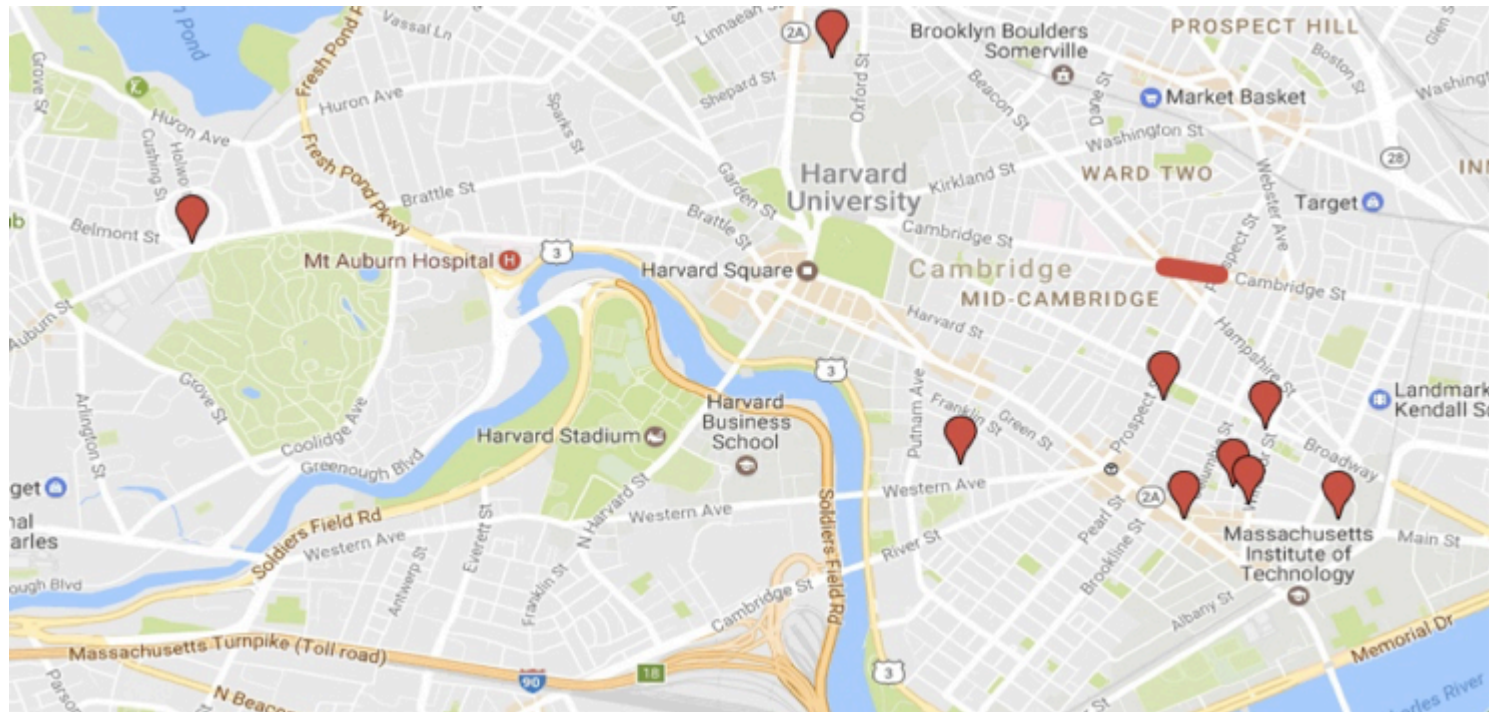




# 2017 **F**orward **F**und Update

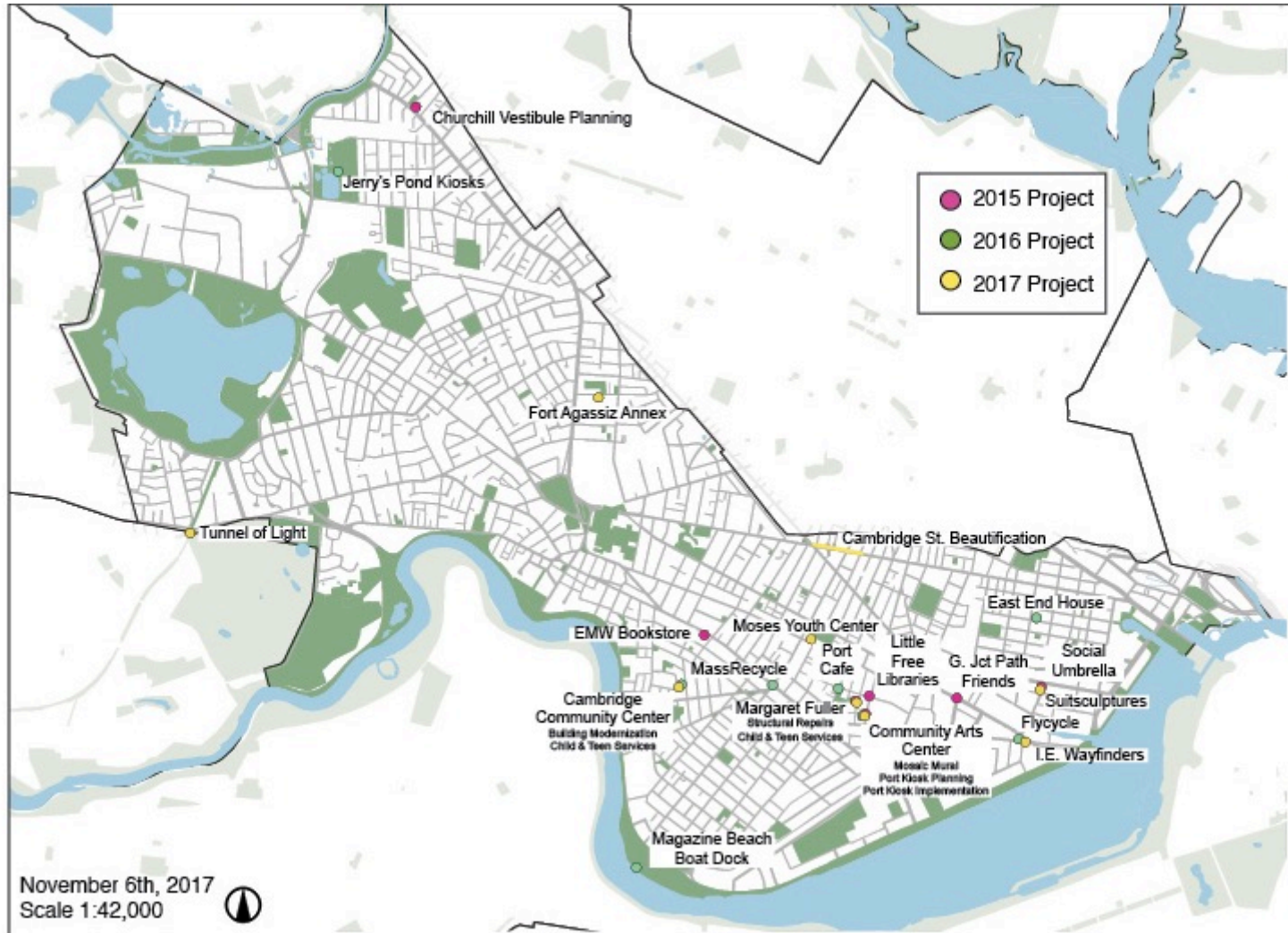
# 2017 FORWARD FUND REVIEW

- During the 2017 funding cycle the CRA granted \$125,000, an increase of over \$67,000 from the previous year.
- Nine projects were awarded city-wide.



# MAP OF ALL FORWARD FUND AWARDED PROJECTS

- Over 24 projects throughout the City of Cambridge



In 2017 we provided two categories for interested applicants to apply to.

- **Civic Experimentation**: Applicants piloting innovative physical improvement projects that encourage, enable, or execute a physical innovation, avant-garde placemaking, or tactical urbanism in public and civic space, whether public or privately owned.
- **Community Infrastructure**: Applicants seeking to fund a physical improvement project that serves a civic facility that provides public services and facilitates community connections or meets neighborhood needs regardless of innovativeness.



# RECIPIENTS

## EXPERIMENTATION GRANTS (\$48,500)

### **Tunnel of Light**

*Friends of the Greenway, Inc.*

### **Wayfinders – Connecting 2 the I.E. (Innovation Economy)**

*Innovators for Purpose*

### **Moses Youth Center Vertical Garden**

*Carolyn L. Arts*

### **Suitsculptures**

*ROLO*

## COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE (\$70,214)

### **Cambridge Street Beautification**

*East Cambridge Business Assoc.*

### **Fort Agassiz Annex**

*Agassiz Baldwin Community*

### **Building Pillar 1: Child & Teen Services**

*Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House*

### **Port Kiosk**

*Community Art Center*

### **Building Modernization Project**

*Cambridge Community Center*



# COMPLETED PROJECTS

## Moses Youth Center Vertical Garden

*By: Carolyn Lewenberg*



Youth engagement project.

20 high school aged young men.

Skills learned through the project;  
*Patience, Communication, Team  
Work, Responsibility,  
Accountability*

The Center plans to expand the  
Vertical Garden next spring.

Future plans for the garden will be to  
incorporate the harvest into healthy  
meals prepared at the Center.



# COMPLETED PROJECTS

## Fort Agassiz Annex

*By: Agassiz Baldwin Community*



**Youth engagement project.**

**The grant allowed the Community Center to expand their offerings to the growing number of students that attend their programs.**

**The students worked with program staff, professional architects and carpenters to finalize the play structure.**

**The structure is opened to all the students and families in the neighborhood.**



# COMPLETED PROJECTS

## Cambridge Street Beautification Project

*By: East Cambridge Business Association*



The ECBA expanded their organization in 2017.

This expansion allowed them to extend the project into Inman Square.

The grant helped fund 40 decorated poles through out the year.





# COMPLETED PROJECTS

## Building Modernization Project *By: Cambridge Community Center*



Originally deferred the funds until 2018 due to lack of extra funding.

Partnered with the Heart of America program to raise additional funding and hire contractors to build the new computer lab.

Updated lab will allow the Center to increase the computer programs and learning opportunities offered to the students.

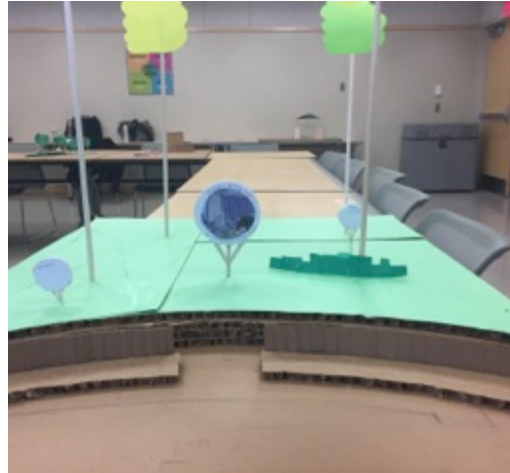
This is the second Forward Fund grant that the CRA has provided the Cambridge Community Center.



# UNFINISHED PROJECTS

## Wayfinders – Connecting 2 the I.E.

By: *InnovatorsForPurpose*



## Youth Engagement Project.

A team of 10 students spent the summer researching KSQ history and ways to incorporate their findings into a Wayfinding sign.

When completed the sign will be a place to stop and enjoy views of the Longfellow Bridge and the ever changing landscape of Main Street..

The students are currently working with Bluebird to have their creation manufactured.



# UNFINISHED PROJECTS

## Building Pillar 1: Child & Teen Services

*By: Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House*



Project has been delayed due to lack of funding.

Aspects of the project that have been completed are:

- New ceiling and lights,
- Updated plumbing

Soft demolition and construction of updated space is scheduled for the new year.

This is the second Forward Fund grant that the CRA has provided the Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House.



# UNFINISHED PROJECTS

## Building Modernization Project

*By: Cambridge Community Center*



## Youth Engagement Project

The Kiosk will welcome residents and visitors of the Port.

The Kiosk will have an interactive user interface that will tell a story the history and residents of the Port.

Students have collaborated with art teachers and architects to finalize the design.

The Center is finalizing a RFP that will help select a fabricator and contractor to install the Kiosk.

This is the second Forward Fund grant that the CRA has provided the Cambridge Art Center.



# UNFINISHED PROJECTS

## Suitsculpture K/N/A “Spacewalk Kendall”

By: ROLO



The project got off to a slow start due to difficulty with the awardees finding a fiscal sponsor.

As of August the awardees were selected to join Autodesk BUILD residency to work on the Suitsculptures.

The residency program will allow the awardees to fabricate the sculptures with cutting-edge machining tools, software and professional guidance.

The awardees have renamed the project “Spacewalk Kendall” and have created a website that details the process behind the project.

[www.spacewalkkendall.org](http://www.spacewalkkendall.org)



# UNFINISHED PROJECTS

## Tunnel of Light

*By: Friends of the Greenway, Inc.*



The awardee has agreed to defer their Forward Fund award until Spring of 2018.

The overpass will undergo reconstruction in the spring.

The project delay will allow for additional community meetings and community input.

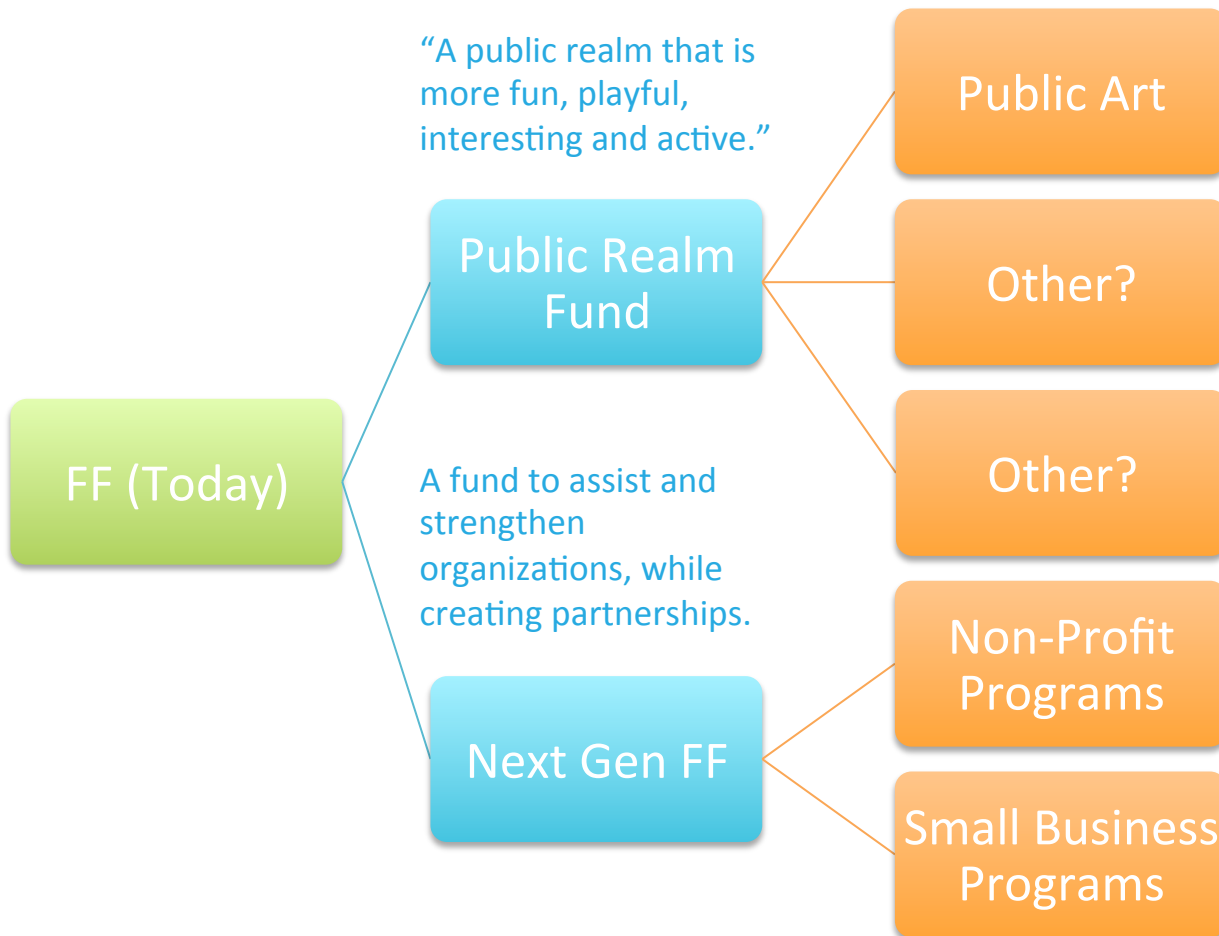


# LESSONS LEARNED

- Expansion in marketing is important.
- Most non-profit submit great proposal but lack the staff, time and resources to fulfill the project in its entirety.
- Supporting organizations through the planning stage of their project involves a great deal of staff time.
- Funding non-profits allows the FF to support all aspects of STEAM education.
- A lengthy application process can be burdensome to small grants/projects.
- Small grants/projects can serve as an “R & D” department for awardees.
- The larger the grant doesn’t always determine the most impactful project.
- Creating deadlines for non-profits does not make them work faster or create a better project.
- Reaching out to small business associations to inform of grant program.



# MOVING FORWARD





# MOVING FORWARD

## Next Gen Forward Fund

- Non-Profit and Small Business Focus
  - Capital Improvements
  - X% planning maximum for Capital Improvements
  - Simplify the application
  - Investigate financial qualification requirements
  - New Time Frame - April?
  - Research other types of non-profit and small business assistance

## Public Realm Fund (name TBD)

- Public Art Program
- Other Programs?
  - Preliminary Staff
  - Brainstorming Ideas:
    - Active Alleys/Neighborways
    - Sidewalk Terraces / Parklets



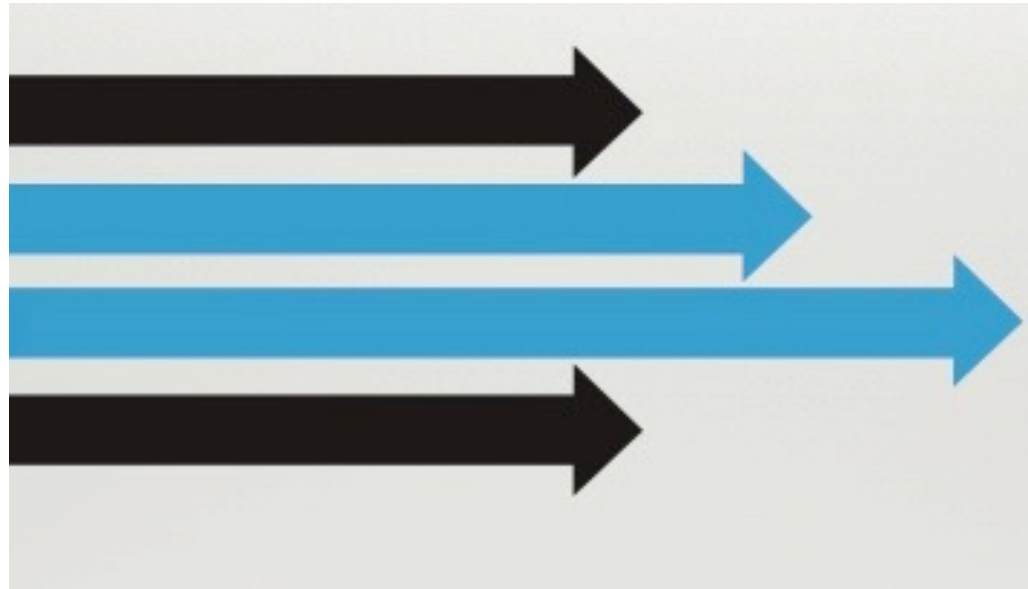
## Next Gen. Forward Fund

Research similar city programs

Meet with Non-Profit Coalition

Meet with Small Business  
Associations

Research IDA and GIA conference  
takeaways regarding public art,  
public realm, small business, and  
non-profit assistance programs





[cambridgeredevelopment.org](http://cambridgeredevelopment.org)