

*The following questions and answers were provided during the information session on September 12, 2023. For more information about **Making it Public for Massachusetts Municipalities** please visit www.nefa.org/MakingItPublic.*

Q: Can you clarify the timeline for the 2024 MIP for Municipalities Cohort?

A: October 13, 2023 is the deadline to apply to participate in MIP 2024.

For municipalities selected to participate in the 2024 cohort:

- January-April 2024: Making it Public Workshop Series facilitated by MAPC
- By the end of August 2024: Municipalities release Calls for Temporary Public Art
- By the end of January 2025: Artists are expected to be selected
- 2025: Public artmaking takes place!

Q: Can you define Temporary Public Art? Will we get examples of temporary art in the training?

A: Yes! Examples of temporary public art will be shared throughout the training.

NEFA defines public artmaking as artistic and culture expressions of all artistic disciplines – including visual, performative, and those rooted in ritual – that engage and/or activate public space. We define public space as places that are open and available for the general public to happen upon.

And *temporary* public art should be temporal!

- Think about this in terms of right sizing the opportunity for the amount of the funding
- Offer clarity to artists applying so there are clear expectations about material durability, etc.

Questions about municipal participants:

Q: Can a municipality have only 1 staff participant? Can a municipality have more than 3 participants? Can staff include contracted staff non-employees? Do the municipal participants need to be paid municipal staff, can they be appointed volunteers?

A: We are intentionally asking for municipalities to send a team of at least 2 municipal staff participants whose work is relevant to managing the call for art process. For example, it may be helpful to have someone who works with procurement participate. The goal of having at least 2 municipal staff is to create some intentional redundancies in the learning, and so that staff have each other to bounce ideas off of, and to work together within city/town hall. We recognize staff turnover happens, and by having more than one person on staff participate, the hope is that the learnings aren't lost if that staff member leaves.

Municipal participants need to be paid municipal staff, rather than appointed volunteers. We recognize this may create a barrier for smaller municipalities, and something that we hope to revisit for future iterations of this program. But for this year, we require 2 municipal staff participants from each

participating municipality. We recognize this is a lot of work! We want to ensure that participating municipalities have the bandwidth to both participate in the training and support the Call for Temporary Public Art process.

We are also capping municipal teams at 3 participants to be mindful of the cohort size in the zoom room. If a municipality decides to have a 3rd participant, that individual may be a municipal employee, contracted staff non-employee, an appointed volunteer, a community partner who works closely with the municipal staff who are participating, etc.

Q: What if a colleague has previously participated in a prior year program but as a new employee you are seeking this training?

A: Eligibility is defined at the municipal level rather than the individual participant level. Recognizing that municipal staff do sometimes switch jobs, and move to a work at a different municipality, that would not prevent their new municipality from being eligible to apply.

Q: Does Making it Public for MA Municipalities offer design guidelines for working with historic commissions?

A: This training curriculum is not geared toward working with local historic commissions, but MAPC staff welcomes further conversation on this topic during group discussion to trade ideas.

Q: You mentioned installation/maintenance costs are to be assumed by the municipality - are materials costs meant to be covered by municipality as well, or is that just dependent on how the call is written?

A: Municipal responsibilities will be tailored depending on the Call for Temporary Public Art and will be discussed in more detail in the training.