto:asengupta@mapc.org)).

participate in this learning opportunity and apply the learnings to administer a Call for Temporary Public Art in 2026 is a priority.

- **Interest in learning and implementing more equitable practices** for supporting just and vibrant public artmaking. Learn more about [NEFA's public art values](#).
- **Geographic/Demographic Diversity.** We aim for the 2026 cohort to represent a range of municipalities from across the Commonwealth.

## 2026 Application Requirements

[Click here to START an application.](#) ([Click here to resume an application.](#))

Applications must be submitted online by September 29, 2025, 11:59p ET.

NEFA will select up to 10 municipalities to participate in the 2026 cohort. Applicants will be notified in late November 2025.

### Application Requirements:

- **Contact information** for 2 municipal staff (and optional additional participant) who are committed to participating in the workshops and administering 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, 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 2026 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 the municipal staff who will be participating in the workshops and leading Call for Temporary Public Art for your municipality. What are their roles in supporting arts and culture in your community? Successful execution of the Call for Temporary Public Art process often involves collaboration from various municipal departments (e.g. procurement, legal, public works, etc.). Please tell us how participating staff may be supported in these cross-departmental collaborations.
  7. Please tell us about your municipality's readiness to both participate in this learning opportunity and apply the learnings to conduct a Call for Temporary Public Art in 2026.
- **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 2026-December 2027) 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.

See [sample agreement between NEFA and Municipalities](#) for additional important details regarding schedule of workshops, important dates and requirements of cohort participants.