



## Gertrude Howes Park Civil Rights Public Art Tribute, Boston, MA

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### Request for Qualifications

**Deadline:** Thu, 5/25/17, 11:59pm MST (application received)

Apply online at [www.callforentry.org](http://www.callforentry.org)

### Project Summary

The Art Selection Committee of the Gertrude Howes Park Civil Rights Public Art Tribute project invites artists, also in collaboration with landscape designers, to forward public art qualifications for an innovative, permanent public art installation that will serve as a tribute to civil rights. The tribute is envisioned to be an abstract work of public art dedicated to the movement rather than a representation dedicated to individual persons or events. The selection process will lead to the identification of four artists/teams who will develop proposals.

The tribute honors the many individuals who have contributed to civil rights since its beginnings, intended as an affirmation of the struggle and celebration of citizen participation and ownership. The location of Gertrude Howes Playground, bordered by Winthrop, Fairland and Moreland Streets, has deep meaning to the residents of the surrounding Roxbury neighborhood near Dudley Square. Rev. Michael Hayes, the first African-American Member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives was pastor from 1964 to 2004 at near-by Twelfth Baptist Church. As a young minister, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King preached at the church's prior location on Shawmut Avenue in Roxbury. Many other local activists from the African-American and Caribbean communities as well as other ethnic backgrounds fought for a betterment of lives, general conditions and society during their lifetimes. The Civil Rights Public Art Tribute project is intended to recognize these efforts.

This project is a collaborative effort between the City of Boston's Edward Ingersoll Browne Trust, Boston Parks and Recreation, the Boston Art Commission (BAC); the Vine Street Community Center; the Friends of Gertrude Howes Park; the Boys and Girls Club of Boston, Roxbury Path Forward; the Mount Pleasant, Forest and Vine Streets Neighborhood Association (MPFVNA); the Art Selection Committee and community members. The Urban Culture Institute is facilitating the art selection process.

### Eligibility

Preference will be given to local and regional applications. Applicants are expected to have completed prior outdoor art or landscape projects or, temporary installations. Teams of artists and landscape designers are encouraged to apply. 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 all-inclusive budget for design, fabrication and installation is \$200,000-250,000. The Art Selection Committee is committed to raising funds for the project. Up to four shortlisted finalists will receive a \$2,500 honorarium each for initial concept development and presentations.



## Site Description

Gertrude Howes Park, 68 Moreland Street, is located in the heart of the Moreland Street Historic District of Roxbury. Established in 1930, the Park is energized by a diverse neighborhood community and by the revitalization of Dudley Square. Howes Playground provides 1.8 acres of passive and active areas with a children's playground, sprinkler plaza, gazebo, benches, and picnic tables. Formerly contained within the Weld Estate in the mid-1800s, the park is the only large open land in the area that is still intact. The center of the park highlights a display of original Roxbury puddingstone outcroppings that were once surrounded by apple and pear orchards, farmlands, and pastures. (Source: <https://howesplayground.wordpress.com/about>)

The designated site for the Civil Rights Tribute sits on a natural pinnacle in the center of Howes Park (see site photos below). Currently a grassy area, the location offers visual drama because it is next to an eye-catching, elevated puddingstone rock outcropping surrounded by a stand of deciduous trees. The rocks serve as a natural foundation for the planned tribute. A plaza and spray fountain south of the rock formation is framed by a semicircular retaining wall, which is occasionally used as an amphitheater stage for small performances. The park offers a rich array of outdoor events and activities for children, youth and adults, including summer festivals, a playground and a popular spray fountain, yoga and fitness classes, music, picnics and more.

The Gertrude Howes Playground received an \$850,000 facelift in 2012, completed by Ray Dunetz Landscape Architecture. The park was "named for former teacher, child lover and leader in school garden work, who made playground possible." (Tribute Paid Late Gertrude Howes at Dedication of New Playground. *Boston Globe*, May 27, 1932). During World War II she established a Victory Garden at the Hemenway School, which provided fresh vegetables for school lunches. Many of her students later served in the military. Ms. Howes lived at 104 Winthrop Street.

## The Moreland Street Historic District

Gertrude Howes Playground is located in the Moreland Street Historic District, a 63-acre neighborhood added to the Federal Register of Historic Places in 1983. Typical architectural styles include Second Empire, Italianate, and Queen Anne style. Many of the District's buildings were built between 1850 and 1920. Moreland Street borders the Mt. Pleasant Avenue Historic District (1989). The area had been segregated and redlined, which led to the development of a predominantly black neighborhood. Today, many of the houses are owner occupied. Some of the properties have been in the same family for many years. Prominent buildings include the Warren Street Lutheran Church, Packard Manse and the Georgian-style Shirley-Eustis House (1747, William Shirley arch.), the only remaining country mansion in America built by a British Royal Colonial Governor.

## Project Goals

- Civil Rights Tribute honors all within the neighborhood and in the entire City of Boston
- Civil Rights Tribute will be valued in the neighborhood, the entire City of Boston & beyond
- Engage neighbors through neighborhood associations, local newspaper ads, and social media. Outreach to historical society, fraternal groups and others.
- Encourage future programming and activities, e.g. oral history talks with local residents, lectures, tours, festivals, etc. to educate neighbors about civil rights.
- Recall the area's past and honor the experiences of Roxbury's residents.



**Summary of General Criteria for the Project**

- Celebrate the civil rights movement of Roxbury and Boston with an innovative public art installation and/or landscape design
- Sought is intimacy, warmth and neighborly self-worth
- 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, permanent materials
- Apply sustainable design methods and principles
- Adhere to ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) guidelines as appropriate

**HOW TO APPLY**

Applicants will be required to access and submit the following via the online application at [www.callforentry.org](http://www.callforentry.org):

- o 10 to 15 JPEG images of relevant past work.
- o A corresponding, numbered, annotated image list with title, media, dimensions, location, brief description, date of the work, project budget and project partners (if applicable)
- o CV/ Résumé with current contact information.
- o Three references (include at least one from a project where the artists also served as project manager / construction administrator)

**Anticipated Timeline**

Fri, 4/28	Release Call to Artists/RFQ
Thu, 5/25, 11:59pm MST	RFQ deadline (application received)
TBA	Up to 4 finalist artists/designers/teams announced
TBA	Release Request for Proposals (RFP) to 4 finalists
Sat, 6/17	Public meeting site analysis with finalists incl. site visit
Wed, 7/26	Schematic design proposals due
Sat, 7/29	Public presentation of proposals to Art Selection Committee (ASC)
Week of 9/18	Revised proposal due & public presentation to ASC
Sat, 9/23	Public presentation of final/revised proposals to ASC
Fall 2017	Selected proposal(s) presentation to Boston Art Commission

**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.



### Documentation

- Select facts and bibliography attachment:
  - Select Civil Rights timeline facts
  - Selected Civil Rights bibliography
  - Project-relevant Moreland St. Historic District neighborhood community organizations
- Site documentation attachment
  - Aerial view of Howes Park in Moreland St. Historic District neighborhood
  - Site photos
- Online photo documentation of the Howes Playground's 2012 renovation by Ray Dunetz Landscape Architecture  
[www.raydunetz.com/recreation2/gertrude-howes-playground-roxbury-ma/15477769](http://www.raydunetz.com/recreation2/gertrude-howes-playground-roxbury-ma/15477769)
- Facebook page with park activities  
[www.facebook.com/Gertrude-Howes-Playground-209211255755959/](http://www.facebook.com/Gertrude-Howes-Playground-209211255755959/)

### Please note

- Apply online at [www.callforentry.org](http://www.callforentry.org)
- This call is posted at [www.publicartboston.com](http://www.publicartboston.com) and [www.urbancultureinstitute.org/Howes-Park](http://www.urbancultureinstitute.org/Howes-Park)
- Electronic submissions only
- Do not send 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](mailto:christina.lanzl@urbancultureinstitute.org)



## Gertrude Howes Playground Civil Rights Public Art Tribute, Boston, MA Select Facts and Bibliography

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### Select Civil Rights Timeline Facts

- 1656 Bostonian Ken becomes first African-American landowner in Boston
- 1770 Crispus Attucks (c. 1723—March 5, 1770), African-American, first person killed in the Boston massacre as first American casualty in the Revolutionary War
- 1934 George Borden was killed in the Moreland Street Historic District
- 1941 Malcolm X (1925-1965) moved to 72 Dale Street (house under renovation by Historic Boston), where he spent his formative years as a teen with his half-sister Ella Little-Collins, her husband and their son Rodnell
- 1960s Martin Luther King roomed at Packard Manse on Winthrop Street during his travels. The house also served as a Civil Rights meeting place.
- 1990 Nelson Mandela visits and speaks at Madison Park High School shortly after his release from prison <http://legacy.wbur.org/2013/12/05/mandela-visits-boston>

### Selected Bibliography

- Blackstonian. <http://blackstonian.org> News URL “on spirit and culture of Black Bostonians’  
“History of African Americans in Boston.” Wikipedia  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_African\\_Americans\\_in\\_Boston](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_African_Americans_in_Boston)
- Hampton, Henry; Fayer, Steve. *Voices of Freedom: An Oral History of the Civil Rights Movement from the 1950s Through the 1980s*. New York: Bantam, 1991.
- Howlett, Duncan. *No Greater Love: The James Reeb Story*. New York: Harper and Row, 1966.
- Irons, Meghan. “If they build it, where should King statue go?” *Boston Globe*, Jan. 18, 2009.  
[http://archive.boston.com/news/local/articles/2009/01/18/if\\_they\\_build\\_it\\_where\\_should\\_king\\_statue\\_go/](http://archive.boston.com/news/local/articles/2009/01/18/if_they_build_it_where_should_king_statue_go/)
- “James Reeb Dies in Alabama.” *Mass Moments*, n. d. [www.massmoments.org/moment.cfm?mid=75](http://www.massmoments.org/moment.cfm?mid=75)
- Mayer, Brendan, “Memories of Selma: Casper Family Remembers Minister Killed During Civil Rights Protests.” *Star-Tribune*, Jan. 11, 2015.
- Miller, Eben Simmons. “‘A New Day Is Here’: The Shooting of George Borden and 1930s Civil Rights Activism in Boston.” *New England Quarterly*, Vol. 73, No. 1 (Mar., 2000), p. 3-31.
- Rocheleau, Matt. Malcolm X Nephew to Discuss Rights Leader’s Life, Home in Roxbury.” *Boston.com* Feb. 9, 2011. [http://archive.boston.com/yourtown/news/roxbury/2011/02/malcolm\\_x\\_nephew\\_to\\_discuss\\_ri.html](http://archive.boston.com/yourtown/news/roxbury/2011/02/malcolm_x_nephew_to_discuss_ri.html)
- “Tribute Paid Late Gertrude Howes at Dedication of New Playground.” *Boston Globe*, May 27, 1932

### Project-Relevant Moreland St. Historic District Neighborhood Community Organizations

- Boys and Girls Club of Boston, Roxbury
- Discover Roxbury
- Dudley Square Main Streets
- First Church of Roxbury Unitarian Church
- Friends of Gertrude Howes Park
- Friends of the Dudley Branch Library
- Mount Pleasant, Forest and Vine Streets Neighborhood Association (MPFVNA)
- Museum of Afro-American Artists
- Roxbury Historical Society
- Roxbury Memory Trail | [roxburymemorytrail.org](http://roxburymemorytrail.org)
- Roxbury Path Forward
- Roxbury YMCA
- Vine Street Community Center



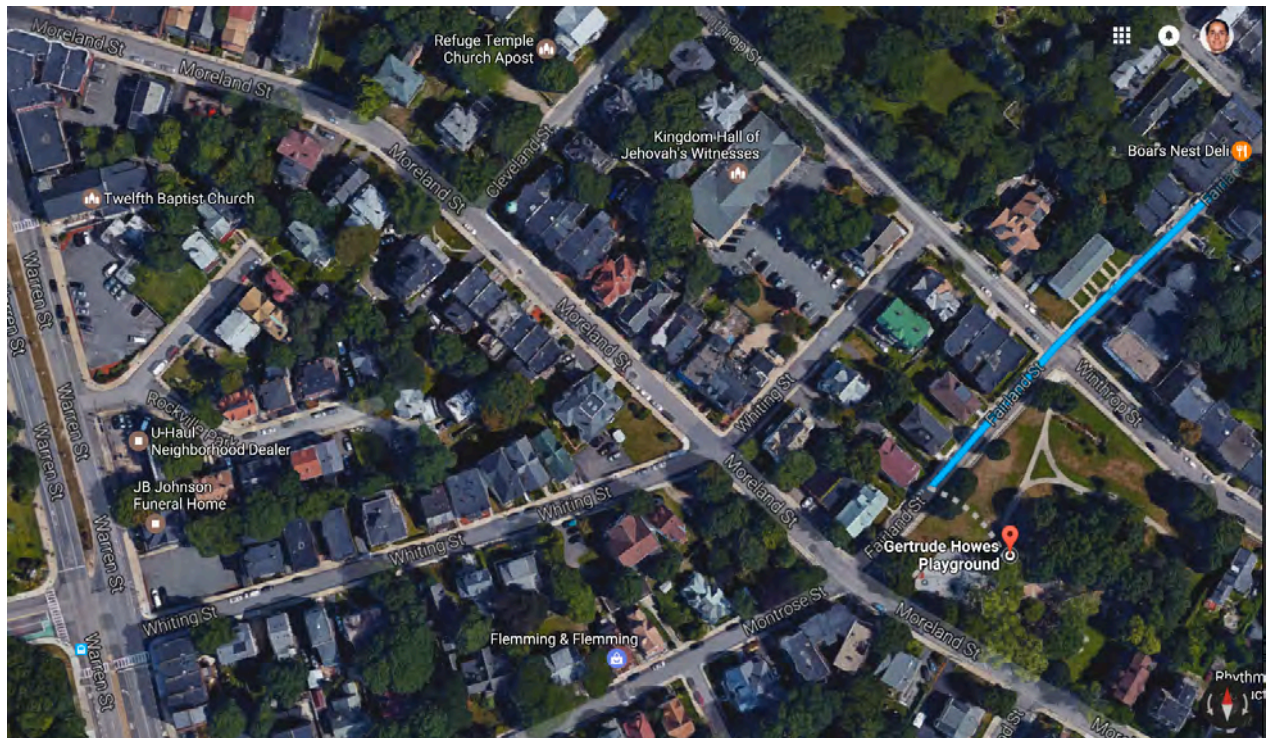


## SITE DOCUMENTATION

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Gertrude Howes Park, 68 Moreland Street, is located in the Moreland Street Historic District, in the Roxbury neighborhood of Boston. Established in 1930, the Park is energized by a diverse neighborhood community and by the revitalization of Dudley Square. Howes Playground provides 1.8 acres of passive and active areas with a children’s playground, sprinkler plaza, gazebo, benches, and picnic tables. Formerly contained within the Weld Estate in the mid-1800s, the park is the only large open land in the area that is still intact. The center of the park highlights a display of original Roxbury puddingstone outcroppings that were once surrounded by apple and pear orchards, farmlands, and pastures.

(Source: <https://howesplayground.wordpress.com/about>)



Aerial photo courtesy of Google Earth





The preliminary site for the Civil Rights Tribute is a grassy area located to the right of the pudding stone rock outcropping at the center of the park. The rocks serve as a natural foundation for the planned tribute. A plaza and spray fountain south of the rock formation is framed by a semicircular retaining wall, which is occasionally used as an amphitheater stage for small performances. The park offers a rich array of outdoor events and activities for children, youth and adults, including summer festivals, a playground and a popular spray fountain, yoga and fitness classes, music, picnics and more.



Panoramic overview of Howes Park. The roughly circular, small grassy area immediately adjacent to puddingstone rocks is surrounded by several mature, deciduous trees. The spot is highly visible from the curved walking path along the eastern edge of the park as well as from Moreland and Winthrop Streets due to the elevated terrain.







Preliminary site for the proposed Civil Rights Tribute, approximately marked by branches.



The walking path offering views of the preliminary site including benches that invite visitors to sit and rest. Ample seating opportunities are available throughout the Park.







Howes Park picnic tables south of spray fountain adjacent to Moreland Street entrance.



Spray fountain plaza with view of the Gertrude Howes Playground.







North entrance area at Winthrop and Fairland Streets with view of rock garden path and puddingstone outcropping.



Rock garden area near the Winthrop Street entrance in early spring.

