

Finalists selected for Uphams Corner art initiative

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By Patrick D. Rosso, Boston.com Staff

The Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative has selected the five finalists for its public art project in Uphams Corner.

The effort, being led by the community development non-profit, was [sparked by the ArtPlace Initiative](#) and aims to create a vision for more art in the bustling neighborhoods public spaces.

We see art and culture as a good way to create economic sustainability in the area, Bayoán Rosselló-Cornier, DSNI lead organizer for the initiative, told Boston.com in November.

Art can really uplift a community and make it more attractive for both businesses and people, he said. We see it as a way for people to demonstrate their culture and a vehicle for change.

Partially paid for through a \$500,000 grant from the Boston Foundation, the project aims to stimulate the culture economy in the neighborhood, while also attracting people to the area and projecting out the good qualities of the urban center.

Art is a vehicle that drives people towards a community, Rosselló-Cornier said in November. It gets people in the area and creates a buzz, which generates economic growth. There have always been arts in Uphams Corner, but with this we are really trying to push that to the forefront.

Although residents won't be seeing art in the neighborhood anytime soon, the selection of the five artists is a major step forward for the effort, as it now prepares to debut the artists in front of the community.

The first of several public meetings with the artists will be held January 15 at the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative, located

at 504 Dudley St. Expected to start at 6 p.m., community input will be taken at Wednesday's meeting.

After the artists have been vetted, the chosen artists will then be provided with a \$2,500 stipend and sent out into the community to work with residents and business owners to generate something that both reflects the community and attracts outsiders.

A final design is anticipated to be installed between September 2014 and June 2015, according to a DSNI timeline.

For more information about the artists, public meetings, or the initiative, [click here](#).

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