



*Request for Proposal*  
Statements of Qualifications and Proposals  
for Public Art Program Activities

**Utility Box Painting Project – Stearns  
Square Park**

**1. Background**

In Downtown Springfield, there is a movement to incorporate more art as part of economic development, specifically in the space surrounding Stearns Square Park, between Worthington and Bridge Streets. This is a pocket park in the middle of the metro center, which is located in an area being looked at for development of retail in the coming years.

In 2014, the Springfield Central Cultural District (SCCD) was approved by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. The vision of the Springfield Cultural District is to bring more vitality to the city by highlighting its outstanding cultural offerings and adding new creative opportunities for artists and the greater community.

The district covers an architecturally impressive, compact, walkable area encompassing approximately 1/3 of a square mile, brimming with cultural attractions. Often called the “City of Firsts,” Springfield has been an epicenter of innovation, free enterprise, and ingenuity for well over 300 years, and the Cultural District hopes to continue this momentum.

**2. To this end, regarding public art activity**

The Springfield Central Cultural District is requesting Statements of Qualification and Proposals/Applications from artists to design and paint selected utility boxes.

**3. Program Details**

The SCCD is looking for artwork that evokes a sense of engagement and community set against the backdrop of this underutilized city park. The 2D painted boxes would bring light to and animate a park within the Springfield urban landscape. The painting will occur in collaboration with the “Springfield Under the Stars” movie night.

Proposed Schedule:

Prep by SCCD: Week of September 14

Paint by Artists: Evening of September 23, 5-9 PM

Painted Box Specifications: The Utility Box program is designed to encourage community engagement and beautify the neighborhood. The artwork must be suitable for viewing by all ages and will be reviewed prior to selection.

The following guidelines must be adhered to in all applications:

- The artwork included on the application must closely resemble the art to be painted on the box.
- Boxes have locks, control panels, and meters that must remain free from any art image (see photos).
- When painting the box, it should be done in a manner that no moisture gets inside the box through any cracks or vents. Vents should also not be covered so as to not restrict airflow.
- Artwork containing a majority of dark colors will not be considered due to potential for overheating.
- Each box will contain a SCCD logo sticker, placement to be determined between the director and artist.
- Images of selected artwork will be used in SCCD publicity campaigns and marketing, with credit given to the artist.
- Proposed artwork cannot contain copyrighted or trademarked images, brand names, or work copied from another source.
- All submitted artwork must be simple enough in design to complete in a 4 hour timeframe. All mediums will be considered including, but not limited to: spray paint, acrylic paint, and vinyl applications.

Images of the boxes and dimensions are attached to this application. They are located on the Worthington and Bridge Street sides of the park.

Images of similar utility box rehab projects may be found by searching “Beyond the Box” in Glendale, CA or “Paintbox” in Boston, MA.

#### **4. Artist Submission and Selection Process**

Interested artists must submit a Statement of Qualifications and an Application/Proposal, both attached.

The program is open to all artists, but Springfield applicants may be given preference. Submissions will be reviewed by the SCCD and partners, using the criteria as follows: evaluation of artistic excellence and originality, creative and innovative concepts relating to the space, and appropriate regard for audience.

Artist stipend is \$200 paid via invoice to the SCCD upon completion of the work. A \$75 paint and supplies stipend will be provided. Artists are expected to provide their own brushes.

#### **5. To Apply**

- Your submission must contain one hard copy each of both a fully completed statement of qualifications and proposal application.
- Submit or have postmarked by 5:00 PM, Tuesday, September 1.
- Submit to: Springfield Central Cultural District, 254 Worthington Street, Springfield, MA 01103  
OR email to Morgan Drewniany at the email address provided below.

Any questions may be submitted to the Director of the Cultural District, Morgan Drewniany at 413.781.1592 or [morgan.drewniany@springfielddowntown.com](mailto:morgan.drewniany@springfielddowntown.com).

Sincerely,

Morgan Drewniany, Interim Director  
Springfield Central Cultural District



*Request for Proposal*

Artist Statement of Qualifications

**Utility Box Painting Project – Stearns Square Park**

Thank you for your interest in the Stearns Square Park Utility Box Painting Project. You should fill out this form, and attach up to ten pages including this page for your Statement of Qualifications.

**1. Contact Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Current Artist Resume**

**3. Narrative and Samples of Work**

If you have ever custom painted a utility box, painted a mural, or participated in a community mural project, please tell us where! If you have images of your public artwork, please include them with this application.



## *Request for Proposal*

Artist Application/Proposal

### **Utility Box Painting Project – Stearns Square Park**

Thank you for your interest in the Stearns Square Park Utility Box Painting Project. You should fill out this form, and attach up to ten pages including this page for your Application Proposal.

#### **Please Submit:**

1. A color rendering of your proposed design using the DOT utility box layout provided in the informational section. This may be in an 8 ½ x 11 printed format or in a PDF or JPEG format.
2. Your artist statement up to two pages in length. Please include in this statement:
  - A title of your design
  - A description of the design
  - A narrative about how your artwork addresses this area and specific project.

#### **Images of the Boxes:**



Box on Worthington/Stearns Square  
Dimensions: 28" x 14" x 45"h  
One side obstructed by 19x22"  
utility panel.



Box on Bridge/Stearns Square  
Dimensions: 30" x 19" x 45"h  
Two sides obstructed by two 10" x 5" outlets  
One side also has 8" x 13" utility panel.

More photos are available upon request.