



# Mel King School Garden Fence Public Art Project

Community Engaged Design Proposal

Fatima Seck, Ed.M

# About the Mel King School Garden

1. Mel King South End Academy & Haley House
2. Emphasis on Social Emotional Learning
3. Service-Centered
4. Significance in the School & Neighborhood Community





# About the Project

Redesigning and replacing garden spires & posts through hand-made designs by lead artist & students

Multi-series workshop involving site visits, outdoor sketching and hand-building

Using clay sculptures to make cast iron additions that are aesthetically consistent with the neighborhood



# Opportunity for Creative Expression

**Gardens love art!**

Some students just aren't outdoorsy, but can still participate in making the garden

Creates further investment in the space

Building confidence

Art is an opportunity for self-expression & communication



# Collaboratively Making Public Space

literally shaping their  
neighborhood

An opportunity for repair, given  
that many of the student's parents  
& grandparents were displaced  
from South End

Bringing children into the fold of  
public space



# Being a Part of South End

Site visits encourage neighborhood literacy

Drawing reference directly from motifs in South End's natural and built environment

Unique but aesthetically consistent designs

Meeting South End architects & designers

# About the Artist:



Photo Credit: Alana Cummings

Fatima Seck is a school gardener and community teaching artist. She has facilitated a number of socially-engaged art projects: making mosaics at farmers market using pantry staples for GrowBoston; creating memorials for Black enslaved people at Cambridge cemeteries with funding from the City of Cambridge; and in her role as a 2024 Artist-in-Residence at Mount Auburn Cemetery. She has worked with youth in a variety of settings & contexts, including the ICA Boston & Mel King South End Academy.



1



2





3



4



5



6



7



8



10



11

**24 Spires**

**One post**

**General repaint/varnish**

# Potential Collaborators:

- 1. Reliable Fencing**
- 2. Independent contractors for welding services**
- 3. FeLion studios**
- 4. Richmond Iron**

A photograph of a residential street scene. In the foreground, there is a wooden fence and a concrete sidewalk. A large green rectangular overlay covers the bottom half of the image, containing the text "Thank you!". Behind the overlay, a black wrought-iron fence runs across the middle ground. A white SUV is parked on the street behind the fence. In the background, there are several multi-story residential buildings with various architectural styles, including brick and white siding. Large green trees are scattered throughout the scene, and a black street lamp is visible on the right side.

**Thank you!**