



SUPER FLAT

NEW
BED
FORD

SUPERFLAT New Bedford is a culture-based, artist-led, and neighborhood-driven community revitalization mural art project.

It seeks to beautify New Bedford while flattening barriers to the arts.

NEW BEDFORD'S MURAL ART PROJECT

#superflatNB • www.superflatnb.org

BACKGROUND



CREATED AS PART OF POW WOW WORCESTER
artist @keyatama photo by @halopig

SUPERFLAT is inspired by artist Takashi Murakami, who coined the term to express spatial compression and the blending of high and low art in his own work. SUPERFLAT NB aims to eliminate barriers to the arts through public art that tells and shares personal stories; that draws upon, preserves, and reimagines our shared heritage and histories in New Bedford; and through the renewal of the environment and our connections to each other, creates new pathways for our future social and economic growth.



For more than two centuries New Bedford has been a haven for those seeking new opportunity and a better life. Home to one of the nation's preeminent harbors, thousands of men and women have come here seeking freedom, prosperity, and social justice. With deep abolitionist roots, New Bedford was an important destination and safe harbor for Southern Blacks seeking freedom. It was Frederick Douglass' first home as a free man, where he helped recruit the 54th Regiment to defend the Union in the Civil War, no fugitive slave was ever recaptured in the city.

Famously, the "City that lit the world" connected New Bedford's whaling industry to communities throughout the Atlantic and the rest of the world, providing many cultures an opportunity to blaze a new path to economic freedom and prosperity. At SUPERFLAT New Bedford, we believe this spirit of connection and economic opportunity is still strong, but needs to be fostered.

Renown for its maritime arts, textiles, and glass, New Bedford has enjoyed a rich artistic and cultural heritage. From its founding in 1881, the Swain School was an anchor for the Arts in the Southcoast. In addition to UMass Dartmouth's College of Visual and Performing Arts, New Bedford has cultivated a vast array of artistic resources and organizations - from AHA! to the Zeiterion. Hatch Street Studios, Ropeworks, Your Theater, NB Collective, 3rd EyE, Bristol Community College, New Bedford Symphony Orchestra, Dream Out Loud, STEAM the Streets, and much more.

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?



  gillham

CREATED AS PART OF BEYOND WALLS IN LYNN

artist @angurria

We're amazed at this array of rich cultural offerings and artistic resources that New Bedford provides. We're also amazed that more people don't know about or access them. We want to flatten those barriers and connect those resources to the local community by giving local, national, and international artists a role in the fabric of the city, and connect the city, its artists and its youth to local, national, and international resources and opportunities.

Eventually, we hope to have an impact on fostering meaningful connections to the arts by providing a path to to these great resources and to jobs and careers in the arts, and street art is one way to make those connections. As a vehicle for raising new voices and making cities pulse with new meaning and emotion, a growing international community of street artists have fostered connections between people and neighborhoods; between place and perception.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?



CREATED BY @OBEYGIANT AND @VHILS IN SILVER LAKE, CA.

In 2018 the aim of SUPERFLAT New Bedford is to begin bringing several high quality murals to the city. By convening local, national and international artists, the goal is to highlight art that reflects and resonates with the community in key locations throughout the city. Though we are an all volunteer effort at this stage, we firmly believe artists should get paid for their work, and know that a flourishing arts economy means new jobs and new careers. New Bedford artists are no stranger to the power of public art, and we have seen the success of other organizations like the Chicago Public Art Group and Mural Arts Philadelphia. Closer to home Pow Wow in Worcester and Beyond Walls in Lynn are having transformative effects on the visual and cultural landscape of those cities. There are many more examples, and in 2019 we expect to expand our efforts.

WHAT'S NEXT?



CREATED BY @PIXELPANCHO IN HOUSTON, TEXAS

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, COME JOIN US!

We need organizers and expertise in several areas, volunteers to prepare for the murals, walls to paint and funds to grow. As a resident, arts organization or community group, we want to connect with you and learn about what you're doing. Drop us a line and lend a hand.

Over the next few months we will be holding community meetings and appearing at other events. We will be meeting with people, fundraising, and planning for our first murals. The first murals are being planned for August, and we are coordinating with 3rd Eye Unlimited to highlight their potential for youth and art in New Bedford.

SIGN UP ON OUR MAILING LIST TO STAY IN TOUCH.

We'll keep you posted about our community events, where we will be and what we're doing. You can learn about opportunities to connect and lend your time, talents or resources to help nurture and spread the arts throughout the city.

