

A vibrant, abstract mural on a brick wall, featuring swirling colors of blue, purple, green, and yellow. In the foreground, a cyclist wearing a blue shirt, dark shorts, and a backpack is riding a bicycle from left to right. The overall scene is set in an urban environment.

Arts & Culture + Public Health

Arts and culture enrich our lives, our communities, and our nation. Arts are essential for healthy communities and can help to address today's most pressing community health challenges.

1. Artists as Trusted Messengers

2. Creative Climate Resilience

3. Social & Community Resilience

SAFER TOGETHER

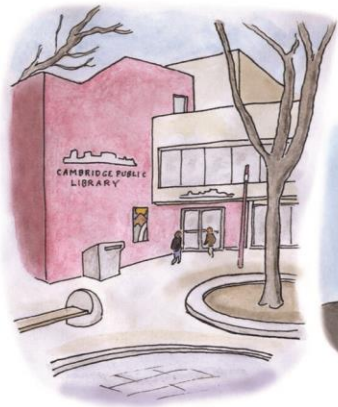
GET YOUR COVID-19 VACCINE



Created by Shaina Lu with funding provided by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council.

Artists as Trusted Messengers

SHORTLY BEFORE Christmas, the Pearl Street branch of the Cambridge Public Library hosted a Narcan distribution event...



...dispensing free nasal spray devices for Naloxone, the drug designed to reverse opioid overdoses.



A Cambridge Public Health Department Overdose Prevention and Recovery Specialist, Danielle McPeak, presided at a table laden with Narcan boxes and fentanyl test strips...



...along with informational literature and buttons.



A number of the many who stopped by were local residents or area shelter workers, wanting to be able to do something for those they might encounter in crisis.



Others were there on their own behalf...



...or on behalf of loved ones.



McPeak treated everyone with warmth and helpfulness, forthrightly answering questions like



(Her answer: "Actually, no — it reverses the effects.")

...and



(Answer: "I wouldn't recommend going right back out and taking more.")

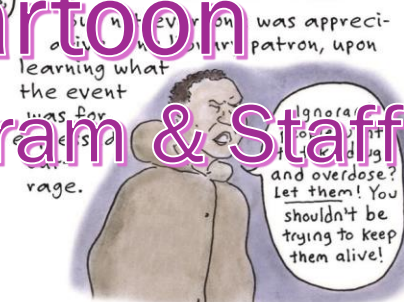
She demonstrated how to administer Narcan...



...and explained how test strips can be used to check for fentanyl in street drugs



The event was so well attended that the Narcan supply ran out in less than the scheduled two hours.



But as McPeak packed up to leave, a library staffer commended her on the event's success.



Something that I have talked about with some people at work is how exciting it is to have our work depicted in a way that's so **much more accessible to people** ... I'm always very excited when someone does cover my work in that way, but this sits in a very unique position of **reaching people who otherwise would never hear about this work.** - Danielle McPeak

Boston Globe Cartoon Substance Use Program & Staff



COVID-19 Communications
Developed by Boston area artists





Artist in Residence
At Cambridge Public Health Department



Creative Climate Resilience

SHADE IS
SOCIAL
JUSTICE

Imagination
+
Experimentation
+
Climate Justice











MIDDLE SCHOOL MONDAY
AUGUST 5TH
1-4PM
THE SHADE SITE @ DONNELLY FIELD

SO FUN

SHADE

TALENT SHOWCASE
CANCELLED
7pm
JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF FUN
AUGUST 7PM-9PM

2024
SHADE SHADE SHADE
3V3 BASKETBALL
MATCH UP
S COURTS | 7PM-9PM
6:30pm team check-in
PRIZES, RAFFLES, FOOD, AND MORE!

9 0

@shadecomb

TALENT SHOWCASE
KARAOKE
7pm
AUG 2
JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF FUN
AUGUST 2ND
7PM-9PM

Movie Night
THURSDAY, AUGUST 15
AT 7:30PM



MIDDLE SCHOOL MONDAY
RESCHEDULED
Monday
1pm-4pm
THE SHADE SITE @ DONNELLY FIELD
CURATED FOR TEENS, BY TEENS!







Social and Community Resilience

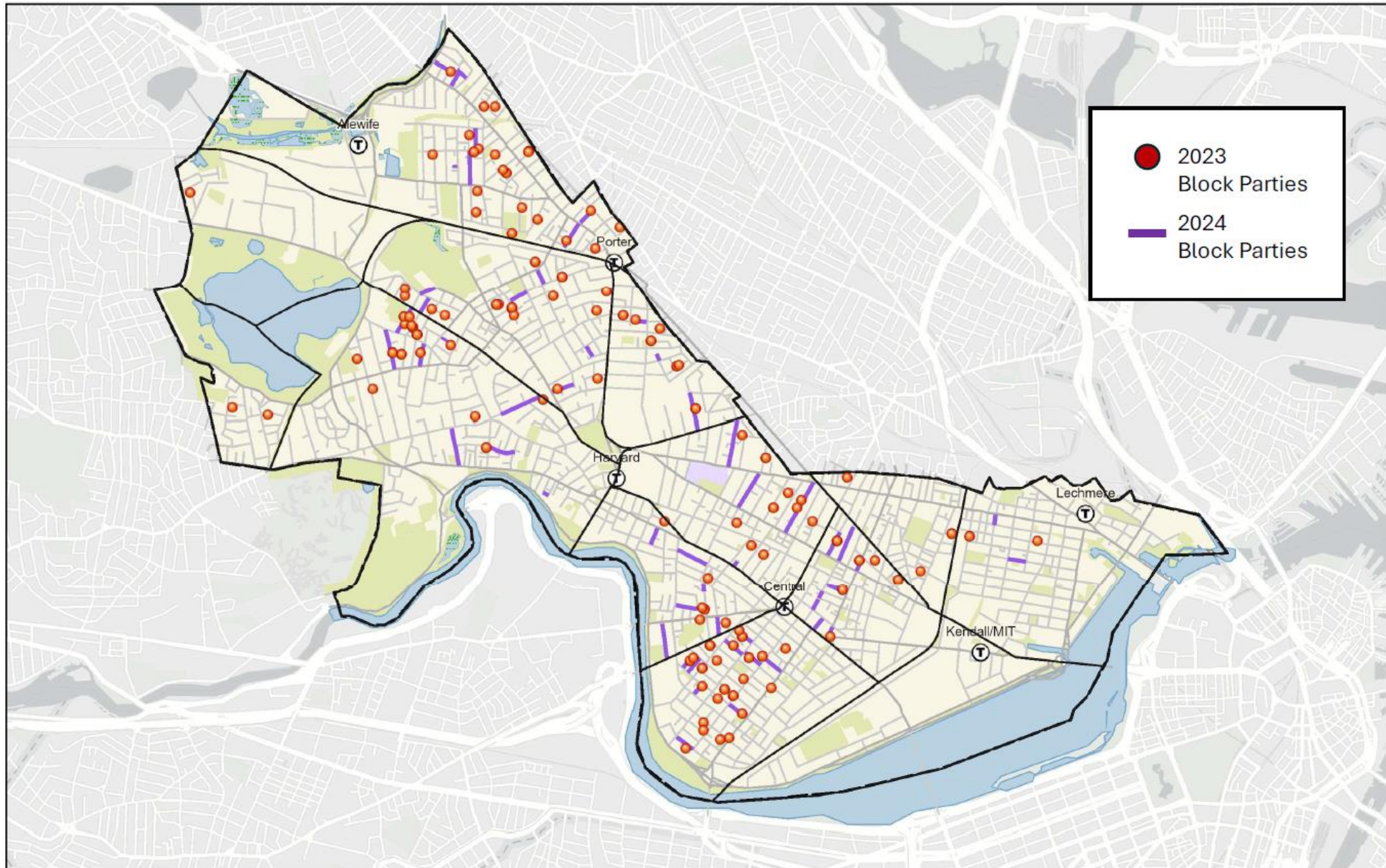
BLOCK PARTIES





2024 PARTY SEASON

- 94 block parties in 2024, similar to 2023
- ~40% first-time block party hosts
- Activity still concentrated in specific neighborhoods
- Increased grant to \$300
- Application process still a barrier to some
- New communication campaign
- Post-season survey underway



● 2023
Block Parties

— 2024
Block Parties

Alewife

Porter

Harvard

Central

Kendall/MIT

Lechmere



Lessons

- Find collaborators and nontraditional partners
- Aligned goals and understanding of community
- Break silos
- Find the art champions, local artists and cultural organizations
- Tap into state resources like Mass Cultural Council: ArtRx, grants
- National resources like the Nat'l Endowment for the Arts
- Reach out to the 'doers'
- Work with local artists, they want to help too!