



Call for

TEMPORARY PUBLIC ART

Concepts by Emerging Artists

The City of Somerville, through the Somerville Arts Council (SAC), invites [emerging artists](#) (or a group of artists working as a team) to submit project concepts to be considered for a commission to create a temporary public artwork. This opportunity is funded in partnership with the New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA) Making it Public Program. For more information, please contact the Somerville Arts Council at arts@somervillema.gov or call [617.625.6600](tel:617.625.6600) ext. 2985

Submit your concepts online to the Somerville Arts Council by using the following link:
somervilleartscouncil.org/TemporaryPublicArt

We define an [emerging artist](#) as an individual or team that is early career and likely has been practicing for less than 10 years, regardless of age or education. This artist is in the initial phases of building significant recognition. The emerging artist or team members may not have lead a public art project before, so mentorship and guidance will be available during this process.



GENERAL INFORMATION

SAC is commissioning a temporary outdoor public art project that will highlight the work of an emerging artist(s). Recognizing the importance of supporting emerging artists in the public art realm, SAC is looking to commission a temporary public art project that creatively engages or reflects on the cultural, social, economic, and/or environmental landscape of Somerville.

The Somerville Arts Council, a municipal department of the City, has the mission to cultivate and celebrate the creative expressions of the Somerville community. Through innovative collaborations and quality programming, we work to make the arts an integral part of life reflective of our diverse city.

SAC works closely with other City departments and partner organizations to elevate arts and culture within the city of Somerville. Somerville practicing artists will be given special consideration.

PROJECT DETAILS

Location

Location will be determined based on the proposals by the Artist(s). Final site selection will be coordinated with SAC and the artist(s) during Phase 2. Artists are welcome to identify their own public outdoor site or use one of these three potential sites for activation:

1. *Somerville Junction Park*

Located along the community path just off Central Street, Somerville Junction Park is a centrally located park with high visibility and foot traffic from the community path. The Park is also located near the Vernon Street Studios and the Somerville Museum. This park is undergoing renovation and will be complete in the spring of 2025.

2. *Union Square Plaza*

Union Square Plaza serves as a central gathering point and focal area within the city's urban fabric. Located in the heart of Union Square, it is a vibrant public space that hosts various community events, markets, and cultural activities throughout the year. squares.

3. *Homans Site, Gilman Square*

Located near Gilman Square, the Homans Site was once home to Homans Building Supply, a major distributor of building materials. The site has been transformed through the demolition of the historic building and awaits further redevelopment. During the summer of 2024 the site was partially paved and temporarily activated by Culture House, dubbing the site Gilman Park.

Medium

Projects may be of any visual arts medium, but should consider having three-dimensional and/or interactive components with the potential to engage and resonate within the community.

For more information please see the [Application Requirements](#) section

Selection

Artist(s) will be selected in a two-phase process. In Phase 1, interested artists or artist teams will submit a project concept, a proposed location, relevant experience, and references. From these project concepts, three (3) finalists will be selected based on the proposals that receive the highest scores on the [Phase 1 rubric](#). SAC Staff, local artists, neighbors, and community members will comprise the selection committee. Phase 2 will comprise of the finalists from Phase 1 developing their ideas with mentors and SAC staff. Finalists will be paid a stipend for developing their ideas into full proposals. Final selection will be made based on the [Phase 2 rubric](#). The selected artist(s) will enter a grant agreement with the Somerville Arts Council to produce the selected project.

Budget

Phase 1

Each artist or artist team selected as a finalist will receive an honorarium of \$750 for the development of a temporary public art project proposal.

Phase 2

The project proposal selected in Phase 2 will have a budget of up to \$15,000 for labor and materials to complete the proposed project. The selected artist(s) will be responsible for obtaining the necessary insurance.

Finalists and Mentorship

Finalists selected to participate in Phase 2 will have access to Somerville Arts Council support and mentorship in final project development. While not required, it is encouraged for participants to utilize SAC and its mentor's expertise to develop their final project proposals. Mentors can help with material selection, concept development, budget development, etc.

Project Parameters

SAC encourages proposals that demonstrate experimentation and out-of-the-box characteristics. Projects should be able to withstand the natural elements and be ready to install in a public setting. Delicate artworks that may be vulnerable to the elements and/or public interactions are not advisable for this project. Projects cannot feature any commercial, political, or religious content and should be appropriate for viewers of all ages.

PROJECT TIMELINE

Phase 1

- Call for Artists Open → Early September 2024
- Information Sessions → September 26 & October 17
- Concepts Due → October 31, 2024
- 3 Finalists Notified → November, 30 2024

Phase 2

- Finalist Workshops → December 2024–January 2025
- Project Proposals Due → January 31, 2025
- Project Selection → February 28, 2025
- Display Period Starts → June 2025

ARTIST SELECTION CRITERIA

The panel is looking for artist(s) to propose a project that:

- Creatively engages and/or reflects the cultural, social, economic, and/or environmental landscape of Somerville
- Is responsive to the surrounding environment
- Is primarily a visual arts medium

Priority will be given to:

- Emerging artists
- Artists who live, have a studio, and/or have strong ties in Somerville.
- Projects that consider having three-dimensional and/or interactive components with the potential to engage and resonate within the community.

For a full breakdown of how artists and artists teams will be selected see the [rubrics at the end of this document](#).

INFORMATION SESSIONS

Session 1

September 26, 2024 @ 7 PM

Session 2

October 17, 2024 @ 7 PM

The City of Somerville can provide you with an interpreter in your language for free. To request an interpreter, please contact us at somervillema.gov/ContactSomerviva or call 311 (617-666-3311) at least 7 days in advance of this event.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

If you are applying as an artist team:

Designate one artist to be the team leader to submit your collective information

For more information on each of these sites see the [Project Details](#) section

If you are applying as an artist team:

Combine your information into a maximum of a four-page PDF document that summarizes each team members' qualifications

If you are applying as an artist team:

Provide samples from each artist on the team, do not exceed 10 images

PHASE 1: Call for Concepts

Artist(s) must submit all of the following materials for consideration:

Proposed Project Concept (300 words max or 1-minute video max)

Project concepts should reflect selection criteria and priorities stated in the Artist Selection Criteria. Please describe your project concept and how it creatively engages and/or reflects the cultural, social, economic, and/or environmental landscape of Somerville. How is the artwork responsive to the surrounding environment/proposed location? Be sure to describe the artistic medium of the project and if it has three-dimensional and/or interactive components with the potential to engage and resonate within the community.

Proposed Location

Provide where and how your idea will be executed within Somerville. This can be a park, plaza, part of an event, or a general neighborhood or square. Finalists will work with SAC on final location selection in Phase 2. Suggestions of potential sites include Somerville Junction Park, The Homans Site (Gillman Park), and Union Square Plaza.

Artist(s) Experience

Provide a narrative description of your past work and/or resume or CV (2 pages max). Please include:

- Highlights from your current artistic practice; why your artistic practice may be a good fit for this project
- Previous community engagement work
- Experience working with multiple stakeholders.
- Do you identify as emerging artists? Please explain.
- What is your connection to Somerville? Do you live in, have a studio in, and/or have strong ties to Somerville? Please explain.

References

Provide the name and email addresses of two (2) professional references that have experience working with you. Please indicate their position and your relationship to each reference.

Work Samples

Provide up to 10 images (JPEG or PNG) of completed work. In a separate PDF, provide a list of submitted work, including title, date, materials, dimensions, and locations. Include 1-2 sentence descriptions as needed.

Work Samples (Alternative)

Alternatively to uploading files, provide a link to a website or portfolio of previous work.

PHASE 2: Final Project Proposals

(We are **NOT** requesting full project proposals at this time, this section is meant to be illustrative of our full process.)

As part of Phase Two, SAC will invite three finalists to develop site-specific proposals for review by the Committee. Each artist or artist team selected as a finalist will receive an honorarium of \$750 for the development of a temporary public art proposal.

Proposals must include:

- A detailed project description including a schedule
- A detailed budget including labor, artist stipends, materials, applicable insurance, and equipment costs to complete installation
- Scale models, renderings, or detailed sketches with intended color choices, that support the intended visual proposal
- Detailed information of proposed materials and application/ installation methods
- A presentation to the Selection Panel

Finalists will also have the opportunity to participate in a proposal development workshop with SAC staff and our mentors prior to submitting their final proposals.

Project proposals will be due by January 31, 2025. The Selection Panel will be moderated by the SAC and composed of members of City staff, local artists, neighbors, and community members. The Panel will recommend the winning artist(s), with notification by February 28, 2025. The winning artist or artist team will then enter a grant agreement with the Somerville Arts Council.

Through this project the City of Somerville aspires to commission artwork while supporting new and emerging artists in the public art realm. The project proposals will be judged according to the review criteria attached to this document.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications for Phase 1 can be found online at:

www.somervilleartscouncil.org/TemporaryPublicArt

Fill out the online application to apply for consideration by October 31, 2024 at 11:59 PM

Somerville Temporary Public Art Selection Rubric: PHASE 1

Artist/Group Name: _____

_____ Total

The following criteria will be used to review submissions for the City of Somerville Temporary Public Art Call for Concepts

						TOTAL
ARTIST EXPERIENCE						
APPLICATION Are highlights from the artist(s) artistic practice relevant to the proposed project concept (e.g. past work samples, resume/CV, and narrative response may speak to this)?	0	1	2	3	4	
QUALIFICATIONS Does the artist(s) have experience with community engagement and/or working with multiple stakeholders?	0	1	2	3	4	
PROPOSED PROJECT CONCEPT						
PROJECT CONCEPT Does the proposed project concept have a three-dimensional, performative, or interactive element? Proposals for only event or performance-based projects will not be accepted.	0	1	2	3	4	
IMPACT Does the proposed project concept creatively engage and/or reflect the cultural, social, economic, and/or environmental landscape of Somerville.	0	1	2	3	4	
LOCATION Is the proposed project concept responsive to the surrounding environment of the proposed location.	0	1	2	3	4	
ARTISTIC MEDIUM Is the proposed project primarily utilizing a visual arts medium? Does it also have a three-dimensional and/or interactive components with the potential to engage and resonate within the community?	0	1	2	3	4	
SUITABILITY The proposed project concept DOES NOT contain commercial, political, or religious content.	0	1	2	3	4	
BONUS						
EMERGING ARTIST Does the artist(s) identify as an emerging artist?	0	1				
SOMERVILLE TIES Does the artist(s) connection to Somerville? Does the artist(s) live, have a studio, and/or have strong ties in Somerville?	0	1				

Somerville Temporary Public Art Selection Rubric: PHASE 2

Artist/Group Name: _____

_____ Total

The following criteria will be used to review submissions for the City of Somerville Temporary Public Art Project Proposals

						TOTAL
PROPOSAL Is the proposal fully complete with all necessary components?	0	1	2	3	4	
PROJECT CONCEPT Does the proposed project concept have a three-dimensional, performative, or interactive element?	0	1	2	3	4	
IMPACT Does the artist(s) demonstrate interest and commitment to creatively engaging the cultural, social, economic, and/or environmental importance of Somerville.	0	1	2	3	4	
FEASIBILITY Does the artist(s) demonstrate experience working in the artistic medium of the proposed project concept? Does the artist(s) demonstrate the technical considerations required for implementing projects in the medium and scale proposed?	0	1	2	3	4	
SPIRIT The project reflects the following community elements: family friendly, fresh, inclusive, engaging. Lacks any commercial, political, or religious content	0	1	2	3	4	
SUITABILITY The project is sensitive to the surrounding area and context of the site. The proposed project concept DOES NOT contain commercial, political, or religious content.	0	1	2	3	4	
SAFETY The project's design is safe and accessible for the public audiences and users. Complies with ADA guidelines and does not impede or disrupt walkways.	0	1	2	3	4	
BUDGET The project's budget accounts for all necessary items and is realistic. The budget does not go over the maximum limit.	0	1	2	3	4	