



**TOWN OF
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(Ashfield, MA) The Town of Ashfield is excited to announce that we are one of ten Massachusetts cities and towns selected for [Making it Public \(MIP\) 2025](#), a public art training and grant initiative by the New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA). The other nine are Andover, Beverly, Chelsea, Cohasset, Gloucester, Malden, Northfield, Pittsfield, and Worcester.

NEFA's Senior Program Director for public art Kim Szeto said, "For the fourth year, this program allows us to support the capacity building and infrastructure of local municipalities across the Commonwealth who are working to foster more vibrant and just communities through public art." NEFA invests in artists and communities and fosters equitable access to the arts by granting funds to artists and cultural organizations, connecting them to each other and their audiences, and analyzing their economic contributions. NEFA is offering MIP 2025 in partnership with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council's Arts & Culture Department.

With training and technical assistance from NEFA, each municipality participating in MIP 2025 will draft a Call for Temporary Public Art; will receive \$15,000 for project costs and to fund selected projects using grant agreements; and will utilize a selection process that is fair, transparent, and accountable. Projects could include physical works such as a mural or sculpture, creative placemaking, and/or events that occur over hours or months such as activating a public space with music or dance. The temporary nature of the projects is due to cost and other practical considerations.

"This is an exciting opportunity for our town," said Ashfield Town Clerk Alexis Fedorjaczenko, the project's contact. "I want to extend heartfelt thanks to Sarah Hertel-Fernandez, Library Director at Belding Memorial Library in Ashfield, and Chris Nelson, of Ashfield's Local Cultural Council, for their enthusiastic contributions in developing Ashfield's application. We applied for the grant with the support of Ashfield's Select Board, Cultural Council, Library, and Parks Commission, and we are now working collaboratively on next steps. A site in Ashfield will be selected this spring."

"We're proud to contribute to the rich creative life of Ashfield," said Hertel-Fernandez.

The program begins with trainings in which municipal participants develop and workshop the Artist Opportunity / Call for Temporary Public Art, Application Materials, Reviewer Rubric, and Grant Agreement from January through April 2025. The trainings include panel discussions with experts in the field, peer networking, technical assistance, and other learning activities. According to program materials, the Call for Temporary Public Art should be issued in late 2025. Check Ashfield.org for updates.

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