

Codman Square Park Integral Public Art RFQ | Boston, MA

Request for Qualifications

Deadline: Wednesday, August 1, 11:59pm MST (application received)

Apply [online](https://www.callforentry.org) via www.callforentry.org

Project Summary

The Codman Square Neighborhood Council (CSNC) and the Friends of Codman Square Park are spearheading a community-driven redesign of the Codman Square Park in the Codman Square neighborhood of Dorchester, a historic district in the City of Boston, Massachusetts. An artist/designer will be selected to design integral public art for the park in collaboration with the landscape architect chosen for the redesign of the entire greenspace. At this stage, the vision for the public art portion of the project is broad and may encompass one focal public art element or a series of components. Overall, this creative placemaking initiative will result in an improved landscape design concept that integrates public art.

Community and Site Context

The 0.34-acre Codman Square Park, located at about 360 Talbot Avenue in Dorchester, 02124 at the intersection of Washington Street and Talbot Avenue, neighbors the Second Church, the Great Hall, and the Codman Square Health Center. Codman Square itself is part of a historic district in central Dorchester and has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1983. Important architectural landmarks include the 1806 Congregational Church, the 1904 Codman Square branch of the Boston Public Library, the former Girls Latin Academy (built 1900 as Dorchester High School), and the 1899 Lithgow Building, a commercial brick building. Codman Square Park is an important community meeting place and the CSNC assisted in its establishment as a public park in the 1980s. The CSNC helped to establish the Friends of the Codman Square Park which is made up of residents, community organizations, merchants and other groups that care for the Codman Square Park. Codman Square has a long tradition as a major civic center in Dorchester.

Project Partners

The project is a collaborative effort between the City of Boston's Edward Ingersoll Browne Trust, Boston Parks and Recreation, the Boston Art Commission; the Codman Square Neighborhood Council; the Friends of Codman Square Park Selection Committee (Selection Committee) and community members. The planning process is facilitated by the Urban Culture Institute and TINSFE in partnership with the CSNC and the project team.

Eligibility

Preference will be given to local and regional applications. Applicants are expected to have completed prior outdoor art projects or temporary installations. Artists and designers of diverse backgrounds with knowledge of African-American culture and history are also encouraged to apply.

Budget

The project is anticipated to be funded in part by the Edward Ingersoll Browne Trust Fund, a public charitable trust administered by the City of Boston Trust Office. The total anticipated public art budget of up to \$300,000 is all-inclusive (design, fabrication and installation). The Art Selection Committee is committed to raising funds for the project. Up to three shortlisted finalists will receive a \$2,500 honorarium each for initial concept development and presentations.

Work Accomplished to Date

As a first step of the current Codman Square Park planning and redesign process, a landscape architect was selected based on an invitational interview process. The landscape architect will be included in the selection of the artist/designer who will develop public art for the newly designed park.

During the fall and winter of 2016/17, the CSNC hosted an information table at both the Codman Square Farmers Market and the Dorchester Winter Farmers Market in Codman Square to collect community comments regarding what residents would like to see at the Codman Square Park. Comments were also gathered at monthly CSNC meetings. In addition, the Friends of Codman Square Park continued to meet monthly to discuss those comments as well as the status and future of Codman Square Park. The following wish list captures some of the ideas established for the Codman Square Park improvements:

- Public art as focus of the park.
- Plant an evergreen to replace the existing one that is dying which will be used for the annual Holiday tree lighting ceremony with the Mayor.
- Increase the number of shrubs and flowering plants around the perimeter of the park.
- Incorporate art that may point to the neighborhood's history.
- Incorporate family-friendly areas in the park.
- Ensure the art installation complements the program elements, like game tables or community kiosk, desired for the park.
- Renovate the fence around the park.
- Install lighting utilities as part of the landscape design.
- Maintain a level of maintenance that can be sustained by the Parks Department with supplemental effort by the Friends.

Overall Goals for the Codman Square Park Redesign Public Art

- Create an attractive, inclusive meeting place for all.
- Improve functionality, aesthetics and safety in the park.
- Celebrate the local neighborhood.
- Design a cutting-edge landscape design that integrates public art.
- Create new space to gather and socialize, knitting neighborhoods together.
- Serve as a community service project, as well as an educational destination.
- Design will offer a sense of place.
- Appropriateness for the site, including scale and safety.
- Low maintenance and permanent materials.
- Apply sustainable design methods and principles.
- Adhere to ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) guidelines, as appropriate.
- Ensure the design encourages intergenerational use.

Selection Process

The Art Selection Committee (ASC) includes arts professionals familiar with the field of public art, community, local business and City of Boston representatives as well as the landscape architect selected for the redesign of Codman Square Park. The criteria used by the ASC will include the artist's/designer's professional credentials as evidenced by the submitted materials.

The ASC will select three finalists who will be invited to develop initial proposals, which will be presented to the ASC at a public meeting of the Codman Square Neighborhood Council. Following the meeting, the winning concept will be further developed by the artist in close partnership with the landscape architect. The landscape architect and artist team will jointly present the revised collaborative *Codman Square Park Redesign Plan* to the ASC at a public meeting of the Codman Square Neighborhood Council.

Public Art Criteria for the Project

- Ensure the public art component(s) are developed in collaboration with the landscape architect.
- Public art is to enhance and support the landscape design.
- Create meaningful, high quality and low maintenance public art signifier(s).
- The artwork serves people of all ages.
- All media and materials appropriate for a public setting will be considered.

Anticipated Timeline of Landscape Design and Integral Public Art

Wed, June 20, 2018	Release Call to Artists/RFQ
Wed, Aug 1 , 11:59 MST	RFQ deadline (application received)
Sat, August 11, 11am-2pm	Community design pop-up with the landscape architect
Wed, Sept. 12, 5pm	ASC review of applicants
By Fri, Sept. 21	Up to 3 finalist artists/designers announced
By Fri, Sept. 28	Release Request for Proposals (RFP) to 3 finalists
Wed, Oct. 10, 6-8pm	Public meeting site analysis with finalists and landscape architect incl. site visit
Thu, Dec. 6	3 Public Art finalist schematic design proposals due
Wed, Dec 12, 6pm	Public presentation of 3 finalist schematic design proposals to Art Selection Committee (ASC)
Wed, Jan 23, 2019	Revised proposal due
Tue, Jan, 29, 6-8pm	Public presentation of revised, collaborative <i>Codman Square Park Redesign</i> proposal by the landscape architect and the public artist to ASC
TBA	Selected proposal presentation to Boston Art Commission
March 15, 2019	Submit application for fabrication funding to the E. I. Browne Trust Fund

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants are required to submit the following via the online application at www.callforentry.org:

- 10 to 15 JPEG images of relevant past work.
- A corresponding, numbered, annotated image list with title, media, dimensions, location, brief description, date of the work, project budget and project partners (if applicable)
- CV/ Résumé with current contact information.
- Three references (include at least one from a project where the artists also served as project manager / construction administrator
- Apply [online](http://www.callforentry.org) via www.callforentry.org
- This RFQ and background information are posted at www.urbancultureinstitute.org/codman-square-park

Please note:

- Electronic submissions only
- Do not submit proposals at this stage
- Submissions may be made publicly available for viewing.

With technical questions about the application process please visit [CafE Help](#)

With project-related questions please contact

Christina Lanzl, Urban Culture Institute

christina.lanzl@urbancultureinstitute.org

Attachments: Background Documentation

1. Current Codman Square Park Programming
2. Selected Bibliography of Codman Square and the Historic District
3. Codman Square Park Redesign & Public Art Project: Site Documentation
 - Aerial view of Codman Square Park within its historic Dorchester neighborhood
 - Site photos

Terms of Agreement

The artist submitting the work is the sole creator of the work and holds the copyright of the work being submitted. With the exception of use of others' works, which constitute fair use, the commissioned artwork will contain no material from other copyrighted works without the written consent of the copyright holder(s). The submitting artist will obtain such consents pertaining to the use of any and all copyrighted material at their own expense and will file them with the City of Boston upon delivery of the work. Any obligations associated with permissions pertaining to the use of copyrighted work will be the sole responsibility of the submitting artist. Applicants' support materials may be used by the City of Boston and the Urban Culture Institute for promotional and publication purposes only. Including them in the application grants the City of Boston and project partners permission to do so. If used, all work will be properly credited and cited.

Current Codman Square Park Programming

Park activities: <https://codmancouncil.wordpress.com/codman-square-farmers-market>

CODMAN SQUARE FARMERS MARKET (SOCIAL SATURDAYS)

The Codman Square Farmers Market's Social Saturdays is a very important activity in the Codman Square Park. This weekly farmers' market is held in the summer and fall months and it brings the community together as it focuses on the health of the community. The redesign of the park would accommodate the increased use of the park for such activity. See [additional information](#).

CODMAN SQUARE WALKERS AND TALKERS WALK GROUP

Walk group focused on talking about local history and increasing healthy food options in the community.

LOVE YOUR BLOCK

Love your Block, formerly Boston Shines, is a Citywide Neighborhood Clean Up & Community Service Volunteer Program. It provides the tools and materials to help volunteers successfully complete projects in every neighborhood in Boston. It takes place annually in the spring and now also a year-round volunteer opportunity.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

This annual national community-building event promotes police-community partnerships. It is held in August with the Boston Police Department and other city agencies.

CODMAN SQUARE TREE LIGHTING

Annually in December and through the holiday season with the Mayor of Boston and the Codman Square Community.

Selected Bibliography of Codman Square and the Historic District

Codman Square District. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Codman_Square_District

Codman Square Historic District Boundaries Map.

<http://www.dorchesteratheneum.org/pdf/Area%20Form%20Codman%20Square.pdf>

Gordon, Edward W. "Codman Square (Boston Landmarks Description). *Dorchester Atheneum*. July 18, 2005 (mod. Jan. 14, 2012). <http://www.dorchesteratheneum.org/page.php?id=617>

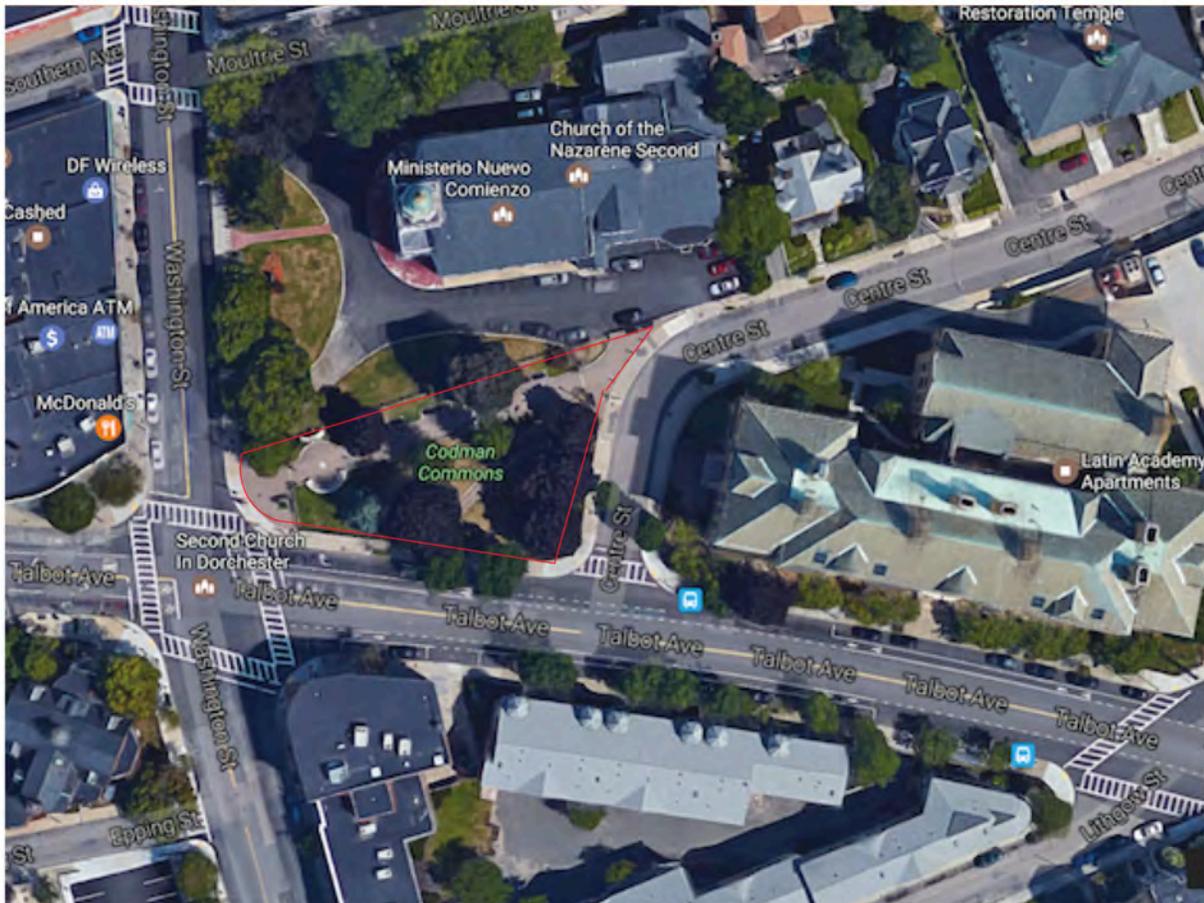
Heath, Richard. Codman Square History. *Dorchester Atheneum*. Jan. 29, 2009 (mod. Jan. 14, 2012). <http://www.dorchesteratheneum.org/page.php?id=1411>

Quackenbush, Meggie. "Walking tour made stops through historic Codman Square." *Dorchester Reporter*, May 7, 2015. <https://www.dotnews.com/2015/walking-tour-made-stops-through-historic-codman-square>

Walczak, William J. "Codman Square: History (1630 to present), Turmoil (1950-1980) and Revival (1980-2000): Factors which lead to Racial and Ethnic Placement, Racial Segregation, Racial Transition, and Stable Integration." *Nomination Form for the Codman Square Historic District, National Park Service*. PDF online at <http://www.codman.org/files/CodmanSquareHistory.pdf>

Codman Square Park Redesign & Public Art Project: Site Documentation

The Codman Square Park, located at about 360 Talbot Avenue in Dorchester, 02124 at the intersection of Washington Street and Talbot Avenue, neighbors the Second Church, the Great Hall, and the Codman Square Health Center. Codman Square itself is part of a historic district in central Dorchester and has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1983. Important architectural landmarks in the district include the 1806 Congregational Church, the 1904 Codman Square branch of the Boston Public Library, the former Girls Latin Academy (built 1900 as Dorchester High School), and the 1899 Lithgow Building, a commercial brick building. The Codman Square Park is an important community meeting place that is now being redesigned to better accommodate current needs and programming. Public art is envisioned as an integral element of the new vision of the park.



Codman Square Park, noted as Codman Commons on aerial photo, courtesy of Google Earth



Codman Square Park panoramic view from Centre Street



Codman Square Park entrance facing Washington Street, with adjacent Church of the Nazarene Second



Codman Square Park entrance memorial dedicated by the City of Boston in 1910 in honor of Second Church Pastor, John Codman (1782-1847)



Main walkway in Codman Square Park, the former Centre Street connection to the Square



Codman Square Park view from Centre Street toward Washington St. & Talbot Ave. intersection



Codman Square Park, view of walkway from Talbot Avenue