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June 5, 2017

Gerald Autler

Boston Redevelopment Authority

One City Hall Square, 9th Floor

Boston, MA 02201

Gerald.Autler@Boston.gov

Dear Mr. Autler:

On behalf of Artists For Humanity, I respectfully submit ten copies of the enclosed proposal for \$37,623 to the Harvard-Allston Public Realm Flexible Fund for our 'Artistic Community Bike Racks' project, which aims to design, fabricate and install a series of 8-10 artistic bike racks along accessible bike pathways in the Allston-Brighton neighborhood.

AFH's request directly responds to the Fund's stated purpose and incorporates key goals to build 'a community enhanced with sustainable goals, thoughtful transportation modes, art and culture'.

AFH has a long history of designing and installing public art projects that involve the community in planning and execution; in particular, designing, fabricating and installing artistic bike racks across Boston's neighborhoods. As you review this proposal, please consider the vital leadership role that AFH youth employees play in this process, twelve of whom either study and/or reside in the Allston-Brighton community.

Please let us know if you have any questions or would like additional information. I would be happy to provide. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best Regards,

Susan Rodgerson

Executive/Artistic Director

Harvard-Allston Public Realm Flexible Fund

For Allston-Brighton

APPLICATION FOR FUNDING, SPRING 2017

Total Amount Requested \$37,623

Applicant Organization Name: <u>Artists For Humanity, Inc. (AFH)</u>
Organization Address: <u>100 West Second Street</u> City: <u>Boston</u> Zip: <u>02127-1112</u>
Contact Person: <u>Lorraine Johnson</u>
Title: <u>Director of Program Operations</u>
Telephone Number: <u>617.268.7620</u>
E-Mail Address: <u>ljohnson@afhboston.org</u>

Application submission(s) must be authorized and signed by an authorized signatory of the Organization.

Name and title of Authorized Signatory: Susan Rodgerson, Executive/Artistic Director

Signature of Authorized Signatory: _____



artists for humanity

celebrating 25 years of creative jobs for creative youth

I. APPLICANT INFORMATION

Artists For Humanity (AFH), a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization based in South Boston and lead by its Founder and Executive/Artistic Director, Susan Rodgers, respectfully requests \$37,623 from the Harvard-Allston Public Realm Flexible Fund for its 'Artistic Community Bike Racks' project. **Through this project initiative, AFH will design and fabricate 8-10 sculptural bike racks to be strategically installed along accessible bike pathways in the Allston-Brighton neighborhood, connecting unique qualities of these communities while enhancing the public realm.**

About Artists For Humanity

AFH's mission is to bridge economic, racial, and social divisions by providing underserved urban youth with the keys to self-sufficiency through paid employment in art and design. AFH began with what was then an ambitious and unconventional idea – young people can provide, through their innate talent and vision, contemporary creative services to the business community. Training and employing urban teens offers them a key solution to economic disenfranchisement and has a resounding effect on their lives, their families, and their communities. AFH employs ~250 Boston teens annually in the visual arts, design and creative industries.

Founded in 1991, AFH Executive/Artistic Director Susan Rodgers has led Artists For Humanity's mission for over 26 years, blending her experience as an artist, educator, entrepreneur, and administrator. We have received numerous awards, gained national recognition, and been studied extensively as an exemplar of program excellence, community arts, effective mentorship and youth empowerment. Our model of using respect, relationships, and responsibility to empower young people has been replicated by organizations around the world.

Art-making and design are AFH's chosen vehicles for social change because they give under-resourced youth the confidence to have a voice, and transform them into experts on innovative vision. AFH's core program, Youth Arts Enterprise, employs urban teens in visual arts apprenticeships in Painting, Photography, 3D Design, Graphic and Web Design, and Video & Motion during critical out-of-school hours. Following a paid apprenticeship model, teens are partnered with professional artists and designers to collaborate on innovative projects – like building a 13' sculpture that encourages recycling for Bank of America; or designing and installing an exhibit of graphic posters on African American leaders in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) fields for a local community center. Teens participate in project planning, product development, marketing and exhibition. Completing over 700 custom design projects annually, AFH youth have the ears of business leaders and the *opportunity* to be recognized as equal participants in the global market.

AFH organizes 70 to 75 exhibitions and public art projects/urban design installations each year. These events allow viewers to develop a greater understanding of the young, urban experience. In essence, each participant's creative work represents an opportunity to have a voice. Public exhibition and sale of their artwork continues the dialogue. Recent select exhibit/installation sites include: Logan International Airport, Assembly Square MBTA, Frieda Garcia Park exterior wall (visible from the Massachusetts Turnpike), and the Charles Gate Bridge Underpass and the Ipswich Corridor (also visible from the Massachusetts Turnpike). We estimate millions of people viewed AFH youth-created art through these forums.

Primary Contact

Lorraine Johnson, Director of Program Operations, 617.268.7620, ljohnson@afhboston.org

Key Personnel Involved in the Proposed Project

The 3D Design Studio will be the lead studio responsible for the design, fabrication and installation of the bike racks. The team is lead by the Creative Project Director, Haidan Hodgson, who works alongside two professional 3D Designer Mentors, Hannah Fallon and Dominique Butori. AFH's Community Network Director, George Mallett, will provide additional support for the engagement of community partners in the design process and ensuring all necessary permitting paperwork is secured prior to installation.



The Studio team will engage and mentor 24 Boston teen artist employees as part of this project. Fifteen of the teen artists are ongoing team members of the 3D Design Studio and the remaining participants will join the design team from our other creative studios. Fifty percent of the 24 teen participants either live in the Allston-Brighton community and/or study at one of the following institutions: Brighton High School, the Boston Green Academy and the J.D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science.

Partner Organizations Involved in the Project

Artists For Humanity has developed relationships with community members from the Allston-Brighton neighborhood for years, as employed teens who live and/or study in the area or as clients on commissioned jobs. For this 'Artistic Community Bike Racks' project we will engage numerous community partners in the design process, as well as in siting locations, gaining property owner approvals as needed, and the permitting process.

Our partners include:

- **Brighton High School**, Patricia Kelliher, Graphic Design and Photography teacher and graphic design and photography students. Patricia and her graphic design students at the high school, two of whom are also employed in our 3D Design Studio, are currently working with AFH on our Boston College Neighborhood Improvement Fund funded project - the design and fabrication of sculptural artworks to be installed on the front lawn of Brighton High School. Working in collaboration with the 3D Design team, she will engage her graphic design students in the project's research on socio-historic information and conceptual ideas of the bike rack designs.
- **CommonWheels Bicycle Collective**, Galen Mook, President and Founder. Galen will sit on the project's 'Design & Siting Committee'. CommonWheels is an Allston-based bicycle collective focused on building a community of happy, safe, educated riders through workshops, group rides, and a flagship program, Open Shop.
- **Allston Village Main Streets**, Emma Walters, Executive Director and resident of Lower Allston. Emma will sit on the project's 'Design & Siting Committee', assisting with siting and attaining property owner approvals.
- **Brighton Allston Historical Society**, Charlie Vasiliades. Charlie will provide socio-historical information, such as historic material, photos and other reference materials.
- **Allston Brighton Community Development Corporation (CDC)**, Jason Desrosier, Manager of Community Building and Engagement. Jason will sit on the project's 'Design & Siting Committee'.
- **Boston Bikes**. AFH will work in partnership with Boston Bikes to obtain the necessary approvals for the design, function and siting of the proposed bike racks.

Qualifications and Prior History of Executing Similar Projects

AFH brings enormous experience with planning, designing and installing iconic and functional public art and urban design projects for the past 26+ years. Our works combine the mastery and expertise of professional artists, supported by the energy and vision of a team of emerging youth artists. For the proposed project, AFH will draw upon the resources of our highly experienced 3D Design team, comprised of the Creative Project Director, two 3D Designer Mentors, and youth artists, with support from our Community Network Director, the Director of Program Operations and our Founder-Executive/Artistic Director.

Community input figures highly in each of our public projects. AFH artists and teen employees convene community meetings, ensuring that the neighborhood's voice and vision in the final product. This creates important dialogue between people of different ages, cultures and experiences and guarantees a community-driven process.

Prior History

AFH's 3D Design team of professional artists and Boston teens has been designing and building sculptural bike racks since 2009 when we won a Statewide competition from the Boston Public Art Commission to create multiple-unit bicycle racks for installation on Mission Hill. To date, we have designed 13 bike racks resulting in the fabrication of 26 racks now adorning the streets of Boston. Our clients have included the Boston Public Market Association, the City of Boston, East Boston Main Streets, Hyde Jackson Square Main Streets, JC Cannistraro, JP

Centre/South Main Streets, MBTA, and Mission Hill Main Streets. Selected designs included an oversized padlock seen below, with some additional examples attached. AFH bike racks have since been installed on main streets throughout the City, including prominent installations in East Boston, Hyde Jackson Square, and at the Mattapan MBTA.



“Eastie Wave,” East Boston Main Streets



“Padlock,” Mission Hill Main Streets

Currently we are collaborating with the Washington Gateway Main Streets to design a series of bike racks that speak to the unique history and architecture of the area. We are uniquely qualified in this artistic pursuit due to the added story and impact of AFH’s mission and the fresh perspective AFH teens offer.

AFH 3D Design Studio Experience and Qualifications

AFH’s 3D Design studio explores three-dimensional construction arts. Concepts are taken from sketch, to drawing, to model, to full execution. The Studio, comprised of four professional 3D Designer mentors - who have a combined experience of 37 years of art making, and up to 15 teen artists, use computer-aided drafting programs and conduct trials with materials to understand their properties and applicability to the project. Through demonstrations, innovation and experimentation, the team works with a variety of fine art and industrial tools and materials. AFH’s 3D Design studio has gained national attention for fabricating unique bike-racks, large-scale sculptures, architectural details, monument signage, eco-friendly furniture and more – infusing the zest and unpredictability inherent in young people “making things.”

Our 3D Design Team

Haidan Hodgson, Creative Project Director: A graduate of Boston’s University’s photojournalism program, Haidan joined AFH in 2002 to lead AFH’s photography studio, including our ongoing collaboration with the Boston Globe’s Teens in Print publication. During this time, Haidan was selected to participate in the Adobe Youth Voices program as a youth educator responsible for leading a team of young photographers to create a series of photo essays under the AYV mission “to empower youth in underserved communities around the globe with real-world experiences and 21st century tools to communicate their ideas, exhibit their potential, and take action in their communities.” Haidan now leads the 3D Design studio working with a team of professional artists and makers who mentor teens to design, fabricate and install a diverse range of products, including furniture, sculpture, lighting, three dimensional wall art, and bike racks, for both businesses and public good. Hodgson exhibits her personal artwork throughout Boston.

Hannah Fallon, 3D Designer Mentor: A lifelong creator, Hannah has been imagining and constructing works of art since early childhood. She apprenticed with jewelers and accessory designers and contributed to several large-scale and notable installations such as Ernesto Neto’s Anthropodino. Hannah’s creative work centers on textiles, costumes, furniture-making, and clothing design, and she collaborates often with other artists and visionaries. Following a 2011 collaboration with AFH’s 3D Design Studio to design and develop an iconic dress comprised of Vitamin Water bottles, Hannah joined AFH’s staff as a 3D Design Mentor in 2012.

Dominique Butori, 3D Designer Mentor: Dominique was a youth apprentice in AFH’s 3D Design Studio before

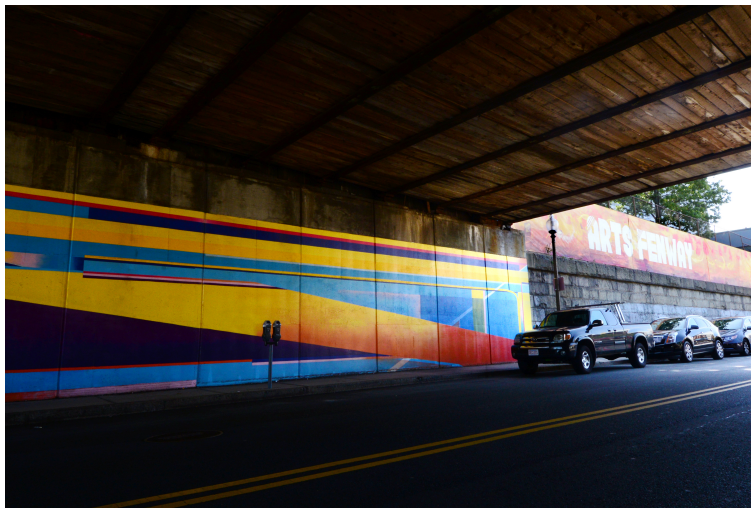
attending Montserrat College of Art. While attending Montserrat, she continued to work at AFH as an Assistant 3D Design Mentor during the summer sessions. Dominique received her Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts Sculpture in May 2014, and has been a fulltime mentor at AFH ever since.

AFH 3D Design Youth Artists: AFH youth participants represent Boston's diverse demographics. Most are aged 14-18 and attend Boston high schools; 83% are from low- and very-low income families; and 91% are of color. AFH brings young people from different backgrounds together as artists and innovators. Within the 3D Design Studio, youth work with wood, metal, plastics, and a variety of natural and synthetic materials. Found objects such as construction debris, household appliances, business machines and cars give new meaning to the concept of recycling. AFH's 3D Design studio is renowned for constructing unique coat-racks, benches, tables and sculptures, 3D wall murals, and more.

In addition to the numerous bike racks designed, fabricated and installed by our 3D Design team, we have executed hundreds of projects, both public and private, within and around the greater Boston area, some relevant highlights and examples of AFH's high impact public projects include:

- Social purpose 3D design. Having received a grant from the Edward Ingersoll Browne Fund to produce artistically designed bicycle racks to be installed in the neighborhood, Hyde Jackson Square Main Street (HJSMS) commissioned Artists For Humanity to design and build the racks. Teens in our 3D Design Studio worked with HJSMS to discuss project themes and goals. The HJSMS team selected a design of people dancing, inspired by the neighborhood's vibrant community. AFH installed the racks in June 2014.
- 3D Design with recycled materials. The Massachusetts Port Authority commissioned AFH to design and create an 8'x8' sculpture of the recycle symbol comprised of aluminum and recycled bottle caps, which was installed at Logan Airport on April 22, 2013 in honor of Earth Day.
- Architectural detailing. In 2011, the Edward Ingersoll Browne Fund awarded AFH a contract to develop a sculptural entrance awning for our youth arts facility. Former AFH Sculpture artist, Nick Farnham and AFH youth designed, fabricated and installed the awning in collaboration with architect Sam Batchelor, MassArt students, and apprentices from Ironworks Union Local 7. In November 2011, AFH was awarded First Place in the Exterior Category in the 3form 6th Annual People's Choice Installation Competition in recognition for the awning's innovative and environmentally friendly design.
- Exterior sculptural mural. In the fall of 2014, AFH was hired by the Friends of the Frieda Garcia Park to design a sculptural mural for the Frieda Garcia Park. Composed of over 100 metal "blooms," the installation spans a 120' wall that is visible from the Mass Pike, turning the once gray cinderblock wall into a welcoming cultural resource while simultaneously curbing the potential for vandalism.
- Exterior mural. The BRA and TransNational co-commissioned AFH's mural team to transform the dark, drab Ipswich Street corridor, which leads pedestrians to Fenway Park, with two large-scale public art installations evocative of the community's thriving arts scene. Over the summer, AFH teens painted and installed a 110'x10' scrim adjacent to the Charles Gate Bridge. They also designed and painted a 95'x 15' mural for the south wall of the Charles Gate Bridge underpass. Both pieces are highly visible from the Massachusetts Turnpike and create a visual narrative that speaks of Fenway's distinctive characteristics as it leads pedestrians and vehicles to the heart of the neighborhood. (See image below.)
- Interior mural. The Whittier Street Health Center commissioned AFH to create a 4' x 16' mural at their new community facility in 2012, requesting that the mural: appeal to youth and young adults, ages 5-20; reference local scenes with young people playing and interacting; and engage Roxbury youth artists.
- Photographic portraits. AFH partnered with Providence artist Mary Beth Meehan during Summer 2012 on a series of photographic portraits of Brockton residents; the portraits were printed on 8' x 12' banners and installed throughout Brockton's downtown commercial center.
- Graphic portraits. The Edward L. Cooper Community Garden and Education Center in Roxbury commissioned AFH's Design team to create a series of commemorative graphic portraits on outstanding African Americans in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics. This permanent exhibit opened on September 13, 2013.

- Interior sculptural wall. Boston Properties commissioned the AFH 3D Design Studio in October 2016 to design, fabricate and install two sculptural murals for the lobby of their 100 Federal Street building. The completed murals, titled “Day and Night”, are each 12.5’ x 16’ and feature luminous waves of colorized aluminum ribbons threaded with high quality wire rope and framed with stainless steel hardware.
- Exterior Creative Placemaking. Liberty Mutual commissioned AFH to design a temporary public art installation at the St. James Garden in the heart of Back Bay’s business district. The installation comprised sculptural “kites,” in the shapes of giant flowers and koi fish that hovered among the trees. The “kites” were installed in phases, inviting visitors to anticipate and continually discover the shapes and colors surrounding them. The sculptural kites were also lit, allowing the installation to be appreciated during both night and day. Surrounded by large office buildings, the St. James Garden installation was designed to provide businesspeople in adjacent buildings with an aerial perspective of the experience, fully activating this open space from all angles



Ipswich Street Corridor, Fenway

II. PROJECT INFORMATION

Proposed Project, Community Benefits and Site Map

Bridging economic, racial, and social divisions, AFH restores urban neighborhoods by introducing young people’s creativity to public spaces and the business world. In partnership with Brighton High School, CommonWheels Bicycle Collective, the Allston Village Main Streets, the Brighton Allston Historical Society, the CDC, and Boston Bikes, AFH will add both a functional and design aesthetic to the streetscapes of Allston-Brighton through the design, fabrication and installation of artistic bike racks, providing an opportunity to merge art, design and public realm improvements. We imagine a series of racks offering visual references to historic and cultural aspects of Allston-Brighton, such as music, artists, architecture, bicycle use, students, and its multi-cultural constituency. AFH’s 3D Design Studio plans to collaborate with students from Brighton High School in the research and conceptual development phases of the design process. The AFH team will then design two signature artistic bike racks integrating custom details into each design, for a total of 8-10 unique racks that contribute to Harvard-Allston Public Realm Flexible Fund’s efforts to enhance the community through investing in ‘sustainable goals, thoughtful transportation modes, arts and culture.’”

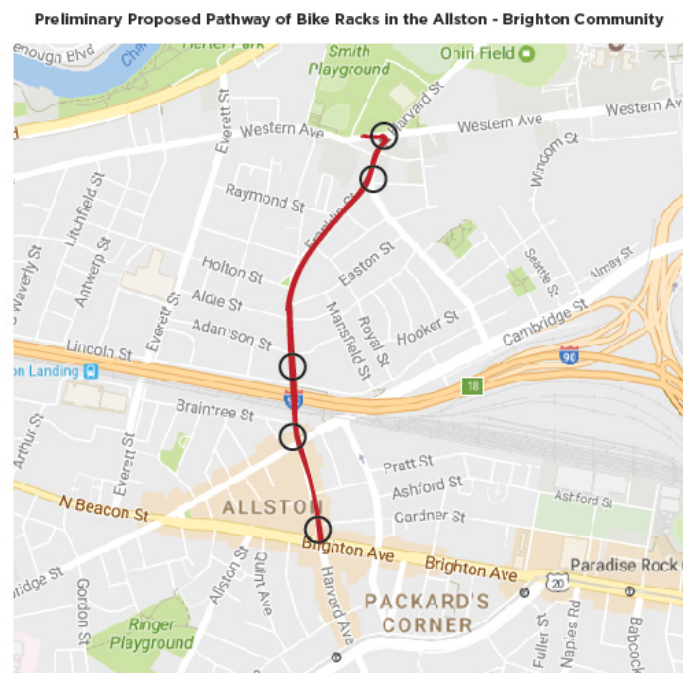
AFH’s design process will truly be community-led, by pairing AFH youth artists with students from Brighton High School while integrating Allston-Brighton residents and businesspeople through the creation of a ‘Design & Siting Committee’ including residents and representatives from Allston Village Main Streets, Commonwheels Bicycle

Collective, the CDC, The Brighton Allston Historical Society (who will provide socio-historical information) and Boston Bikes (along with the Allston Village Main Streets), who will support the final approval process.

Project partner Brighton High School will engage graphic design and photography students in the design discovery phase by having them research historical and current day Allston-Brighton images and references for potential use in the sculptures and share conceptual ideas for the racks' designs. AFH teens and mentors will present several design options for the Committee to review, and members will consider each design's functionality, relevance and aesthetic quality. The Committee will recommend two bike rack designs and the additional design details to be incorporated into the bike racks' final development, resulting in 8-10 unique racks. AFH will finalize project designs and fabricate the racks, while also working with the Committee on siting locations and garnering support from property/business owners as needed, engaging Boston Bikes to obtain City approvals, and managing the entire process through installation.

The proposed bike racks will be highly functional as well as artistic. We will fabricate them from stainless steel to ensure that they 1) hold up to heavy usage, 2) withstand the elements, and 3) require little to no project maintenance. We also see the bike racks as the beginning of a possible narrative journey throughout Allston-Brighton, with the potential to add more designs if community demand arises.

Although the design process will determine exact locations, some initial thinking locates bike racks along the roads stretching from North Harvard Street and Western Avenue, down to Franklin Street and across the Franklin Street pedestrian bridge, down Harvard Avenue to Brighton Avenue. This continuum of artistic bike racks will both provide infrastructure for the bicycling community and showcase unique qualities of the neighborhood, all while building a 'green' element to the growing creative corridor.



Public Process and Benefits

Public benefits are multiple, including the promotion of sustainable transit, the improvement of the Allston-Brighton cyclist user experience and the added exposure to creative expression for all who encounter the artistic racks. An AFH designed bike rack not only provides parking, but also enlivens the streetscape and becomes a memorable landmark that supports and encourages bicycle use. As part of the Discovery Phase of the AFH design process, the 3D Design studio team, comprised of 24 teen designers and three professional design mentors, 12 of

whom either live in the Allston-Brighton community or attend an area high school, will work in partnership with the Brighton High School and other partners, as noted above, to ensure a community-driven process. The process will include a site visit, including AFH teen artists who are personally connected to Allston-Brighton through school and/or residence, enabling the 3D Design studio to add unique insights and inclusive perspectives to the design process, based on years of experience designing, fabricating and installing bike racks.

As noted, it is anticipated that the bike racks will reference Allston-Brighton's rich socio-cultural story and contribute to future social purpose art installations aimed to enhance the neighborhood's urban design and transportation-user experience. Our request directly meets the Fund's philanthropic goal to provide public benefit to the Allston-Brighton community by promoting bicycle use, reducing traffic congestion, and enhancing the neighborhood's aesthetic quality and user experience.

It is important to AFH that the neighborhood feels a sense of authorship/ownership, and we will therefore utilize both direct contact and social media to achieve high levels of participation and promotion.

Expected Outcomes of the Project

AFH's proposed sculptural bike rack project will yield the following outcomes:

- Eight to 10 (8-10) artistic bike racks installed in select locations of the Allston-Brighton neighborhood.
- Public, functional art that doubles as smart urban and transportation design.
- Community leadership and collaboration on the design and selection process.
- Enhanced civic pride through student research on and communication of Allston-Brighton's heritage.
- Promotion of bicycle use, reducing traffic congestion in busy commercial centers.
- Community building through special event hosted at the project conclusion.

Why Harvard-Allston Public Realm Flexible Fund?

As a not-for-profit, AFH relies on client commissions, as well as public funding, grants, major gifts and individual donations to fund its Youth Arts Enterprise program. AFH continually seeks to diversify the types of projects it takes on, not only relying on client-driven commissions but also through identifying needs in the community from which our teens live and/or study, allowing us to be responsive and provide AFH teens opportunities to advance civic pride as they share their creative expression through the creation of public art. The HAPRFF provides just this opportunity. As such, AFH is requesting the full budget amount from HAPRFF to execute the project with the hope to stimulate private sector and alternative funding streams for Allston-Brighton's future artistic endeavors.

Timeline (start date, end date, milestones)

AFH anticipates the entire project to take approximately four to five non-consecutive months, including concept development, design and approval process, fabrication, and permitting and installation. The project will conclude with a promotional event to share the initiative formally with the community. The actual start date will depend on the award's timing, and the overall timeframe assumes that all partners are able to commence once the award is announced and that appropriate weather conditions exist at the time of installation. We see the project unfolding as follows:

- Concept Development, Design and Engineering (Eight to 10 Weeks)
- Fabrication, Permitting and Installation (Eight to 10 Weeks)
- Public announcement, press release and/or celebration

Award pending, the project is planned to begin in the fall of 2017 when the Brighton High School students will be available to collaborate on the conceptual and design phase of the project. Although installation is dependent on a timely approval process, AFH anticipates installation in early spring 2018.

Project Sustainability and Maintenance Plan

AFH will fabricate the artistic bike racks with consideration for long-term durability and ease of maintenance. The racks will be made from industrial grade 316 stainless steel used in many industrial applications, most notably in coastal regions and outdoor areas where de-icing salts are common. It is resistant to rust and requires no maintenance. AFH has successfully used stainless steel in urban environments including bike racks but also outdoor

sculptural elements (i.e. a sculptural mural on the exterior wall of Frieda Garcia Park). Notably, the bike racks will be securely fixed to the ground. AFH will retain the digital file allowing for reproduction should there be a future request due to, for some unforeseen reason, significant damage to a bike rack.

Anticipated Regulatory Review and Necessary Permits

AFH has worked alongside Boston Bikes on multiple community bike rack projects. Boston Bikes has authority over the approval of bike racks for design, function and siting. For geographic areas covered by Landmarks Commission, the design and sites will similarly be submitted for approval.

III. Materials

Budget

- Design & Engineering: \$9,800
 - Fabrication (8-10 artistic bike racks): \$18,769
 - Siting, Permitting, and Installation: \$9,054
- Total: \$37,623

Budget Narrative

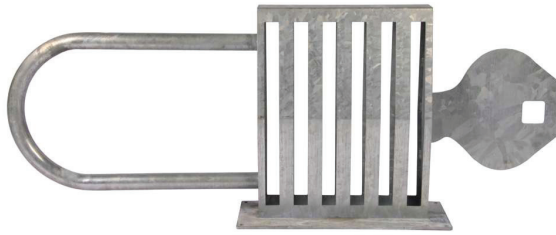
AFH anticipates the total cost to design, fabricate and install the artistic bike rack series to be \$37,623, 100% of which is being respectively requested from the HAPRFF. This includes staff time for the 3D Design Studio's Creative Project Director, two 3D Designer Mentors, 24 teen artists and the Community Network Director, with oversight from AFH's Artistic Director and Director of Program Operations. The 3D Design team will collaborate with Brighton High School's creative team on the conceptual and design process, in conjunction with the project's Design & Siting Committee. Additionally, our community partners as outlined above, will provide in-kind professional and creative support, working in partnership at various points along the project continuum, including provision of socio-cultural and historic documents, participation in the community-based Design & Siting Committee, permitting and installation.

With your support, we will undertake a dynamic and highly collaborative public art project that will enhance the neighborhood's aesthetic quality and user experience; promote community collaboration and cultural growth; and showcase the unique qualities of the Allston-Brighton neighborhood.

Attachments

- Select Portfolio of AFH-designed Artistic Bike Racks
- Project Support Letters

Select Portfolio of AFH-designed Artistic Bike Racks



CLIENTS INCLUDE:

Boston Public Market • The City of Boston • East Boston
Main Streets • JC Cannistraro • JP Centre/South Main
Streets • MBTA • Mission Hill Main Streets



June 1, 2017

Dear Members of the Harvard-Allston Public Realm Flexible Fund

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Charlie Vasiliades

As the Executive Director for the Allston Brighton Community Development Corporation (CDC), I am writing to express support for Artists for Humanity's proposal to develop and install 8-10 bike racks utilizing local historical and cultural themes and references. This project will further enhance the public realm in Allston by stringing together a series of bike racks, that not only serve a functional purpose (i.e. storing bikes), but will transform these racks into vehicles of public art and expression. The areas in which the proposed bikes racks are to be situated stretch from North Harvard Street and Western Ave, down to Franklin Street and across the Franklin Street pedestrian bridge—with a potential extension down Harvard Ave to Brighton Ave. These areas of the neighborhood are known to be creative and artistic and this project will add to our vibrant fabric and our neighborhood's creative corridor.

I am excited to support Artists for Humanity's proposal as they are a well-known and established after-school and summer program for high school age youth in Boston, with a growing representation of Allston Brighton youth. I was pleased to hear that Artists for Humanity will be partnering with Brighton High School on this project, utilizing young and creative talent from the same neighborhood in which these bikes racks will be situated—adding a sense of ownership and investment to the project.

Artists for Humanity has an excellent track record of engaging the community in their programming and are committed to engaging the Allston neighborhood from design to siting. Additionally, Allston Brighton CDC will be joining Allston Village Main Streets, CommonWheels and other local stakeholders on the Design Committee which will work closely with the youth at Brighton High School to compile historical and cultural references to be incorporated into the design elements of the racks.

I fully support the efforts of Artists for Humanity in their proposal to the Harvard-Allston Public Realm Flexible Fund and strongly urge you to consider their application.

Best,

Carol Ridge Martinez
Executive Director, Allston Brighton CDC

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June 2, 2017

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Dear Committee Members,

As the director of Allston Village Main Streets and supporter of additional cycling infrastructure in the Allston business district, I am excited to support the proposal from Artists for Humanity to design, build and install artistic Allston-Brighton themed bike racks in the neighborhood. I have worked with Artists for Humanity over the past year and a half in discussing and planning how additional, community designed bike racks would benefit the business district and those who bike to our district to enjoy our varied local businesses.

I am happy to represent Allston Village on the Design Committee along with Common Wheels and the Allston Brighton CDC to give feedback and insight on aesthetics, cultural and historic references, and location planning.

Allston Village Main Streets supports this bicycle infrastructure project and looks forward to continuing to work with Artists for Humanity and the local young artists of Allston Brighton.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emma Walters". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Emma" and last name "Walters" clearly distinguishable.

Emma Walters

Executive Director, Allston Village Main Streets



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To the members of the Harvard Allston Public Realm Flex Fund:

I am writing on behalf of CommonWheels Bicycle Collective in support of the grant application from Artists for Humanity for the Harvard Allston Public Realm Flex Fund. We believe that AFH's proposal for custom bike racks in Allston will not only beautify our neighborhood and provide much-needed bicycle parking infrastructure, but will also engage with local youths in the design and implementation process and bring about a cultural and tangible connection to cycling, art, and community.

As a local bicycle collective, CommonWheels feels very strongly about creating community through biking, and we believe this proposed program will be able to use bicycling as a focus for merging art, design, and public realm improvements.

I hope you agree this program is worth funding with the Public Realm Flex Fund.

Sincerely,

Galen Mook
President, CommonWheels Bicycle Collective