

CAMBRIDGE ARTS | GRANTS

Public Art Grant Application Guidelines

If you are thinking of developing a public art project and are considering applying to any of the grant opportunities under the *Cambridge Arts Grants Program* to support a public art project, please follow these guidelines to prepare your project, application, and supplemental materials.

We Want to Help Your Proposal

We can help you navigate the grant process and create a successful proposal. Public art projects tend to be more complicated than art made in the studio. Logistics, approvals, public space factors and permits are part of realizing a successful project. In order to make sure everyone receives help, all applicants interested in seeking grants for public artworks are required to have a conversation in person or virtually with the Public Art staff in advance of applying before September 21, 2026. We want this conversation to come early in your proposal development, so please don't wait. You don't need a full proposal by then. We'll want to hear the concept, what you want to do, where you want it to take place, who are the project personnel. This will be a time to discuss these various factors and answer your questions so that we can help make your proposal the best it can be. This conversation will also be the basis for Public Art Staff to provide the required Statement of Eligibility for your application to be complete and eligible for review. This requirement is for public art in any medium including sculpture, murals, interactive, performance-based electronic, or time-based. See below for further details.

Public Art Staff are also available to help with any questions throughout the process of your application. Please email Lillian Hsu, lhsu@cambridgema.gov and Hilary Zelson, hzelson@cambridgema.gov with questions or to schedule a meeting.

Secure a Statement of Eligibility

For the Public Art Statement of Eligibility, applicants must provide a detailed description of the project that includes a concept description, site location, property owner(s) name, materials used, fabrication methods, plans for installation and de-installation, plans for maintenance if applicable, names of collaborators, budget, schedule/timeline, and anticipated impact on community and neighborhood.

Secure Space Approvals

For projects that involve temporary or permanent installation of artwork in public space, applicants must submit a one-page letter outlining the ownership of the work and the maintenance plans for the project.

If the artwork is to be located on private property, the applicant must provide a letter naming the owner of the site with his/her signature of approval for the project. The city has a useful tool for identifying property owners if you have an address: <https://www.cambridgema.gov/propertydatabase>.

Projects proposed to be on City property must meet the approval of the Cambridge Arts Public Art program staff and, where necessary, staff from other city departments who have jurisdiction over proposed locations or services.

Please Note: Applicants are advised that the funding of public artwork through the *Cambridge Arts Grant Program* is a separate process from the commissioning of artwork through the Cambridge Arts Percent-for-Art Program. The commissioning of artwork to be accessioned into the City's permanent Public Art Collection is accomplished through a highly specific public process in keeping with the Cambridge Public Art Ordinance, which is administered by the Cambridge Arts Percent-for-Art Program with oversight from the Public Art Commission. Visit our website for more information: <https://www.cambridgema.gov/arts/publicart/percentforart>