



Broad Street Stories Request for Qualifications

Summary

Broad Street Stories (BSS) is a project formed to create cultural heritage installations along Broad Street in Providence, Rhode Island. BSS is committed to modeling a process of place-making in public spaces that is defined and led by members of impacted communities.

Broad Street Stories invites craftspeople, fabricators, and artists with an interest in cultural place-making to work with BSS, the Providence office of Art, Culture, and Tourism (ACT), and Rhode Island Latino Arts (RILA) to fabricate three permanent cultural heritage installations along Broad Street in Providence, RI. Designer/fabricator individuals or teams are welcome to apply.

The selected applicant will participate in design conversations with the project team through Fall 2024, with an expected start of fabrication of January 2025. Fabrication and installation to be complete by June 1, 2025.

Budget Description

The total budget for all three installations is \$45,640 to be spent in its entirety by June 1, 2025. A maximum of 20% of this budget, or \$9,128, can be allocated as fabricator's stipend. There is no allocated budget for ongoing maintenance of the installations.

Project Goals and Context

The goals of this project are:

- to highlight and celebrate the rich and diverse history and culture of the Broad Street neighborhood of South Providence
- to engage residents in an ongoing dialogue about the past, present, and future of Broad Street
- to encourage increased foot traffic along the length of Broad Street, providing support to local businesses and institutions.

The three installations will serve to celebrate and unite Broad Street in two ways. They will bring attention to special places that represent three of the many diverse cultures that have shaped the Broad Street community. They will also serve as a series of nodes forming a connection from Trinity Square to Roger Williams Park, highlighting this important cultural corridor as a vibrant, essential part of the story of Providence and of Rhode Island as a whole.

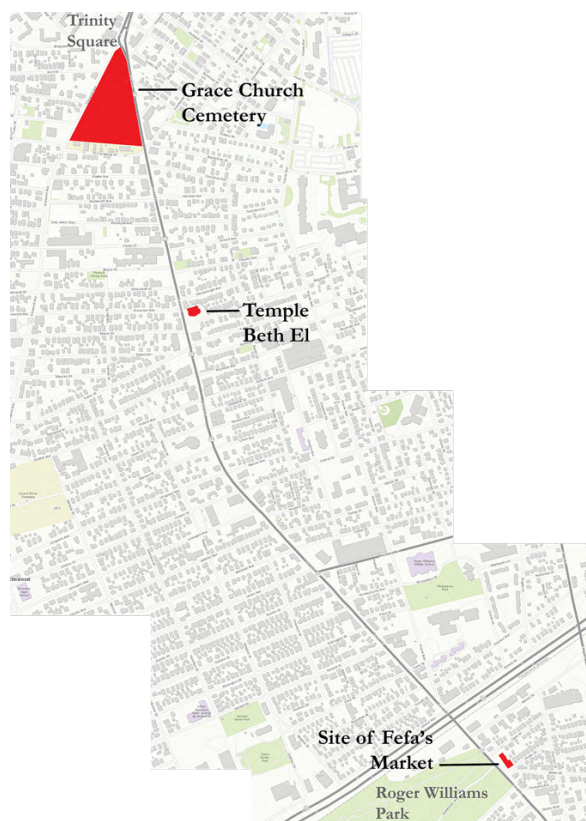
Broad Street follows a path that was originally established by the indigenous Narragansett and Wampanoag communities, extending from what is now Providence into what is now

Connecticut. This path was later coopted by European settlers to the area. By 1892, Broad Street was a thriving thoroughfare and the site of the first electric trolley line in Providence.

Broad Street, and South Providence more generally, was a landing point for many waves of immigrants arriving in the city. These waves continue to resonate in the character and vitality of Broad Street.

Location and Siting

This project will take the form of three separate but related installations to be located adjacent to or near three locations: Grace Church Cemetery, located at the intersection of Broad Street and Elmwood Avenue; the Broad Street Synagogue or Temple Beth El, at 688 Broad Street; and the prior location of Fefa's Market, at 1234 Broad Street.



Map of Broad Street

source: arcgis.com

Broad Street has been the point of arrival of many immigrant communities since the founding of the city of Providence. In 1834, an Episcopalian congregation located in downtown Providence acquired the land that would become Grace Church Cemetery at what were then the outskirts of the city. The cemetery was expanded in 1843, and its gatehouse was completed in 1860. The northernmost corner of the cemetery is located in Trinity Square, marking the gateway to South Providence.

In the latter half of the 19th century, Broad Street welcomed a significant number of European immigrants, primarily from Germany and Ireland. The proximity to work and availability of

affordable housing made the Broad Street neighborhood attractive to generations of new arrivals.

By the early 20th century, there were many Jewish congregations who had made their home near Broad Street. Temple Beth El relocated from downtown Providence to their first new synagogue at 688 Broad Street, completed in 1911. Temple Beth El eventually followed its congregants to the East Side of Providence in 1954, though the Broad Street building remained in use until 2006. It is currently vacant.

The mid 20th century saw an influx of newcomers from Latin America to Broad Street. Josefina Rosario, known as Doña Fefa, established the first Dominican market in the area circa 1960, after relocating from New York City. Doña Fefa encouraged the further growth of the Latinx community by carrying familiar products from all over the region as well as serving as a mentor and booster to many recent arrivals, particularly from the Dominican Republic. Fefa's market closed in the 1970's and the building in which it was housed was subsequently demolished. There is currently a newer commercial building on the site.

As a project supported by the City of Providence, all installations must be located on public property and are not to infringe on pedestrian or vehicular traffic. Textual elements should be at minimum bilingual. There must be a physical element to each installation, though supplementary virtual or short-term (event-based) elements may be incorporated as well.

Eligibility

- This call is open to individuals or teams who live and/or work in Providence, RI. A connection to the Broad Street Community is preferred.
- All applicants must be 21 years of age or older.
- Artists and fabricators who show evidence of community-based practice or who are interested in working in partnership with community members in a fully transparent, collaborative process are preferred.

Selection Method and Timeline

Fabricators will be selected through a competitive, two-tiered process. Qualified individuals or teams may submit their cover letter, resume/CV and references, and three to five examples of relevant past projects by **November 4, 2024**. Please see details below. Questions should be directed to Rebecca Noon at ACT (rnoon@providenceri.gov).

In early November 2024, the Broad Street Stories team will review all applications and select three top candidates to continue through to the second stage.

By Mid-November 2024, the selected short list of candidates will be invited to present to the Broad Street Stories team. In addition to presenting examples of previous work, candidates will be asked to speak about their technique and approach to their craft, as well as prior experience working with diverse communities and on projects with multiple stakeholders.

The Broad Street Stories team will extend an invitation to one selected applicant or team of applicants by November 30, 2024. RILA will issue a contract by December 1, 2024. The

contract will conclude in Summer, 2025 after final installation of the three interventions to occur on or before June 1, 2025.

Selection Panel

Initial review of all applications will be by members of the Broad Street Stories team, in collaboration with RILA and ACT.

Interviews will be conducted by representatives of all stakeholders, including individual members of the affected community.

Selection Criteria

Semi-finalists will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Evidence of ability to work collaboratively, as evidenced by previous work and written submissions
- Evidence of interest in celebrating the stories of diverse cultures, as evidenced by previous work and written submissions.
- Demonstrated interest in and understanding of the Project Goals stated above, as evidenced by written submissions.
- Excellence in material innovation and craftsmanship, as evidenced by previous work.
- Ability to manage budgets and complete projects on time, as evidenced by previous work.

Scope of Work

The selected fabricator or team will be expected to:

- Participate in regularly scheduled check-ins with stakeholders.
- Present proposal mock-ups to stakeholders for review and critique at 2-3 scheduled, in-person meetings.
- Submit for approval a final proposal and budget.
- Coordinate project installation.
- Participate in community engagement activities around project installation, including a celebratory event to take place in June, 2025.

Application Requirements

The following application materials are to be submitted via email attachment to info@broadstreetstories.com. Please include the name and email address of each team member within the body of your email. All materials should be submitted in pdf file format.

Cover letter

- Please include why you feel you are qualified for the proposed role and what interests you about the three sites, as well as a description of your approach to making and your strengths as a craftsperson.

Resume/CV and References

- A resume/CV of no more than 3 (three) pages in length.
- At least three professional references. Please include reference's names, contact information, and position.

Portfolio of 3 to 5 work samples

For each work sample submitted, please include the following:

- Location of work (if applicable)
- Year of completion
- Detailed description of materials used
- Dimensions
- Total budget / cost
- Brief description of work (100 words or less) – please include the commissioning entity (if applicable), and state your role in the creation of the work.

Teams should compose a single cover letter to represent the entire team. Separate files of other materials are required from all team members who don't already have evidence of a collaborative practice; therefore, in the case of team submissions, there may be multiple submissions of resumes, references, and portfolios.

Additional Reference Materials

Please see www.BroadStreetStories.Com/rfq for links to additional reference materials.