

Greetings from

THE MAYOR'S OFFICE OF

**NEW URBAN
MECHANICS**

Boston, Massachusetts

We see our prototypes as labors of love, acts of kindness done collaboratively with our neighbors and partners. That's you! In 2022, we covered a lot of ground together—physical & metaphorical. We invite you to use these 10 project postcards as you wish. We hope you'll engage in civic organizing, continue building community, be inspired to start something new, or just take a moment to pause and celebrate all the good work that happened in 2022.

With gratitude, we remain—

Your friends,
The Mechanics

P.S. Redeem this postcard for a chat & coffee or tea ☺ (Mechanicafé in our office (Suite 603)).

The Mayor's Office of New Urban Mechanics
newurbanmechanics@boston.gov





PUBLIC SPACE INVITATIONAL 2022: EXPERIMENTS FOR A GREEN NEW DEAL NEIGHBORHOOD

Since 2014, we have crowdsourced ideas to make Boston's public spaces more delightful, intuitive, and beautiful through our annual civic design competition. This year, we asked applicants: how can we introduce Bostonians of all ages to green infrastructure in playful, tangible ways that spark curiosity?

 space.newurbanmechanics.org

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newurbanmechanics@boston.gov



GET INVOLVED!
Visit a green infrastructure installation at the branch libraries in East Boston or Roxbury.

Thank you to our project partners:
Boston Center for Youth and Families, Boston Public Schools, The Trustees, TD Bank

BREAKING

NEWS



**AREAWAYS: WHY BOSTON
CAN'T HAVE NICE THINGS**

AREAWAYS: WHY BOSTON CAN'T HAVE NICE THINGS

Many downtown sidewalks are the roofs of the abutting buildings' basements – a.k.a. **areaways**! The City can't meet its commitment to build 1,600 curb ramps a year by avoiding areaways. To crack this Catch-22, we've been doing legal research, building a map of areaways, and creating an interdepartmental conversation.

 tinyurl.com/areaways

Photo courtesy of Jacob Wessel

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GET INVOLVED!
Know an areaway?
Email the address
to us!

Thank you to our project partners:

Disabilities Commission, Public Works Department, Inspectional Services Department, Public Improvement Commission, Law Department, Office of Neighborhood Services, Transportation Department, Boston Planning & Development Agency, Downtown Business Improvement District



CO-CREATING BOSTON'S FUTURE-DECKER

<p>Comments and input will be used to help shape the final design of the Decker.</p> <p>Comments and input will be used to help shape the final design of the Decker.</p> <p>Comments and input will be used to help shape the final design of the Decker.</p> <p>Comments and input will be used to help shape the final design of the Decker.</p> <p>Comments and input will be used to help shape the final design of the Decker.</p>	<p>Comments and input will be used to help shape the final design of the Decker.</p> <p>Comments and input will be used to help shape the final design of the Decker.</p> <p>Comments and input will be used to help shape the final design of the Decker.</p> <p>Comments and input will be used to help shape the final design of the Decker.</p> <p>Comments and input will be used to help shape the final design of the Decker.</p>	<p>Comments and input will be used to help shape the final design of the Decker.</p> <p>Comments and input will be used to help shape the final design of the Decker.</p> <p>Comments and input will be used to help shape the final design of the Decker.</p> <p>Comments and input will be used to help shape the final design of the Decker.</p> <p>Comments and input will be used to help shape the final design of the Decker.</p>	<p>Comments and input will be used to help shape the final design of the Decker.</p> <p>Comments and input will be used to help shape the final design of the Decker.</p> <p>Comments and input will be used to help shape the final design of the Decker.</p> <p>Comments and input will be used to help shape the final design of the Decker.</p> <p>Comments and input will be used to help shape the final design of the Decker.</p>	<p>Comments and input will be used to help shape the final design of the Decker.</p> <p>Comments and input will be used to help shape the final design of the Decker.</p> <p>Comments and input will be used to help shape the final design of the Decker.</p> <p>Comments and input will be used to help shape the final design of the Decker.</p> <p>Comments and input will be used to help shape the final design of the Decker.</p>	
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NO TRESPASSING
 POLICE TAKE NOTICE!
 TO REPORT, CALL 311
 or TWEET @BOS 311

CITY OF BOSTON **BOSTON SOCIETY FOR ARCHITECTURE** **LABORERS' UNION**

CO-CREATING BOSTON'S FUTURE-DECKER

This two-phased competition invites individuals and teams to propose new housing that can be built on small sites by drawing inspiration from the triple-decker. Two sites have been selected for Phase 2.

 [boston.gov/future-deckers](https://www.boston.gov/future-deckers)

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GET INVOLVED!
Share your thoughts
through the survey
on our website!

Thank you to our project partners:
Boston Society for Architecture, Mayor's Office of Housing



RETHINKING CURB EXTENSIONS

We worked with the Streets Cabinet to develop design alternatives to the standard materials that are used in new sidewalk construction. This recently implemented policy will enable new rain gardens, plantings, porous pavement, and other more stormwater-absorbent solutions on Boston's streets.

 bit.ly/monum-yir-green-infra

GET INVOLVED!

Interested in helping to care for green infrastructure in your neighborhood? Get in touch with us and stay tuned!

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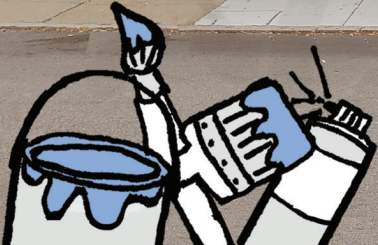
Thank you to our project partners:

Director of Green Infrastructure, Kate England; Streets Cabinet, Boston
Transportation Department, Public Improvement Commission

CO-DESIGNED:
A FOOD JUSTICE MURAL

HARBOR HEALTH SERVICES
10 Minot Street

WHAT WOULD YOU
WANT TO CONTRIBUTE
TO THIS MURAL? ↗
ADD IT HERE!



CO-DESIGNED!: A FOOD JUSTICE MURAL

We are co-designing a food justice mural at the Harbor Health Services Food Pantry in lower Dorchester. We're collaborating with food pantry users, community members, Harbor Health staff, the Asian American Resource Workshop, the Office of Food Justice and our commissioned artist Ngoc-Tran Vu.

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newurbanmechanics@boston.gov



1 CITY HALL SQUARE

ROOM 804

BOSTON, MA 02201

GET INVOLVED!

What would you want to contribute to this mural? Please add your words, pictures, or thoughts above (and on the front)!

Thank you to our project partners:


The Mayor's Office of Food Justice, The Mayor's Office of Arts & Culture, Harbor Health Services, The Asian American Resource Workshop, Artist Ngoc-Tran Vu, pantry users, community members

Notice, consent, accountability, and transparency are often required by privacy laws but notifications in public spaces are inconsistent.



SURVEILLANCE, DATA, AND PRIVACY WORKING GROUP

The Working Group brought together advocates and City of Boston technologists to grow transparency around data collection in public spaces; build channels to listen to residents' thoughts on data collection, privacy, and surveillance; and increase the City's accountability around surveillance practices.

 bit.ly/monum-yir-surveillance-oversight

The Mayor's Office of New Urban Mechanics
newurbanmechanics@boston.gov



GET INVOLVED!

Let us know what you think
at surveillance@boston.gov.

Thank you to our project partners:

ACLU of Massachusetts, Student Immigrant Movement,
Department of Innovation and Technology, Mayor's Office



WE SHOULD
DO THIS!



*BLOCK
PARTIES
& BLOCK PARTY KITS

BLOCK PARTIES AND BLOCK PARTY KITS

Want to take civic action? Host a block party. We improved permitting, outlined the new steps online, supported staff to guide residents through the new process, and offered Block Party Kits to make festivity planning easier.

 [boston.gov/blockparty](https://www.boston.gov/blockparty)

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newurbanmechanics@boston.gov



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GET INVOLVED!
Send us a photo of a
Block Party you host
in your neighborhood!

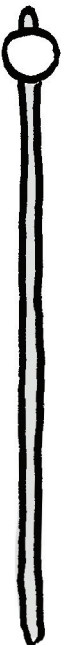
Thank you to our project partners:

Boston Transportation Department, Department of Innovation and Technology,
Office of Civic Organizing, 311, Culture House



COMPOST, NOT TRASH

THE OFFICIAL SONG OF COMMUNITY COMPOSTING



COMPOST NOT TRASH – THE OFFICIAL SONG OF COMMUNITY COMPOSTING

Can an earworm of a song help the real worms in the soil? Working with a local recording artist we put together a song and lyric video to accompany the expansion of the Community Compost Bins as we move towards being a zero-waste city.

 bit.ly/monum-yir-compost

GET INVOLVED!

Use the Community Compost Bins in your neighborhood or join the curbside compost program waitlist.

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Thank you to our project partners:

Doctor Wonder (aka Cliff Notez) and Will Dailey; Public Works Department, Boston Public Library, Katharine Walsh at Boston Public Schools Facilities Management; Environment Department



SCOTT POSTER

CELEBRATING NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

We supported the burning of a traditional canoe, called a mishoon, by members from the Massachusetts Tribe and Nipmuc Tribe. Mishoon-burning requires 24/7 watch and can take anywhere from 10 to 14 days to complete.

Photo courtesy of Scott Foster Photography

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GET INVOLVED!

Research and educate yourself on the Indigenous history where you live.

Thank you to our project partners:

Massachusetts Tribe, Nipmuc Tribe, Equity and Inclusion Cabinet, Department of Innovation and Technology, Operations Cabinet, City Archaeology



CELEBRATING THE WORK OF URBAN FARMERS
& BOSTON'S COMMUNITY OF FOOD GROWERS

CORN
MAIZ

GROWING IN BOSTON

Last year, the Office of Food Justice and GrowBoston supported the construction of over 270 raised garden beds across the City. We celebrated their work, and that of our community partners and urban farmers, through an event with the Boston Housing Authority.

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GET INVOLVED!

Get to know the urban farms in your neighborhood and go visit them!

Thank you to our project partners:

Office of Food Justice; GrowBoston; Haley House; Eastie Farms; The Food Project; Round Table Inc.; and Roots, Berries, and Goodies; Boston Housing Authority