

National Request for Qualification: DATMA in New Bedford, MA

Call for Request for Qualifications to commission a piece of temporary public art.

Massachusetts Design Art & Technology Institute, DATMA, is considering proposals for an outdoor public installation centered around the theme of shelter. New Bedford, MA will serve as a canvas for public art exploring the role of shelter within the histories, communities, and cultures of the SouthCoast region and beyond. This program's mission is to integrate art into the daily lives of local residents and visitors by presenting works that foster a sense of community, provide opportunities for interaction, and reflect the city's diverse histories. The winning project will be installed in June 2023 at the corner of a major downtown intersection of New Bedford, MA for a minimum of four months.

We welcome artists to consider themes including but not limited to: housing, the Underground Railroad, and/or immigration.

Geographic Eligibility:

Applicants in country of installation, located in the continental USA

Accepted Mediums:

Mixed Media, Sculpture, Installation, New Genres, Digital media, Film & Video, Music Composition, and Photography

Project Budget:

Three (3) finalist submissions will be awarded (\$1,000) to develop detailed proposals.

The overall budget for the final selected work is \$25,000, which covers all artists' fees, materials, travel, and installation costs. DATMA will cover all costs associated with insurance, engineering, permitting, install equipment, marketing/ PR, and will provide overall support for the selected project.

Project Location:

Corner of Union & RT18 in front of the New Bedford Tattoo parlor located 82 Front St, New Bedford, MA 02740.

Site Details:

Located at the corner of Union & RT18 in front of the New Bedford Tattoo parlor located 82 Front St, New Bedford, MA 02740 is a triangular flower bed that is a main focal point for pedestrians and vehicles. See last page for flower bed measurements. The flower bed is filled with soil and flowers that can be removed and /or shifted. Beneath the soil is cement that can be drilled into.



In previous years, sculptures have rested on a stone slab plinth and bolted to the stone. Artists should consider an anchor structure in their design(s). New Bedford is a coastal town next to the Atlantic Ocean. Summers can have weather conditions with rain and high winds. Site photos and general measurements are included at the conclusion of this written segment.

Juror Panel:

Jasmyn Baird, New Bedford Economic Development Council (NBEDC) Senior Creative Fellow & Seaport Artwalk Manager
Patrick Shearn, Creative Director & founder of Poetic Kinetics
Pat Coomey Thornton, DATMA's Program Committee Chair

How to Apply:

Proposals must be submitted online through DATMA's submission portal:
<https://datma.slideroom.com/#/permalink/program/69062>

Your application should include:

1. PDF of previously completed projects with visuals to help our jurors have a clear understanding of your work*
2. CV with 3 listed references
3. 1 letter of recommendation

* To make the most of your application, we recommend uploading a PDF with multiple project images to get around Slideroom's max upload policy of 5 uploads.

Optional additional content:

1. Website
2. Social media outlets
3. Youtube, Vimeo or comparable accounts

Fee: There is a \$2 application fee to help confirm applicant commitment. The remaining fee will be paid by DATMA.
Thank you for understanding.

Schedule of Key Project Dates:

Open Call for SHELTER Art Submissions – Promotion & Review

Sept 6, 2022: RFQ publication & announcement campaign begins

Nov 1, 2022: Call for RFQ & RFP closes— Artist Qualifications due*

Nov 10, 2022: Selections announced for RFQ Finalists (3) Interviews with RFQ finalists, site visits, & critiques commence

January 2, 2023 – Proposals due from 3 finalists, Artist interviews scheduled

January 18, 2023: finalist selected, design finalized, agreement between parties completed

Feb 1, 2023: project implementation begins, marketing campaign launches

June – Installation (estimated)

June 16, 2023 Launch

Oct 10, 2023: close of artwork with de-installation to follow

*Deadlines may be shift to allow for suitable submissions.

Selection Information (Selection for this project will take place in two phases):

Phase One is a qualification round where up to 3 finalists will be invited to submit detailed proposals. Finalists will receive a \$1000 stipend.

In Phase Two, finalists will be asked to develop detailed, engineerable concept proposals. Submissions will be reviewed and evaluated by a panel of judges/selection committee members, including members from the City of New Bedford and other community stakeholders. Read more details in the criteria section.

Criteria:

Round 1:

Using the <https://datma.slideroom.com> submission platform, the submitted proposals will be reviewed and evaluated by the committee panel based on the following review criteria:

1. Experience & Qualifications

- Experience completing public art projects; ability to undertake and manage the design, creation, and installation.
- Project management: experience and ability in meeting deadlines and budgets and in working cooperatively with designers, contractors, engineers and project managers.
- Areas of expertise may include: i. Formal education and art experience, ii. non-traditional experience related to public art iii. Artistic excellence of art portfolio

Round 2:

DATMA Staff will contact the 3 finalists. The Selection Committee will choose three (3) artist finalists who will be provided a \$1,000 stipend to develop one final design submission. Design proposals will be submitted via email to DATMA staff to be reviewed by project jurors. The final proposals will be reviewed and selected based on the following criteria:

1. Demonstrated Project Understanding: Knowledge of New Bedford, the city's history, and the range of diverse cultures; Understanding of DATMA's mission with an emphasis on the intersection of Design-Art-Technology characteristics, past projects, and impact of placemaking & placekeeping.
2. Quality, Clarity, and Completeness of Materials: Design approach and artistic merit of submission (e.g., excellence, originality, creativity, innovation, aesthetic, conceptual and technical quality; Inclusion of previously completed projects that reflect enduring artistic quality and have operated long-term with minimal maintenance (not required).
3. Application accompanied by 1 Letter of Recommendation and 3 references demonstrating reliability, collegial attitude, and relevant comments about the applicant.

About the juror panel:



Jasmyn Baird, New Bedford Economic Development Council (NBEDC) Senior Creative Fellow: Jasmyn will be instrumental in the implementation of both project exhibits, involved as both a New Bedford Creative partner and as manager of the Seaport Art Walk Committee. She is a graduate of The New School Master of Media Management program and received her Bachelor's degree in Marketing from University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth. As a New Bedford native, she has been involved with creating an impactful digital footprint for nonprofits in the local area, most recently with Youth Opportunities Unlimited. Since joining the New Bedford Creative team in February 2020, Jasmyn has supported the Creative Strategist in the implementation of several projects to fulfill the city's Arts and Culture Plan strategies. Currently, she is the Project Manager for the Arts

Midwest Creating Connection place-based pilot initiative where she coordinates the curriculum and is the main point of contact for the 8-organization cohort. She is also the lead for Peer-to-Peer Sessions and one of the components of MassDevelopment/TDI's Creative Cities. <https://newbedfordcreative.org/>



Patrick Shearn, Creative Director & Founder of Poetic Kinetics: Patrick Shearn is an LA-based artist specializing in larger-than-life, immersive public art installations. The artist's signature kinetic sculptures, called Skynets, earned him international renown after the debut of "Liquid Shard" enamored the city of Los Angeles. The installation transformed an underused public square in the heart of downtown into a bustling destination overnight. Shearn has since brought Skynet installations to various locations in the U.S. and abroad where viewers are invariably compelled to slow down and take time to follow the undulating movement of the artworks, which appear to hang in thin air.

Shearn's expertise in animatronics, robotics and visual effects—gleaned from a 30-year tenure in the film industry as a creature maker and visual effects supervisor—has lent traction to a prolific career as creative director for his studio Poetic Kinetics. Under his guiding vision, Poetic Kinetics has designed, fabricated, and implemented a wide range of projects that encourage audience participation—from interactive projection mapping and pyrotechnics to enormous mobile sculptures. Notably, Poetic Kinetics' projects both engage the immediate public through interactivity and reach viral notoriety on social media.

<https://www.poetickinetics.com/>

Patrick Shearn was DATMA's first commissioned artist and helped the organization launch its unforgettable inaugural program season, Summer Winds 2019.



Pat Coomey Thornton – DATMA Program Chair: Pat Coomey Thornton heads DATMA's Program Committee where she chairs an experienced group of artists, designers, writers, and educators, including: Iva Brito, Tobey Eugenio, Harvey Goldman, Jocelin Hamblett, Sadia Quraeshi Shepard, Gayle Mandle, and Nicholas Sullivan. Before her roles as Associate Director of Continuing Education, followed by Special Assistant to the President at Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), Pat taught painting and drawing to college students at the School of the Worcester Art Museum. She is a practicing artist who has shown in galleries and museums in Massachusetts, has served on the New Bedford Cultural Council and was a member of the Steering Committee for the New Bedford Art Museum. She is a New Bedford resident and also serves on the Board of the Waterfront Historic Architecture League (WHALE), in New Bedford. <http://patcoomeythornton.com/>

Related Organizations:

City of New Bedford

The City of New Bedford makes DATMA's cultural programming possible. DATMA has built a strong relationship with the Mayor's Office, NBEDC, City Planning, Department of Public Infrastructure (DPI), and NB Parks and Recreation (NB Parks.) DATMA meets with City staff years in advance to discuss artwork placement and ensure program plans align. 2023 RFQ efforts will be approved and maintained by city staff who will assist DATMA in navigating permitting and logistical considerations. Youth outreach efforts coordinated through NB Parks offer summer outdoor park events to engage youth with various hands-on, creative engagement activities that connect to the art exhibits. DATMA's project also directly addresses actionable items in the City's 2021 Rapid Recovery Plan (RRP) to implement art installations around Downtown NB as means of increasing foot traffic and non-local patrons.

New Bedford Creative / Seaport Art Walk

DATMA's staff has been collaborating with both NB Creative, the arm of the NBEDC that implements the City's Arts & Culture Plan, and the Seaport Art Walk Committee since 2019. The Art Walk Committee consists of local artists, New Bedford City Administrators, and UMass Dartmouth staff and retired 3D Department faculty. In collaboration, a common theme is established each year and paid opportunities are provided for emerging and established local artists to create and present outdoor public art installations along the NB harbor. DATMA sits on the Seaport Art Walk committee and contributes a

marketing arm as well as an exhibition to the Art Walk each year that will ultimately add to the visitor draw. The RFQ exhibition is not part of the Art Walk but in close proximity with the intent to encourage the local art community to extend the exposure to include all SouthCoast artists in addition to building on the existing goal to support local artists.

About DATMA

View past projects by DATMA:
<https://datma.org/snapshots/>

Mission

Massachusetts Design, Art, and Technology Institute, DATMA, presents impactful contemporary art at the intersection of **design**, **art**, and **technology**, combined with related community learning experiences, to spark creativity, collaboration, and economic innovation in the SouthCoast region and beyond.

Established in 2016 and launched in 2018, the Massachusetts Design Art & Technology Institute (DATMA) derived from an innovative idea to create an “institute without walls” that would bring free, accessible, arts programming to all ages, backgrounds, and socioeconomic levels of the SouthCoast region. DATMA is committed to bringing world-renowned art, design, and technology exhibitions, programs, and initiatives to the visitors and citizens of New Bedford and the region, identified as one of the Commonwealth’s most creative economies by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. As an exhibitor of art in public spaces, DATMA collaborates with the business and education sectors of the region to expand public awareness, bringing new cultural assets into the mix.



MASARY Studios, “Vessels” Produced by DATMA 2020

Questions

No phone calls. Please send any inquiries to info@datma.org. Use the subject line: “2023 RFQ Inquiry.” Proposals must be submitted online through DATMA’s submission portal: <https://datma.slideroom.com/#/permalink/program/69062>

For questions regarding Slideroom, please send inquires, you can email support@slideroom.com or call 617-729-2758 during their office hours, M-F, from 9-6 pm EST.



DATMA

DESIGN
ART
TECHNOLOGY
MASSACHUSETTS

