

CITY of **BOSTON**



# CALL TO ARTISTS

*A Canvas of Culture:  
Boston Public Schools*

LED BY  
THE MAYOR'S OFFICE OF  
ARTS AND CULTURE &  
STREET THEORY

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# THE BASICS

The Mayor's Office of Arts & Culture (MOAC), via the Boston Art Commission and in partnership with Street Theory, is thrilled to introduce a multi-year initiative that integrates murals and other 2D art projects into public sites across Boston's neighborhoods. In its inaugural year, the initiative will focus on Boston Public School sites with capital projects. Artwork by selected artists will amplify the diverse, inclusive, cultural, social, and educational richness of schools while adding vibrancy to the city's landscape.

This is a Call to Artists for the creation of several new, original, long-term 2D murals and public art installations at Boston Public School sites across the city.

- **Budget:** Each project budget will range from \$20,000 - \$175,000.
- **Call released:** Wednesday, February 7, 2024, 1 p.m. ET.
- **Call closes:** Wednesday, February 28, 2024, 11:59 p.m. ET.
- **Eligibility:** This Call is open to all professional artists and artist teams—local, national, and international—with a strong preference for those who have a connection to Boston and/or the overall themes of individual sites.

There will be 2 Virtual Question and Answer sessions: the first on Thursday, February 15 at 6 pm ET and the second on Friday, February 16 at noon.

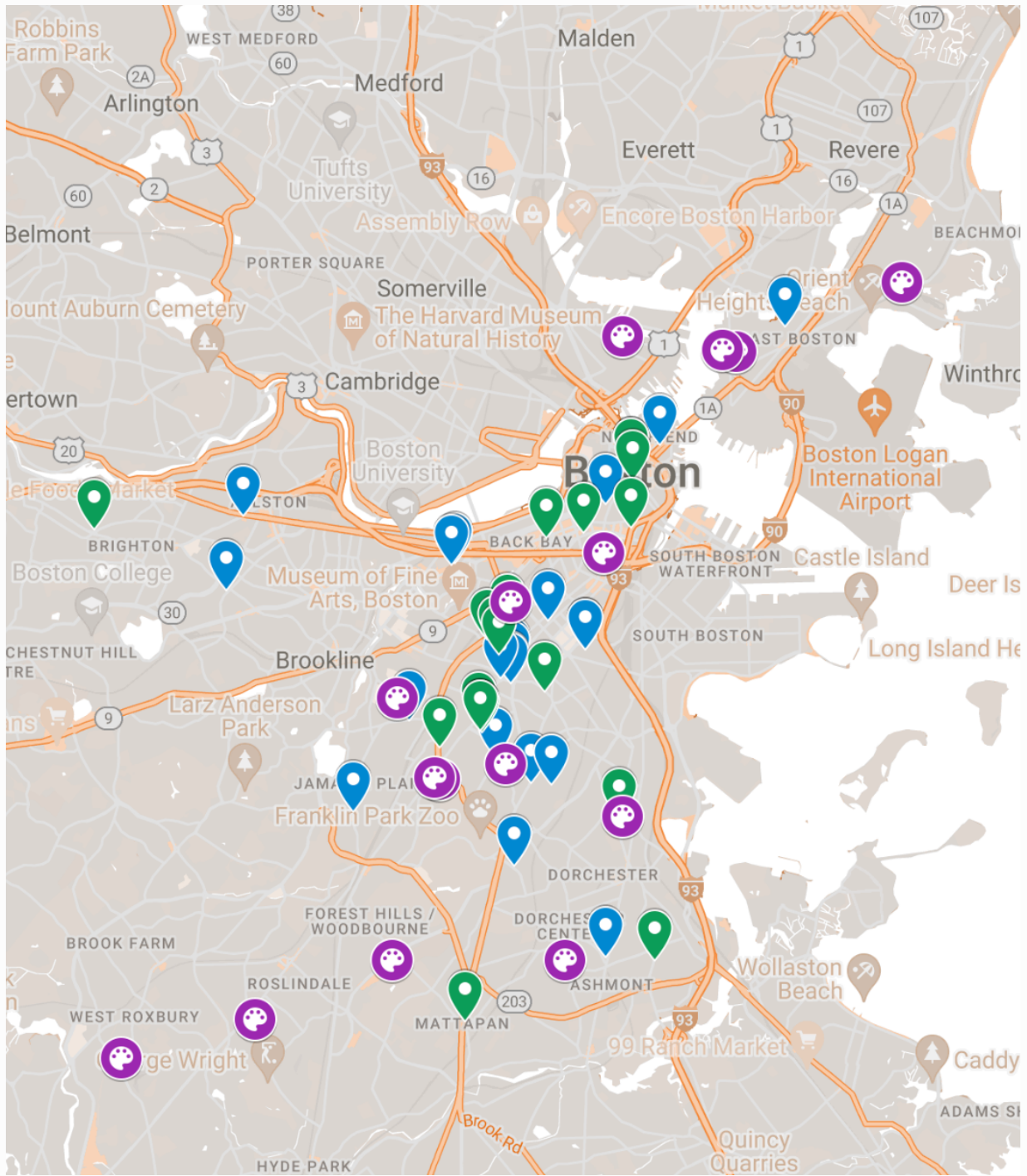
To respond to the Call to Artists, thoroughly review the opportunities and criteria listed below and submit through our online application page, found [HERE](#).

**We welcome written questions until 5 pm ET on Wednesday, February 21 (See page 13)**



# THE NEIGHBORHOODS

We're excited to introduce "A Canvas of Culture"—a new mural program that brings art into everyday life and makes our neighborhoods brighter and more inspiring. Our goal is to integrate public art into civic life, enhancing the cultural, aesthetic, social, and educational environments at capital improvement sites in Boston. In our effort to broaden the horizons of public art throughout Boston's diverse neighborhoods, this year's projects will be sited at schools located in Charlestown, Dorchester, East Boston, Roslindale, Roxbury, South End, and West Roxbury.



CITY OF BOSTON PUBLIC ART MAP WITH POTENTIAL SCHOOL SITES FOR 2024-2026

CALL TO ARTISTS: A CANVAS OF CULTURE 2024-2025





# PROGRAM THEMES & GOALS

## Public Art in Public Schools

This year's partnership between MOAC and Boston Public Schools (BPS) presents an enriching opportunity to celebrate the vital role of public art in public schools. Artwork themes will delve into and reflect the core values and cultural richness of schools, fostering a lively, diverse, inclusive, and welcoming educational environment. We will commission selected artists to contribute artwork and designs that illuminate the joy, warmth, and unique spirit of schools and their communities!

## 2D Public Art

We invite individual artists and artist teams specializing in 2D (two-dimensional) public art media to bring their creativity and vision to our city's schools. 2D media may include hand-painted murals, tile, and mosaic murals, printed digital artwork and illustrative applications, shallow relief sculptures, tactile and sensory artwork, and/or other wall-mounted prefabricated 2D applications. Each project will be thoughtfully matched to its site, emphasizing the importance of kid-safe materials and durability.



## Program Goals

The goals of "A Canvas of Culture" are to beautify the city, provide opportunities to artists at different levels of experience, and amplify the vibrancy of Boston's neighborhoods and schools through engaging and inspiring public art.

As the City continues to make big investments in public art, "A Canvas of Culture" contributes to the vitality of Boston's public art landscape making art accessible and engaging for all members of the community.



## Two Unique Opportunities

In this Call to Artists, we present two distinct opportunities. We encourage you to thoroughly explore the details and consider the project that aligns most closely with your interests, experience, and creative vision.

# THE SITES: OPPORTUNITY 1

## Opportunity 1 : Selected Schools

For Opportunity 1, we issued a Call for Walls - in Boston Public Schools, and carefully selected 8 project sites across 7 eligible schools. Each school is ready and excited to work with artists and our team! While we've currently identified these sites, we may expand or modify the number of sites. Artwork will be installed this Summer/Fall of 2024, with some projects extending into Spring/Summer of 2025.

Budgets are estimated to range from \$20,000 - \$70,000, depending on the site. Project timelines will range from 6-8 months\*

## School & Community Engagement

Each project will involve robust school and community engagement, fostering connections between MOAC, schools, artists, and their communities. This collaborative approach ensures that the artwork captures the essence of the school community while respecting and preserving artistic vision and integrity. Artists will be asked to describe their engagement ideas and work closely with dedicated school liaisons and MOAC's mural consultant on designing and facilitating at least two engagement sessions during the project cycle.

## Project Sites

Artists are invited to share any special connection they have with a specific project site or community in their application. While you're not required to choose a preferred site, sharing any particular themes or communities that resonate with you can provide valuable insight into your artistic perspective. Please briefly describe how these connections influence your proposed artwork. However, it's important to note that indicating a preference does not guarantee placement at that site. Our team will carefully match artists to sites based on the best fit with their portfolios and submissions.

See images and more information about each project site [HERE](#), or refer to Page 13 under the "Resources" section.



# THE SITES: OPPORTUNITY 2

## **Opportunity 2 : William E. Carter School**

*For Opportunity 2, we are excited to collaborate closely with the Public Facilities Department, BPS, and the Carter School—a new and updated facility that will include a therapeutic pool, sensory garden, rooftop classroom, and better spaces designed specifically for students with disabilities and complex learning needs.*

*We are seeking professional artists or artist teams with a keen interest and experience in crafting 2D public art projects that are both research-informed and tailored to the unique needs of the Carter School's student population and communities. Priority and preference will be given to artists who can demonstrate their ability to create art with a deep understanding of the community's diverse communication abilities and sensory needs. We're also looking for artists who can skillfully weave vibrant, engaging, and inspiring narratives related to Civil Rights and the ADA Movement into their artwork.*

*We have up to 4 projects at this site with budgets that are estimated to range from \$40,000 - \$175,000*

*Project timelines will range from 12-18 months\**

### **Additional Engagement & Logistics**

*Within our School & Community Engagement approach, this opportunity involves additional engagement and collaboration with the Carter School community, MOAC, and other stakeholders to create artwork that resonates deeply with the audience. Additional logistical considerations may also be necessary to align artwork with unique space and safety requirements. This comprehensive approach guarantees transformative artwork that profoundly connects with the Carter School and its surrounding community.*

*Budgets for Opportunity 2 projects have been allocated with these additional engagement and logistical needs in mind.*

*See images and more information about each project site [HERE](#), or refer to Page 13 under the “Resources” section.*



# BUDGET GUIDELINES

## **Budget Guidelines for Each Project**

We've set specific budgets for each project to cover all expenses involved. Here's what you need to know:

**Stay At Your Budget:** Your proposed total budget should match the exact amount we've listed for each project. The selected artist will receive exactly the budgeted amount. It's important not to go over or under these figures.

**What's Included:** The budget covers everything needed to bring your project to life, inclusive of but not limited to: all artist fees and costs associated with project requirements including administration, labor, research, designs, engineering, community engagement materials and sessions, meetings and presentations, fabrication, supplies, equipment, travel, transportation, transport of work to the site, installations, insurance, permits, and documentation.

For a Sample Budget Template, refer to Page 13 under the "Resources" section.





# ARTIST COMMISSIONING PROCESS

## CALL TO ARTIST OPENS

Application is accepting submissions; this is also the Question and Answer period.

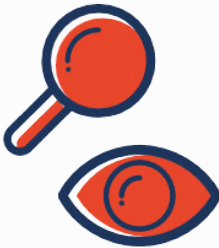
STEP  
01



STEP  
02

## CALL TO ARTISTS CLOSES

City staff reviews submissions for completion and alignment with the Curatorial Vision.



STEP  
03

## SUBMISSION REVIEWS

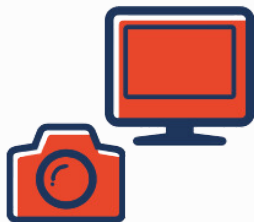
Artist Recommendation Committee reviews submissions independently and then together with City staff to select finalists.



STEP  
04

## FINALIST INTERVIEWS

Finalists are interviewed. Boston Art Commission reviews finalists and recommendation, and selects artist at a public meeting.



STEP  
05

## SELECTED ARTIST IS COMMISSIONED

Artists are notified and the public art process begins!

## PROJECT SCHEDULE\*

### MARCH 2024

*Artist selection and contracting  
- 1st payment issued -*

### APRIL - JUNE

*Artwork development period, including school and community engagements and 2 rounds of designs*

### JUNE - JULY

*Boston Art Commission review and vote on Final Design in a public meeting - 2nd payment issued -*

### JULY - AUGUST - SEPTEMBER

*Artwork installations and documentation*

### SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER

*Boston Art Commission accessions the completed artwork by vote -Final payment issued -*

### FALL 2024

*School and community artwork celebration*

*\*Schedule reflects projects with 6-8 month timelines.  
All dates are subject to change.*



# WHAT YOU NEED TO APPLY

To respond to the Call to Artists, prepare the materials listed below and submit through our online application page, found [HERE](#).

## **ARTIST DESCRIPTION**

Bio, resume, CV, or other documents that describe your background and professional experience. For teams, include information for all team members. Five files maximum; PDF, DOC, or DOCX.

## **STATEMENT OF INTEREST AND INITIAL PROJECT CONCEPT (500 WORDS OR LESS)**

Narrative describing an initial artistic concept for the site(s), why you're interested in this opportunity, what connection you have to the site and/ or neighborhood (if any), and any specific or unique processes you might use for the project.

## **SCHOOL & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN (500 WORDS OR LESS)**

A brief description of your school and community engagement approach for the site(s) you're interested in.

## **ITEMIZED BUDGET**

A preliminary budget of project expenses. You can use the template provided in the appendices, which start on page 12. PDF, DOC, DOCX, XLX, or XLXS.

## **RELEVANT WORK SAMPLES**

Up to ten images of completed past work that you feel is relevant to this site. Completed works are defined as projects that have been installed and/or actualized, not renderings or proposals. One image per file; jpg, tiff, or MP4 file types; limit videos to two minutes or less.

## **WORK SAMPLE DESCRIPTIONS**

An Annotated image list with title, media, dimensions, location, date, brief description, your role in the project (lead, assistant, etc.) and any other information that might be relevant. PDF, Doc, or DOCX.

## **DIVERSITY & INCLUSION PLAN**

The City of Boston prioritizes inclusive procurement practices for small and local businesses, including Small Local Business enterprises, Minority Business Enterprises, Woman Business Enterprises, and Veteran-Owned Small Business Enterprises. Please outline your approach to ensuring that subcontractors and suppliers for this contract are open to such businesses. If subcontractors and suppliers won't be used, describe your company's recent efforts to provide opportunities for these businesses in the past two years. Provide specific details in your plan.

# THE CRITERIA

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## YES, PLEASE!

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We want submissions from professional artists or artist teams that have a strong, original, artistic vision, and who demonstrate experience through their work samples in community engagement and the ability to execute similar public art projects.

We want submissions that share plans for ways to engage community members.

Your statement of interest and initial project concept should also show consideration of the neighborhood, site, and theme.

Your experience and project concept should also align with the City of Boston's Curatorial Vision drafted by the Boston Art Commission (BAC):

*The Curatorial Vision for the City of Boston is to foster the creation and collection of artworks that reflect the people, ideas, histories, and futures of Boston, the traditional homeland of the Massachusetts people and the home of the neighboring Wampanoag and Nipmuc peoples. We aim to commission and approve artworks that engage communities and directly respond to, enrich, and enliven the urban environment. We seek public art that is driven by an artistically strong vision, enhances the diversity and equity of the existing collection, and possesses durability appropriate to the lifespan of the work.*

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## NO, THANK YOU!

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We believe artists should be paid for their design work, and so are only accepting written proposals (initial project concepts as described above). Applications that include drawings or designs made specifically for this application or site cannot be considered and will lead to disqualification.

We believe that artists should be credited for their work, and so may reject submissions that contain images of other artists' creative works without crediting them or clearly identifying the submitters' role.

### **Non-Discrimination**

The Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, ancestry, or disability, nor will it fund projects that discriminate on these attributes.



# MORE INFORMATION

## **Program Partners**

- [Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture](#)
- [Boston Art Commission](#)
- [Boston Public Schools](#)
- [Public Facilities Department](#)
- [Street Theory, Inc.](#)

Learn more about the program at [www.boston.gov/canvas-bps](http://www.boston.gov/canvas-bps)

## **Public Meetings and the Boston Art Commission**

Artworks proposed for City of Boston property are reviewed at public meetings held by the Boston Art Commission (BAC). The BAC is the commissioning body for the City of Boston. Housed in the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture, the BAC also holds contracts with artists, approves artwork on City land, and conserves the City of Boston's collection of art and historical artifacts. The Boston Art Commission, staffed by the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture, is an independent board composed of two ex-officio and seven appointed volunteer art and design professionals that typically holds public meetings on the second Tuesday of each month to review and vote on matters concerning the City's art collection.

## **About the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture**

The Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture is a City agency that enhances the quality of life, the economy, and the design of the City through the arts. The role of the arts in all aspects of life in Boston is reinforced through equitable access to arts and culture in every community, its public institutions, and public places. Key areas of work include support to the cultural sector through grants and programs, support of cultural facilities and artist workspace, as well as the commissioning and care of art in public places.

## **About Street Theory, Inc./ Mural Consultant**

Street Theory, Inc., led by founder Liza Quiñonez, proudly serves as the mural consultant for the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture (MOAC), bringing over two decades of experience in large-scale public art production, arts administration, art and design direction, exhibitions, and special events. As mural consultant, Liza works closely with MOAC to identify mural sites, contract with artists, manage projects, and engage communities. Street Theory is an award-winning, artist-owned agency deeply committed to artist rights, social justice, and multiculturalism. Its focus is on authenticity and diversity, ensuring that each mural project resonates with Boston's cultural identity.





# STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?

Join us for a Virtual Question and Answer session on Thursday, February 15 at 6 pm ET and the second on Friday, February 16 at noon.

We welcome written questions until 5 pm ET on Monday, February 19. You can email or use this form.

We will post answers and recordings on Wednesday, February 21 to our website.

The application form is here.

Send emails to [liza.quinonez@boston.gov](mailto:liza.quinonez@boston.gov) with the subject "Canvas of Culture"

## RESOURCES

[Project Sites](#)

[Sample Budget Template](#)

## APPLICATION

[Submittable](#)