

PRESS RELEASE

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CUMMINGTON CALLS FOR PUBLIC ART EXHIBITS

Cummington Cultural District Committee seeks outdoor installations for community Arts Activation project

Cummington, MA — The Cummington Cultural District Ad-hoc Committee is pleased to announce a request for proposals for its first public art initiative, “Cummington Reflections.” The project will include a temporary installation of 6-8 unique pieces of public art for approximately 5 months in the Cummington Village area. Artist proposals are due April 4, 2022, online at <http://cummingtonculture.art>.

For the last two years, a committee has been working on applying for a Cultural District designation for Cummington based on its unique history and cultural assets. As part of this effort, the committee seeks to initiate a highly visible and positive public arts event which celebrates Cummington’s community spirit while connecting to the town’s natural beauty and agricultural heritage.

The Committee has chosen for a theme “Reflections” based on the dual meaning of the word and its alignment to the Cultural District goals of connecting local people to the area’s history and the natural beauty around them. Preference will be given to artists from Cummington and the adjacent towns of Ashfield, Windsor, Worthington, Chesterfield, Goshen, and Plainfield. A secondary preference will be given to artists with ties to the Hilltowns and understanding of the community. One site is reserved for a youth project. Other selection criteria will include: aesthetics, originality, safety, feasibility, scale and durability.

Participating artists will receive a one-time honorarium of \$625 plus an additional \$375 if artists decide to facilitate one of several participatory community art projects. Up to \$600 of material

costs incurred during the project year may also be reimbursed in addition to funds that help with installation materials.

The project has been funded with a grant from RuralLISC to Hilltown Community Development who will act as fiscal agent.

The vision for the Cummington Cultural District is to engage the entire town in an inclusive and positive effort to work towards a vibrant Village area with collaborative programming and marketing to new audiences to experience all the things which make Cummington unique. “One goal of a cultural district that keeps rising to the top for us is for this program to be a unifying force in the town – to bring people together of all ages and backgrounds focusing on what we love about Cummington and why we live here,” says committee member Katy Eiseman.

To read the full request for proposals and learn more about the work of the Cummington Cultural District project, visit <http://cummingtonculture.art> or call 413-296-4536 x 116.

Hilltown Community Development is a private non-profit organization in rural western Massachusetts working to support rural development and prosperity in the region by improving housing, strengthening social services, leveraging funding, and stimulating the local economy. Since 1981 we have invested over \$50 million in community development projects benefiting Hilltown residents, helping over 2,000 local businesses start and grow, rehabilitating 775 homes, building 70 new affordable homes and apartments, and providing social services to families and seniors in our community. To learn more about our work visit www.hilltowncdc.org.

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