

Boston College Neighborhood Improvement Fund

For Brighton and Allston

Application for Funding, Spring 2015

Total Amount Requested \$ 14,750

Applicant Organization Name: <u>Read Boston</u>	
Organization Address: <u>43 Hawkins St.</u>	City: <u>Boston</u> Zip: <u>02114</u>
Contact Person: <u>Theresa Lynn</u>	
Title: <u>Executive Director</u>	
Telephone Number: <u>617 918 5282</u>	
E-Mail Address: <u>Theresa.Lynn@boston.gov</u>	
Is Applicant a 501(C) (3) organization? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <u>via Boston Local Dev. Corp</u>	
Federal Employer Identification Number: <u>042681311</u>	
Executive Director: _____	Phone Number: _____
Email Address: _____	
Board President: _____	Phone Number: _____
Email Address: _____	

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

Name and title of Authorized Signatory:

Theresa Lynn

Signature of Authorized Signatory:

Theresa Lynn

1. ReadBoston and MY BRIGHTON Story Stroll
2. Primary contact: Theresa Lynn, 617-918-5282, Theresa.Lynn@boston.gov
3. Key personnel: Kerri Schmidt, ReadBoston, kerri.schmidt@boston.gov
4. Partner organizations: Boston Parks Department, Boston Public Schools, Oak Square YMCA
5. ReadBoston has created Story Strolls in the past. They were temporary structures that were created by ReadBoston and supported by an additional partner. Examples include along the Greenway with the Greenway Conservancy, along the storefronts in Jamaica Plain with local businesses and in the Kroc Center in Dorchester with the Salvation Army. Our goal is to expand upon this work to create a permanent installation in Brighton.

Project Information

1. A key strategy for improved literacy skills for young children is to increase verbal interaction with adults. At ReadBoston we are trying to create opportunities for this exchange in the daily life of Bostonians. There is a lot of research that shows that 0 – 4 year olds have higher literacy outcomes if they have benefitted from regular verbal interaction with adults. One of our goals is to create spaces that invite conversation. We developed Story Strolls for this reason. Story Strolls are visual displays of children's books created in partnership with a community-based organizations.

ReadBoston respectfully requests funding to create a special Story Stroll in Brighton that would engage with local children in the design of the art by having them create pictures or sentences around the theme of My Brighton. We would work with an artist (hopefully local resident) who would collect the student's work and encapsulate it into a series of visual (and possibly tactile) pieces that tell a story.

This My Brighton Story Stroll would be installed in a public place. We propose Brighton Common or Hardiman Playground as good choices but are open to other options. Brighton Common is near the Brighton Center Library and not far from the Winship School. The Hardiman Playground is near the Oak Square YMCA and close to the Mary Lyon School and the Edison School as well as the Presentation Building. These pieces could be mounted on a fence or along a walkway.

The goal is to engage Brighton children in the creation of the work and then to have it tell a story that is either interactive or promotes 'talk' for the park visitors and passers-by. We have worked with the Mary Lyon and the Winship in the past and have an ongoing partnership with the Boston Parks Department.

The Boston Parks Department, led by Commissioner Christopher Cook, supports this application with the understanding that their Department will have final approval on both the format and the location of the MY BRIGHTON Story Stroll.

2. The public benefits of the MY BRIGHTON Story Stroll include enhancing the aesthetic quality and user experience of the public realm, promoting community collaboration and civic and cultural growth and showcasing unique qualities of the neighborhood. We plan to work with community groups and schools to create opportunities for children to participate through a directed art activity. One of the Story Stroll outcomes is continued public engagement. After the artwork is installed, we plan to promote the space by adding it as a Storymobile site each summer and through organized seasonal activities.
3. ReadBoston is funded in large part through charitable donations. We are seeking funding from the Boston College Neighborhood Improvement Fund to help us design and create this Story Stroll which will be a unique park feature in the city.
4. We do not anticipate asking for future phase funding.
5. Timeline:
 - Summer 2015: select artist/designer, create protocol for collecting artwork
 - October 2015: work with Brighton schools and community-based organizations to engage children in submissions
 - November-2015 - March 2016: review artwork, create panels, meet with collaborators
 - Spring 2015: installation of MY BRIGHTON Story Stroll with ribbon-cutting.
6. We anticipate little maintenance requirements. Materials chosen will be accepted for use in public spaces.
7. We don't feel there is a limited life span, although the Story Stroll could be expanded to other local parks and open spaces.

Budget

Artist time				
develop protocol (5)	250			
review art (20)	1000			
create piece (80)	4000			
misc. (10)	500			
Total		\$ 5,750	NIF	
Materials				
tile panels	3000			estimate 3 panels, 8 sq ft each
base material	3000			
		\$ 6,000	NIF	
Installation		\$ 2,000	NIF	could be substantially less depending on material
Misc expenses		\$ 1,000	NIF	
Ribbon-cutting event		\$ 500	ReadBoston	
Storymobile events 2016		\$ 1,410	ReadBoston	
Total		\$ 16,660		
Total Requested from NIF		\$ 14,750		

Images and Renderings

We are still investigating the material that will be used and will likely be chosen after the designer/artist has been selected and the location confirmed. Mosaic panels might be an option, as well as etchings in concrete.



