

Boston Busker

Project



Introduction

The streets of Boston are filled with talented musicians and artists, but they often go unappreciated. Street performers, hereafter called buskers, bring art and culture to the city of Boston. The Olin College Busker group is delivering an open call to architects, sculptors, and graphic designers in the Boston community to come together and change the perception of Boston's buskers.

Why this is important

Street performance is an ancient, global art that was once very well respected, but has slowly declined into obscurity. Buskers are often associated with beggars and many passersby donate out of charity.

Most street musicians don't perform because they have no other way of making money and all street performers want to be heard by and evoke feeling in the strangers that cross their path.

It is our goal to bridge the gap between artists and their audience by elevating the busking profession in the eyes of the community. We hope to reignite our communal appreciation of an art that unites us across continents.

Challenge

The challenge is to promote the art of busking by designing multiple performance spaces, hereafter called "stages," for Boston buskers. Boston buskers currently have designated performance spaces on the subway but these performance spaces are just areas against the wall without any commodities and are no different than the rest of the subway. Above ground, most performance spaces are park benches. For artists that add their music to the city, Buskers do not have spaces dedicated to their performance.

The board will choose 10 locations (see the Design Specifications below for the list of the locations) that are open for design. This challenge calls for the design of 10 performance spaces, one for each of the locations. Every idea will be accepted as long as the submission is complete (see Submission procedure below for more details). The board will then choose the top stage designs for each location and allow the public will vote on the top designs (see the Judging Process Below for more specifics). The design that has the most votes will win. The winners will receive a \$25,000 honorarium and a \$250,000 stipend to create their stage. The engineers on the board will work with the design winners to build all of the stages. The engineers will help make any and all winning ideas come to life. The board encourages all submissions to be grand, creative, well thought out for the targeted audience, and blue sky oriented. This is an exciting opportunity to combine the art of design and architecture with the art of busking!

Design Specifications

Guidelines

Each design must be a stage for buskers to perform at and should be designed for one of the 10 locations listed below. Each proposed design should be prepared to handle different types of instruments and performances and should consider audience space and busker interaction with the audience. Please note that stages are open for public enjoyment, and should be made in good taste. Overly violent or offensive designs will not be considered.

Dimension Requirements

The stage must be at least 16 square feet and cannot exceed the maximum dimensions specified for each location.

Required Features

- Satisfies spatial requirements
- Structurally sound
- Durable
- Made of easily maintainable and environmentally friendly materials
- Equipped with a panic button to call police

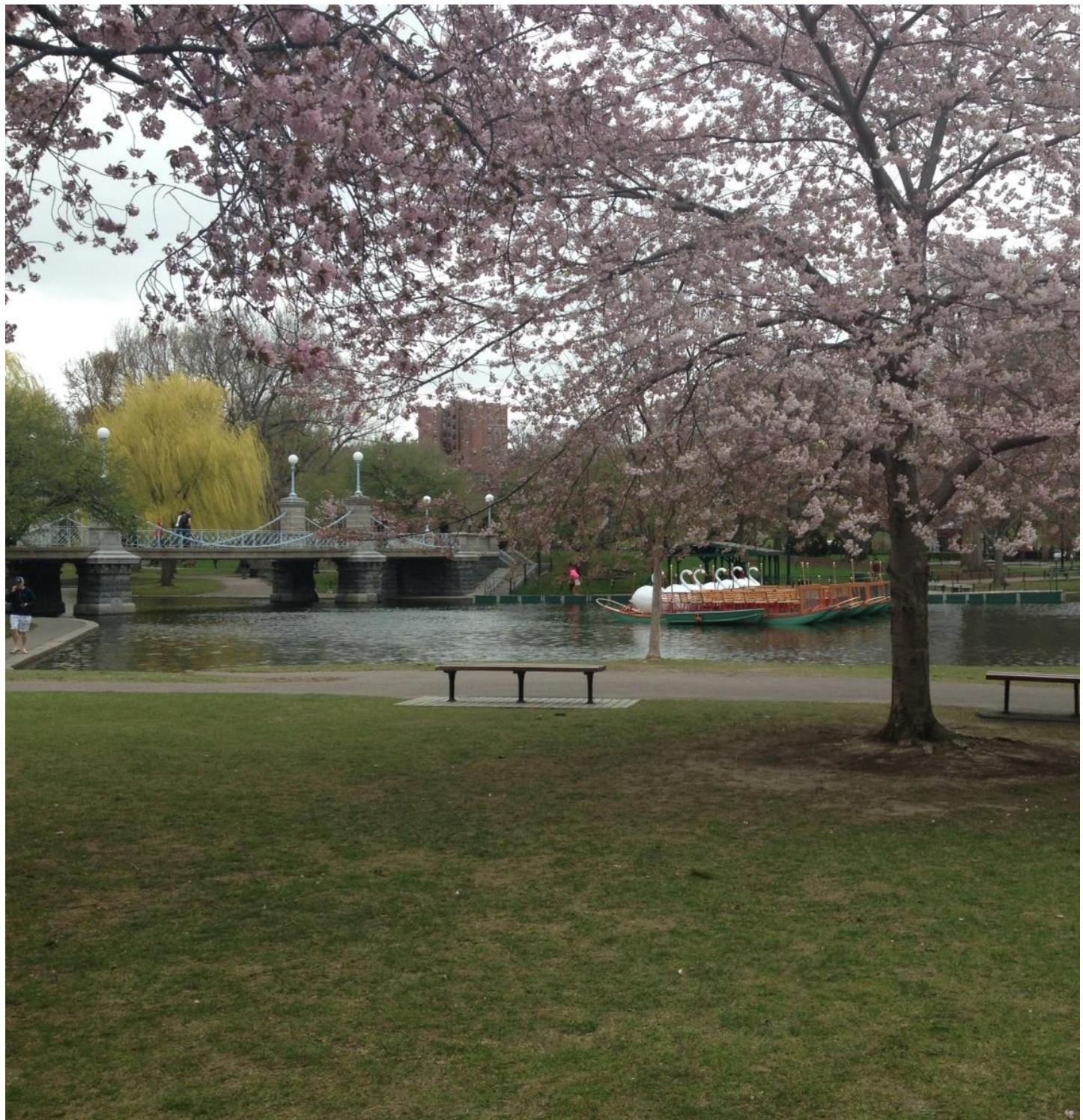
Kendall Square

The square between a dome on MIT's campus and cafe.



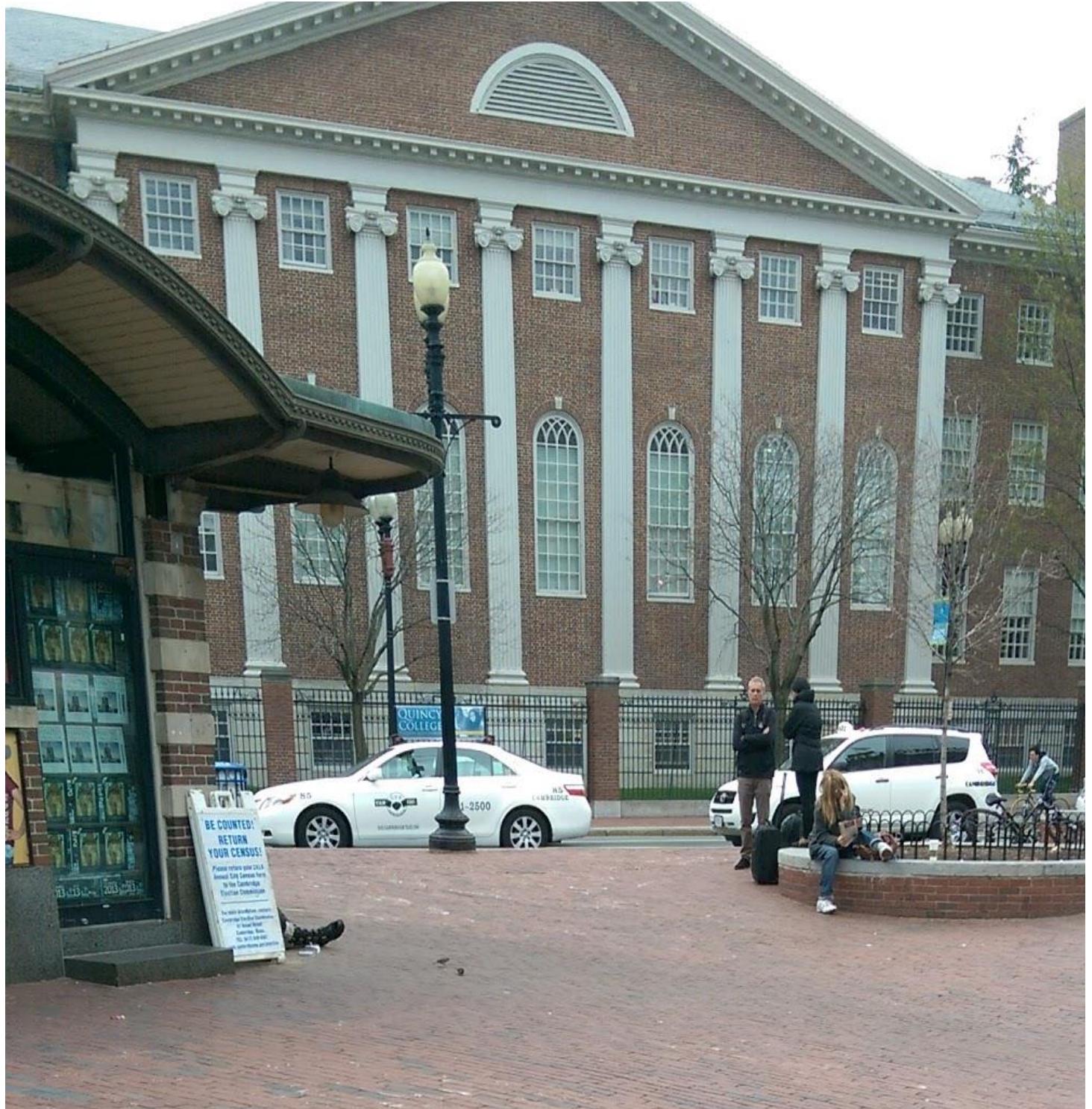
Public Garden

An open space in front of the pond in downtown Boston



Harvard Square

Boston's hub of culture and energy



Central Square

A beautiful t-accessible square with benches for passersbys to utilize



John W. Weeks Bridge

A serene and tranquil part of the Charles river



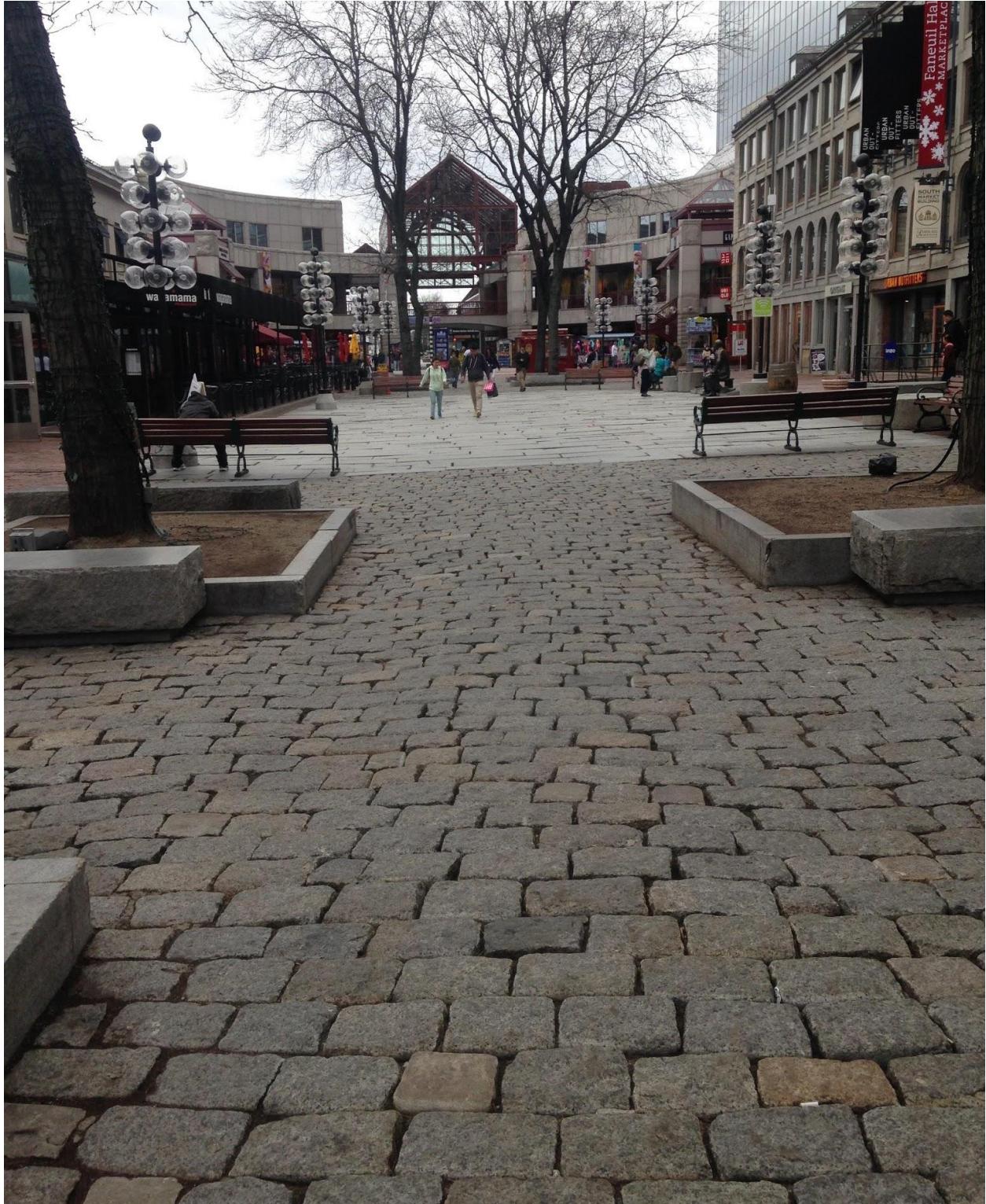
South Station

The center of transport



Faneuil Hall

A Boston classic - come for a variety of performances and some good food!



Haymarket

A beautiful new parkway



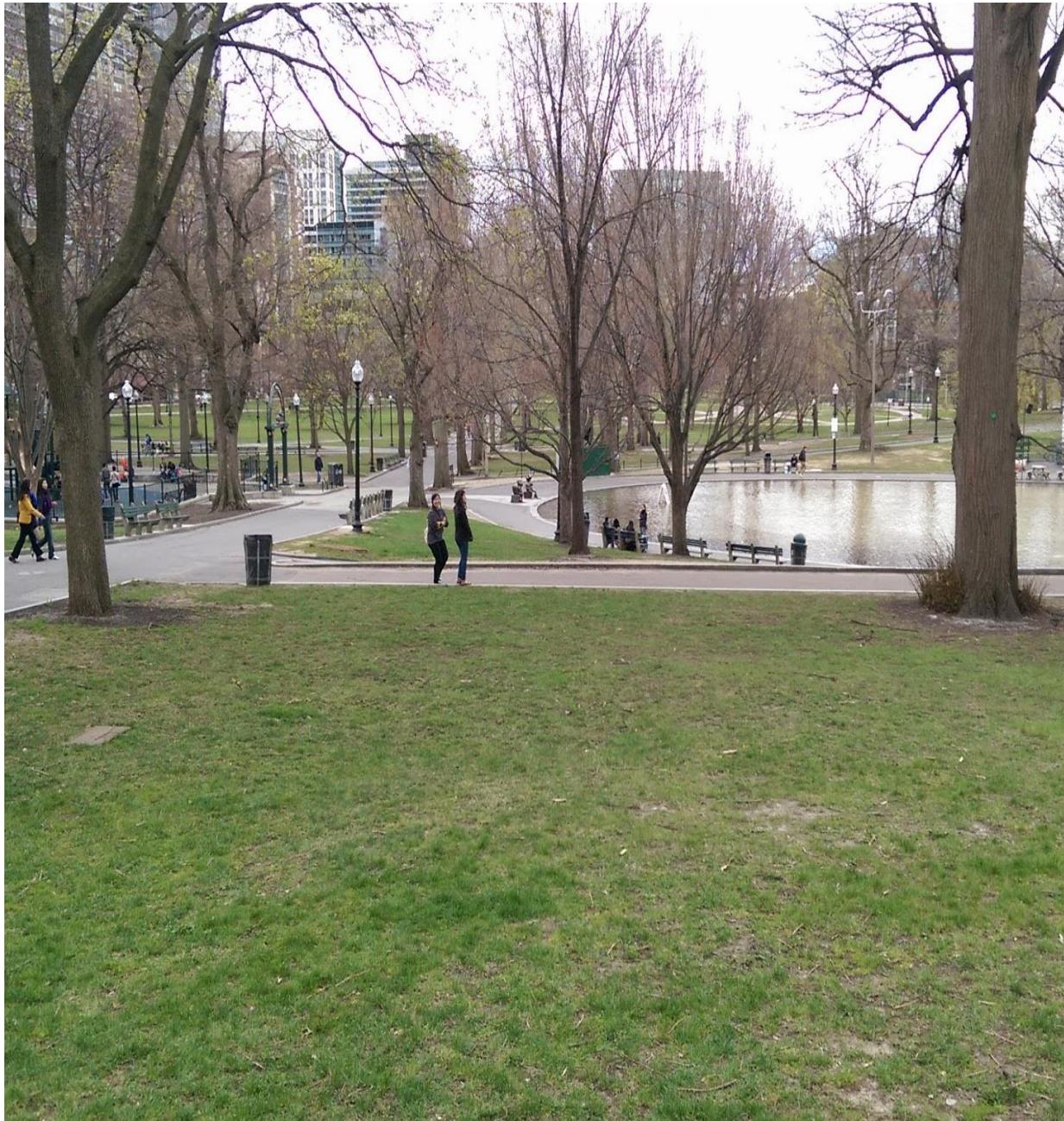
Aquarium

On the outskirts of Boston, come enjoy the fresh ocean smell



Frog Pond

The essence of the Commons



North End

Cannoli Cannoli Cannoli



Timeline

June 1: Open Call Goes Out

September 1: All Designs must be submitted.

September 1 - September 15: Jury chooses 5 top designs per location

September 16: Top Designs notified

October 1: 50 Designs presented at Expo and video uploaded online

October 15: Revised Stage Designs Due

October 16 - October 31: Buskers and Public Vote online

November 1: Stages announced

November 2-December 31: Stages built

January 1: Stage finished and Opening performances

Submission procedure

The board will accept all submissions that follow the submission guidelines below.

Designs must be submitted by **September 1, 2015** at **badassbuskersinitiative.ma.gov**. Submissions will include:

1. A ½-1 page personal biography for each member of the team
2. A 1-3 page artist statement
3. A CAD and/or a set of JPGs illustrating the design
4. Brief written description of the stage and technical details, including description of build process

The form also includes contact information and a standardized checklist of stage features.

Note that a location must be chosen for each stage submission. If you choose to submit the stage for multiple locations, each submission needs to be made separately. It is strongly encouraged each of these submissions be rethought for the location chosen.

Judging procedure

After the submission deadline, stages will be filtered based on compliance with the rules and the top 5 stages will be picked for each location by the jury. Designers will be notified that they have been selected for the public voting round. The 50 chosen designs will be unveiled at the Expo.

Public voting will commence on October 16th, where the Boston community will be invited to vote for their favorite stage. Stage mockups will be placed at each location, and the community will be able to vote either on site through a ballot box or online through the website. The community will be asked to self-identify as buskers, music lovers, or community members for better consideration of their needs. The stage profile on the website will include video of the expo presentation as well as designer-submitted supporting materials (CADs, images, descriptions, questions).

The public voting process will be completed by October 31st and the top stage for each location will be announced on November 1st. If your design is selected, you will be contacted by our committee and given a \$25,000 honorarium and \$25,000 to make the stage a reality.

Jury

The Olin College Busker Group is a group of college students that are putting on this competition for the benefit of the Boston buskers. Casey, Dimitar, Anders, Sophie, and Austin are on personal basis with all of the buskers in the Boston area. They will choose selections that excite Buskers, account for all demographics of people, and add to the artistic vibe of Boston.



Tina:

Born in Fresno, California, Tina has always enjoyed playing the guitar. She grew up with a father that loved music, and has had that love instilled in her from a young age. Tina has been playing in the Boston streets since January. Though she is relatively young in the music scene, Rebecca is excited about all that her music can offer to the world. She plays ballads, and will often change her songs to suit the crowds gathering around her. She will like stages that draw her audience's attention and bring her closer to her audience, both emotionally and physically.



Floyd Blue:

A Boston native, Floyd has been busking since the turn of the millennium. Busking is his only source of income, but Floyd would do nothing else instead. He has a loud and unapologetic sound, and would love to play in places that amplify both him and his music. He wants to be recognized for his music.



Brian Holiday:

Brian moved from New York City to Boston in 2005 to re-introduce the spirit of rock to the new generation. He has played the guitar for over three decades and has three albums released. He will choose stages that let him throw his own mini concert to a wide array of people.



Marvin Smith:

Marvin is from Nepal and moved to the United States when he was young. He has been playing the guitar for 20 years and taught himself how to play. When he performs, he tries to reach his audience through his music and evoke emotion in them as they walk by and listen. He wants stages that enhance this connection with his audience.



Ann Beha:

Beha's leadership is marked by work with strong historical, cultural and educational content, designing buildings which serve the public and expand the client's vision

**Lillian Hsu:**

As the Director of Public Art of Cambridge, Lillian Hsu has been a champion of the arts and underserved. She hopes to use this project as a medium to enhance the entire of City of Boston, and foster our society's appreciation for live music.

**Sargent Sam Salento:**

A member of the Boston police force, Sam would prefer to keep the streets alive and hospitable place for everyone who comes to visit.

**Sophie Li:**

Sophie is a member of the Olin College Busker Group. She has extensively studied busking culture and are excited to bring an opportunity to challenge the way we think about street music.

**Dimitar Dimitrov:**

Dimitar is a member of the Olin College Busker Group as well as a native Bostonian. He plays the electric guitar in his free time when he isn't busy tackling semiconductors and hacking into other people's computers. He will choose stages that look good and would make a positive impact on the city, for the buskers.

Contact Us: **Austin Greene**

Phone number: **(925) -337-2244**

Email: **john.greene@students.olin.edu**

Website: UOCD Design website, **http://design.olin.edu**

Address: **1000 Olin Way. Needham, MA 02492**