



- ABOUT
- BACKGROUND
- SITE
- RFQ
- SLIDEROOM
- Q&A

# Cross Street Memorial RFQ

*Mani Forti: A Journey of Love, Progress and Promise*

**INFORMATION SESSION**

April 15 2026



# About the Open Call

## Cross Street Revitalization Memorial

The North End Italian Immigration Memorial Committee (IAMC) seeks an artist or artist-led team to create a long-term public memorial honoring the contributions of Italian immigrants to the North End, the City of Boston, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the United States of America. The IAMC's working title for the fundraising, design, and construction of the project is ***Mani Forti: A Journey of Love, Progress & Promise***. The proposed memorial location is on the Cross Street Plaza, at the intersection of Cross Street and Hanover Street, along the Freedom Trail and adjacent to the Rose Kennedy Greenway. The Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy is supporting the administration of this project. The selected artist or artist team will be commissioned to design, fabricate, and install a long-term memorial that will be subject to review and approval by the Boston Art Commission and other necessary stakeholders.

Learn More: [rosekennedygreenway.org/cross-street-revitalization-memorial-rfq/](https://rosekennedygreenway.org/cross-street-revitalization-memorial-rfq/)

ABOUT

BACKGROUND

SITE

RFQ

SLIDEROOM

Q&A



# About the Open Call

## Cross Street Revitalization Memorial

This **Request for Qualifications (RFQ)** is the **first phase** of a two-phase artist selection process. Through this RFQ, the project partners seek to identify up to three (3) Artist Finalists whose experience, artistic practice, and approach align with the goals and scale of the project. Selected finalists will be invited to participate in a subsequent Request for Proposals (RFP) phase, during which they will be financially compensated to develop full design proposals informed by site research and community engagement.

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ABOUT

BACKGROUND

SITE

RFQ

SLIDEROOM

Q&A



# Project Background

## Cross Street Revitalization Memorial

In December of 2021, Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Chair of House Committee on Ways & Means filed House bill H4269. This bill included language “..for the Cross street revitalization including a North End Italian immigrant memorial (the memorial) on the corner of Cross and Hanover street coordinated through the Freedom Trail Foundation, Inc. and the Boston Arts commission”. Following the passage of this legislation, a volunteer committee entitled the **North End Italian Immigration Memorial Committee (IAMC)** was formed. Composed of local Italian American community leaders, the Committee was established to support a transparent, public-facing process for the creation of the memorial. The memorial will be developed in accordance with the City of Boston Public Art Policy and will follow the review and approval processes of the Boston Art Commission and other relevant authorities.

Learn More: [ManiFortiNorthEnd.com](https://ManiFortiNorthEnd.com)

ABOUT

BACKGROUND

SITE

RFQ

SLIDEROOM

Q&A



**ABOUT**

**BACKGROUND**

**SITE**

**RFQ**

**SLIDEROOM**

**Q&A**

# Site Overview

## Cross Street Revitalization Memorial

Acting as the gateway and welcome to the **neighborhood of the North End**, the memorial will be sited at **Cross Street Plaza**, located at the intersection of Cross Street and Hanover Street, adjacent to the Rose Kennedy Greenway and along the Freedom Trail. The site is highly visible, pedestrian-oriented, and embedded within a dense historic and infrastructural environment. A successful artist/artist team will be prepared to address complex utilities, creative engineering needs, and evolving site requirements and conditions.

Final site parameters, utilities, subsurface conditions, and technical constraints will be shared with finalists during Phase II (RFP). The selected artist will be expected to respond thoughtfully to the site's civic prominence, material conditions, and surrounding public uses.

# Site Overview

## Cross Street Revitalization Memorial

**ABOUT**

**BACKGROUND**

**SITE**

**RFQ**

**SLIDEROOM**

**Q&A**



ABOUT

BACKGROUND

SITE

RFQ

SLIDEROOM

Q&A

# Site Context

## Cross Street Revitalization Memorial

The site sits at a literal and symbolic threshold between neighborhood life, regional infrastructure, and national narratives of history and tourism. As an entry point to the **North End of Boston**, it functions simultaneously as a place of passage, gathering, and orientation, making it an ideal location for a memorial that addresses arrival, settlement, and shared civic space.

The intent of the project is to create a long-term public artwork that honors the contributions of Italian immigrants while reflecting the North End's longstanding role as a place of arrival, labor, and community-building for many immigrant populations in Boston. Situated at a key threshold to the neighborhood, the memorial is envisioned as a civic gesture of welcome, an opening that acknowledges where people came from, the work they did, and the lives they built, and the communities that continue to grow here.



# Selection Process

## Cross Street Revitalization Memorial

### Phase I – Request for Qualifications (RFQ) Review

Once the application period closes, all submissions will be reviewed for completeness and eligibility. All complete and eligible applications will be shared with the Artist Selection Panel, composed of representatives from the North End Italian Immigration Memorial Committee (IAMC), the Freedom Trail, the Mayor’s Office of Arts and Culture (MOAC), the Boston Art Commission (BAC), the Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS), and a cultural organization representative. The Artist Selection Panel will review qualifications materials and select up to three **(3) Artist Finalists to advance to Phase II**. All applicants will be notified of their application status following this review, barring any alterations to the anticipated schedule.

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ABOUT

BACKGROUND

SITE

RFQ

SLIDEROOM

Q&A

# Timeline

## Cross Street Revitalization Memorial

### Phase I: Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

DATE	ACTIVITY	DETAILS
Wednesday, March 30, 2026	Call for Artists Released	<a href="#">Portal here</a>
Wednesday, April 15, 2026	Information session for interested applicants	Submit any questions via email before 12 PM on Tuesday, April 14, 2026
Wednesday, May 6, 2026	Submission deadline	Complete proposals due via submission platform
May 7 – May 21, 2026	Artist Selection Panel reviews and convenes	Working Group reviews and evaluates proposals
Week of May 25, 2026	Applicant Interviews	Conducted at the discretion of Artist Selection Panel
Week of June 1, 2026	All applicants notified of status	Finalists selected



**ABOUT**

**BACKGROUND**

**SITE**

**RFQ**

**SLIDEROOM**

**Q&A**

# RFQ Application

## Cross Street Revitalization Memorial

### Application Requirements

Only one application per artist or artist team will be accepted. If you are applying as a team, one artist should be designated as the lead applicant and main point of contact for the application process. All applications will be submitted and reviewed on SlideRoom. All materials are required unless otherwise noted.

**Deadline:** May 6, 2026

**Fee (USD):** \$10.00

Learn More: [Slideroom Application Portal](#)

ABOUT

BACKGROUND

SITE

RFQ

SLIDEROOM

Q&A

# RFQ Application

## Cross Street Revitalization Memorial

01. Applicant Information
02. Artist Bio
03. Artist Statement
04. Narrative Questions
05. Professional References
06. Demographic Questions (optional)
07. Artist Résumé/CV
08. Portfolio

Learn More: [Slideroom Application Portal](#)

ABOUT

BACKGROUND

SITE

RFQ

SLIDEROOM

Q&A

# Questions?

## Cross Street Revitalization Memorial

- Who are the members of the North End Italian Immigration Memorial Committee (IAMC)? Are all or only certain members selecting the artist finalists?
  - Members of the IAMC who will convene for the Artist Selection Panel:
    - State Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Ex Officio
    - Jason Aluia, Chair
    - Maria Lanza, Vice Chair
    - Carmine Guarino
    - Richard Vita
    - Frank Depasquale
    - Suzanne Taylor

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ABOUT

BACKGROUND

SITE

RFQ

SLIDEROOM

Q&A

# Questions?

## Cross Street Revitalization Memorial

- What are the phases of the artist selection process?
  - This **Request for Qualifications (RFQ)** is the first phase of a two-phase artist selection process. All complete and eligible applications will be shared with the Artist Selection Panel, composed of representatives from the North End Italian Immigration Memorial Committee (IAMC), the Freedom Trail, the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture (MOAC), the Boston Art Commission (BAC), the Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS), and a cultural organization representative. Through this RFQ, the project partners seek to identify up to three (3) Artist Finalists whose experience, artistic practice, and approach align with the goals and scale of the project.
  - Selected finalists will be invited to participate in a subsequent **Request for Proposals (RFP)** phase, during which they will be financially compensated to develop full design proposals informed by site research and community engagement.

**ABOUT**

**BACKGROUND**

**SITE**

**RFQ**

**SLIDEROOM**

**Q&A**

# Questions?

## Cross Street Revitalization Memorial

- What role does the Boston Art Commission play in the final artist decision?
  - The Boston Art Commission will review the project in accordance with the City of Boston Public Art Policy, as the proposed project site is City of Boston property. The selected artist finalist and their proposal will be presented at a Boston Art Commission meeting for approval of the next phase of the project. Subsequent phases, including contracting, design development, fabrication, and installation, will proceed following artist selection and will be in accordance with construction timeline of site and Boston Art Commission review process.



**ABOUT**

**BACKGROUND**

**SITE**

**RFQ**

**SLIDEROOM**

**Q&A**

# Thank you!

**Learn More:**

**IAMC & Project Background:**

**[ManiFortiNorthEnd.com](https://ManiFortiNorthEnd.com)**

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