



## Call to Artists

Deadline: **August 4, 2014, 2:59PM**

### 1. Overview

ExpressingBoston began in 2013 as a small grants initiative of the Boston Foundation focused on celebrating the diverse cultural identities of Boston's over 140 ethnic communities in public spaces across the city. With the belief that artistic expressions foster vibrancy and a sense of belonging within communities, the Boston Foundation supported over 20 public art interventions over the past 18 months.

With a desire to better support and connect artists who are activating public spaces across the city, and specifically within the Fairmount Cultural Corridor, the Boston Foundation has partnered with the Design Studio for Social Intervention (DS4SI) to build on past work and create an ExpressingBoston Public Art Fellowship.

**While the structure of this program has shifted, ExpressingBoston's three goals remain unchanged:**

- To uplift and share the rich history, traditions, identities and assets of Boston's ethnic communities, particularly those in neighborhoods that have been historically marginalized in Boston.
- To diversify the types of art created and presented across Boston by providing opportunities to uplift art forms and/or traditions that are not typically represented in galleries and museums and are not yet connected to the Boston Foundation's network.
- To challenge and destabilize normalized notions of what qualifies as art, who can create art, how art should be made, where art should be exhibited, and how audiences should engage with art.

Embedded in these goals is the Boston Foundation's values statement that in everything we do, we seek to broaden participation, foster collaboration, and heal racial, ethnic and community divisions.

### 2. ExpressingBoston Public Art Fellowship

Artists will be awarded nine month fellowships with DS4SI through the ExpressingBoston Public Art Fellowship program. These artists will foster a community of practice between October 2014 and June 2015. The fellowship is aimed at supporting artists in thinking through and testing new ways to do their art practice in public spaces, in ways that increase the authority which artists and community members feel to activate public spaces in their neighborhoods. Artists will receive a stipend of \$5,000 and up to \$2,000 for materials for their engagement in this residency.

The fellowship will include the following activities and opportunities:

**Kick Off Action Lab** *(October 2014)*

Design is both a linear and nonlinear process. As such, the DS4SI Action Lab will engage participants in exploring both. It is an interactive design space that supports artists and activists interested in generating new ideas for social interventions and public art. Through the Action Lab, the ExpressingBoston Public Art Fellows will explore using art to amplify cultural symbols and tactics, learn DS4SI's "5 S Research Methodology" for assessing the terrain and issues they want to impact, explore design tools to support ideation, divergence, and prototyping, and work together to both imagine new approaches to doing their work in public and new ways to assess and gain feedback on their impact.

**Monthly Design Lab** *(November-March)*

ExpressingBoston Public Art Fellows and their community partners/allies will have the opportunity to gather once a month to continue to use Action Lab design tools to go deeper in exploring and prototyping their ideas, getting community feedback, and sharing their work to date. Time will be included for imagining possible collaborations and amplifications among interested artists.

**Midterm Charrette** *(January)*

ExpressingBoston Public Art Fellows will have the opportunity to get feedback on their work from a diverse group of creatives and systems thinkers, including other artists, academics, practitioners and activists from a broad array of fields.

**Personalized Technical Assistance** *(October-March)*

ExpressingBoston Public Art Fellows will have the resources and knowledge of the Design Studio at their fingertips, as DS4SI offers personalized technical assistance from their many years of experience working in communities as activists and social practitioners.

**Place-based and Online Networking** *(October-March)*

ExpressingBoston Public Art Fellows will be able to amplify their work and its impact through the network of relationships that DS4SI and the Boston Foundation have in Boston's art communities, in the Fairmount Cultural Corridor and through their online networks.

**Implementation** *(March – June)*

ExpressingBoston Public Art Fellows will launch and implement their new interventions, events, and public art strategies.

**End of Fellowship Exhibit** *(June 2015)*

ExpressingBoston Public Art Fellows, community members and partners will exhibit and celebrate their work (and the thinking that went into it) during an end of fellowship collaborative exhibit held at DS4SI.

### 3. Criteria and Funding Priorities

This fellowship is open to artists who are engaged in a wide definition of art and public art. This includes both temporary and permanent art, as well as traditional and nontraditional arts such as (but not limited to): culinary arts, dance, street theater, performance art, music, photography, fashion, body art, game design, graphic design, poetry, fine arts, social practice, puppetry, jewelry, graffiti, fabrics, ceramics, etc.

Funding priorities include supporting artists who live and/or work along the Fairmount Cultural Corridor ([map](#)) and whose art represents one or more of their community's rich history, cultural traditions, identities and assets. We look to gather a diverse community of practice across cultural background, age, experience, gender and art practice.

### 4. Application Submission and Timeline

Proposals will be reviewed by DS4SI staff, Boston Foundation staff and a small panel of area-based artists familiar with the communities along the Fairmount Cultural Corridor. **All proposals must be received prior to the deadline of 2:59PM on August 4, 2014. Incomplete applications will not be considered.**

Applicants must complete an online application, which can be found at the below link:

<http://bit.ly/ExpressingBoston2014>

Application Requirements:

- Basic contact information
- Brief responses to the below questions (500 word maximum each):
  - The ExpressingBoston Public Art Fellowship is interested in supporting artists who live and/or work along the Fairmount Cultural Corridor. What community are you a part of and what do you love about this community?
  - What type of art do you do? How does it represent one or more of your community's rich history, cultural traditions, identities and assets?
  - How do you see your art engaging people in public?
  - How will this opportunity to make your art more public in your neighborhood impact you and your community?
  - What do you hope to learn or gain through being a part of an artist fellowship with the Design Studio for Social Intervention and a community of practice with other artists creating public art along the Fairmount Cultural Corridor?
- 3-10 images and/or a video of no more than 5 minutes of at least 1 relevant piece of past work. Please title your works in the following manner: Last Name, First Name, number corresponding to your work sample list. (For example: DoeJane01.jpg, DoeJane02.jpg, etc.)
- Numbered work sample list which corresponds with the file name numbers of your uploaded work samples. Please include the title, date, material/medium and size of each depicted piece of work, as well as any additional context or information necessary to understand each piece.

If electronic submission poses a problem for you, please reach out to Laura McConaghy at 617-338-1612 at least 15 business days prior to the submission deadline.

**Timeline:**

June 11 – *Call to Artists* released

July 8, 5:30-7pm – Information Session about *Call to Artists* at [Design Studio for Social Intervention](#)

August 4 at 2:59PM – Application deadline

Early September – Finalists notified for in-person interviews

Late September – Applicants notified of decision

October 2014-June 2015 – Residency

**Have Questions?**

Should you have questions about this residency please reach out to Lori Lobenstine at [lori@ds4si.org](mailto:lori@ds4si.org).

Should you have questions on the application process or issues with application submission please reach out to Laura McConaghy at [laura.mcconaghy@tbf.org](mailto:laura.mcconaghy@tbf.org).