

Eligibility and Application

Are municipal board, committee, and/or (volunteer appointer/elected) cultural council members considered municipal staff for the purposes of this program? (registration)

Municipal staff eligible to be part of the 2-person staff team must be paid employees of the municipality. A member of a relevant volunteer board person may be an optional 3rd team member.

Would elected officials be considered "staff"?

Elected officials would not be considered staff for the purposes of this program.

Who is deemed the authority on behalf of Towns?

The application requires the municipality's duly authorized officer's explicit support and buy-in, meaning the municipal executive - a mayor, town manager, etc. This is likely not a Town Counsel; although, they should be looped into the details of the process.

Will you accept staff members from various departments within the same municipality?

Yes! We encourage teams to be comprised of different departments within a municipality!

Can you apply for more than one municipality?

No. The municipality is the applicant. A staff person shared across two municipalities may only be part of one Making it Public 2-person staff team. There is an option for a shared staff person to be part of a second municipal team as an optional third member.

Are there municipalities that are ineligible to apply?

Municipalities that have participated in previous cohorts are not eligible to apply for the 2026 cohort of Making it Public. Here is a list of past participating municipalities in alphabetical order:

Municipality	Cohort
Acton	2023
Amherst	2022
Andover	2025
Ashfield	2025
Attleboro	2022
Belchertown	2024
Beverly	2025
Brockton	2023

Making it Public (MIP) for Massachusetts Municipalities

Info Session – September 9, 2025, 10:00-11:00

Chelmsford	2024
Chelsea	2025
Clinton	2024
Cohasset	2025
Concord	2023
Devens	2023
Erving	2023
Everett	2024
Fitchburg	2022
Gloucester	2025
Greenfield	2023
Holyoke	2023
Lowell	2022
Lynn	2022
Malden	2025
Middleborough	2023
Montague	2024
Natick	2022
New Bedford	2022
Northfield	2025
Peabody	2024
Pittsfield	2025
Revere	2023
Salem	2022
Somerville	2024
Southbridge	2024
Watertown	2022
Worcester	2025

Workshops and Timeline

Are training sessions for participating municipalities held in-person, remotely, or in a hybrid format?

Sessions will be held virtually on zoom.

How many grants will be awarded?

8-10 municipalities will be selected for the 2026 Making it Public for Massachusetts Municipalities cohort, and they will each be eligible for grant awards.

Temporary Public Art and Call to Artists

Define temporary public art. Could 'temporary' public art remain installed for as long as a year, or is the intention to be for a much briefer installation?

We don't have an official definition but generally something that is expected to be in public for less than 18 months. This can range from public activations lasting for a few hours at a time, an installation for a couple of months, or a mural that may stay up for the full 18 months or longer.

Please note that MIP is specifically focused on procurement for **temporary** public art. Permanent public art processes will look different and a \$15,000 grant is not sufficient for a permanent installation.

Can public art extend to roadways as in creating a road mural (like cross walk murals)?

Yes. The art should occur in public spaces, including roads, sidewalks, paths, etc. Municipal teams will need to obtain the appropriate approvals and permits for implementation. (Examples: City of Everett's [crosswalk murals](#), City of Greenfield's [abolitionist and underground railroad sidewalk](#))

Could the project be a private-public partnership? Eg, Can the mural be on private partnership or does it need to be on town land?

It is okay for the final piece of public art to be located on a private building or land that is located in the public realm. The municipality will need to secure appropriate permissions from the owner of the property.

Are there any restrictions on the artist outreach? For example, do the artists need to be Massachusetts-based?

There is no Massachusetts-residency requirement for artists responding to the Calls for Temporary Public Art released by municipalities participating in this program. Artist outreach can extend far and wide. NEFA and MAPC will help publicize the call and go over some outreach strategies with municipal teams.



Making it Public for MA Municipalities

Info Session

September 9, 2025 @ 10a



Making it Public

Making It Public for MA Municipalities is a public art training program inspired by Forecast Public Art (FPA) and co-designed by the [Metropolitan Area Planning Council's \(MAPC\) Arts and Culture Department](#) and New England Foundation for the Arts' (NEFA) Public Art Team.





Who's it for?

- Municipal staff in Massachusetts
- Who are interested in strengthening local capacity to support, create, and promote more vibrant and just public art making
- Who have approval and bandwidth to:
 - Participate in the training workshops (Jan-Apr 2026)
 - Apply the learnings from the training to release a Call for Temporary Public Art (by end of December 2026)
 - Support the selected artist(s) throughout the process, implementation, and celebration of the public art project (2026-2027)



2026 Cohort

- **Workshop Series facilitated by MAPC:** Biweekly workshop series with 6 training sessions over 11 weeks (January-April 2026) designed to support Massachusetts municipal staff in facilitating more inclusive and equitable processes for administering a Call for Temporary Public Art.
- **\$15,000 grant from NEFA:** Apply the learnings from the workshop series to **release a Call for Temporary Public Art by the end of December 2026** and fund artist(s) through the selection process in 2027.
- **Technical Assistance** from NEFA and MAPC will also be available (April 2026-June 2027).



Timeline

September 29, 2025: Deadline to apply to participate in MIP 2026

December 2025: Municipalities notified of selection

January - April 2026: Making it Public Workshop Series facilitated by MAPC

May - Dec. 2026: Municipalities prepare a Call for Temporary Public Art; additional technical assistance available

- ☐ **By June 30, 2026 – Municipalities submit first draft of Call for Temporary Public Art** for review. June-August NEFA/MAPC staff provide feedback.
- ☐ **By August 31, 2026 – Municipalities submit revisions of Call for Temporary Public Art, along with draft application materials, selection rubrics, and artist grant agreements** for review. September-October NEFA/MAPC staff provide feedback.
- ☐ **By November 1, 2026-** Municipalities submit FINAL Call, Application, Selection Rubric for final approval and before publicizing the call (timing will vary based on when municipality is aiming to publicize the call).
- ☐ **By December 31, 2026 – Call for Temporary Public Art is publicized** by each municipality
- ☐ **By June 30, 2027 – Artist(s) selected.** Support artists through implementation and celebration!

<https://www.nefa.org/MakingItPublic>

Making it Public

Fostering a community of practice that inspires more vibrant and just public spaces and culture through public artmaking.

Consistent with NEFA's obligations under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and other applicable federal and state laws, it is the policy of NEFA that no applicant for financial award shall be denied participation based on their race, color, national origin, gender or other protected classification.

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In addition to the training, participating municipalities receive a \$15,000 grant to conduct a Call for Temporary Public Art.

For MA Municipalities

Applications are due September 29, 2025, 11:59 PM ET.

[START AN APPLICATION](#)

[RESUME MY APPLICATION](#)

[Attend a Virtual Info Session >](#)
Tuesday, September 9 at 10:00 AM

[Sign Up for Office Hours >](#)

Accepting applications through September 29, 2025.

[Eligibility Requirements](#)



[Selection Criteria](#)



[Application and Additional Information](#)



Scroll down for more information; Municipal Agreement Template is available under the "Application and Additional Information" section.



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 workshop series from January-April 2026
 - 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.**



Past participants

2022

- Amherst
- Attleboro
- Fitchburg
- Lowell
- Lynn
- Natick
- New Bedford
- Salem
- Watertown

2023

- Acton
- Brockton
- Concord
- Devens
- Erving
- Greenfield
- Holyoke
- Middleborough
- Revere

2024

- Belchertown
- Chelmsford
- Clinton
- Everett
- Montague
- Peabody
- Somerville
- Southbridge

2025

- Andover
- Ashfield
- Beverly
- Chelsea
- Cohasset
- Gloucester
- Malden
- Northfield
- Pittsfield
- Worcester

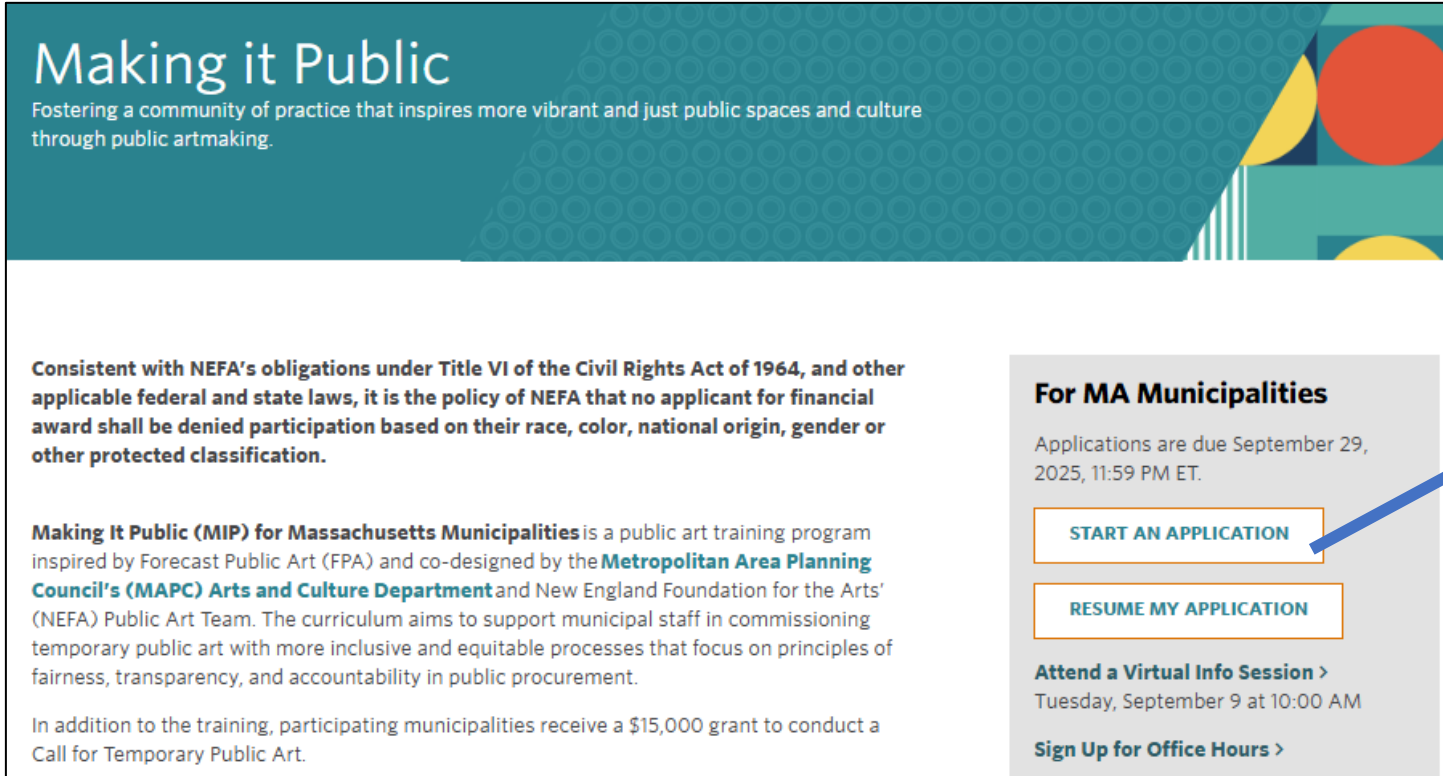


Selection Criteria

- **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 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.

Start an application in NEFA's grants portal

Go to: <https://www.nefa.org/MakingItPublic>



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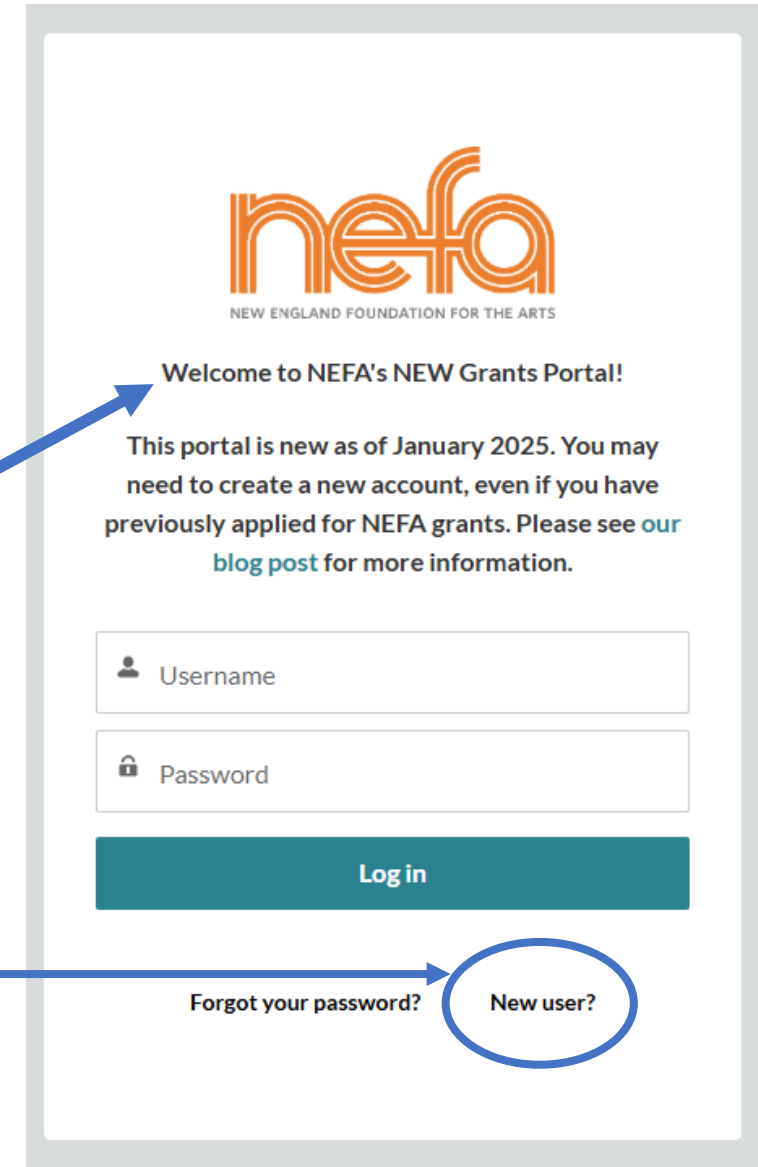
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nefa
NEW ENGLAND FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS

Welcome to NEFA's NEW Grants Portal!

This portal is new as of January 2025. You may need to create a new account, even if you have previously applied for NEFA grants. Please see [our blog post](#) for more information.

[Log in](#)

[Forgot your password?](#)

[New user?](#)

Annotations: A blue arrow points from the 'START AN APPLICATION' button in the left screenshot to the 'Welcome to NEFA's NEW Grants Portal!' text. Another blue arrow points from the text 'Click "New User?"' to the 'New user?' link, which is circled in blue.

After creating a new account in the grants portal, you can click “Resume my application” and log in to access an application you’ve already started.

Application requirements:

- **Contact information for participating municipal staff (2-3)**
- **Narrative 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.
- **Letter of Commitment from Municipality.**
- **Additional supporting materials (optional)**

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT

This PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT (this "Agreement"), entered into on [date] is made by and between New England Foundation for the Arts, Inc. ("NEFA"), a Massachusetts non-profit corporation with a principal place of business at 321 Harrison Ave., 4th Floor, Boston, MA 02118, AND the town/city of [municipality] with its principal place of business at [address].

In this agreement the town/city of [municipality] is referred to as the "Contractor"; NEFA and Contractor will collectively be referred to as the "Parties".

In exchange for valuable consideration, the sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, and in consideration of the mutual covenants and promises set forth herein, the Parties collectively agree as follows:

1. **Services and Work Products.** During the term of this Agreement, the Parties shall collectively furnish the "Services and/or Work Products" as described below:
 - a. **Services**
Contractor administers a Call for Temporary Public Art in 2026-2027, that exemplify applied learnings from the Making it Public workshop series and alignment with NEFA's Public Art Values.
 - i. See Appendix A for a detailed Scope of Work.
 - b. **Work Products**
Contractor shall produce a Call for Temporary Public Art in 2026-2027, in alignment with municipal procurement of public art in Massachusetts.
 - i. See Appendix A for details.

Contractor shall complete a final grantee report that includes 2-3 high resolution images of the final temporary artwork funded, along with relevant image descriptions and photo crediting information.
2. **Payments.** In exchange for the satisfactory performance of the Services and the timely completion and delivery of the Work Products prior to Termination, NEFA shall pay the Contractor the following amounts in accordance with the terms set forth below.
 - a. The Contractor shall be paid by NEFA, according to the following payment schedule:

	Payment Amount
20% of funding will be issued from NEFA to the municipality upon NEFA counter-signing the agreement; payment will be issued by January 30, 2026.	\$3,000
40% of funding will be issued from NEFA to the municipality upon:	\$6,000

Agreement Template

Payment Schedule:

- 20% of funding will be issued from NEFA to the municipality upon NEFA counter-signing the agreement; payment will be issued by January 30, 2026.
- 40% of funding will be issued from NEFA to the municipality upon:
 - Approval of the Call for Temporary Public Art from NEFA and
 - Municipality publicizing the Call for Temporary Public Art
- 40% of funding will be issued from NEFA to the municipality upon receiving a copy of signed grant agreement(s) between municipality and the artist(s) selected through the Call for Temporary Public Art process.



Thank you!

More information:

<https://www.nefa.org/MakingItPublic>

Email: publicart@nefa.org