

People's Sculpture Racing



STEAM Unit Planning Proposal Visual Arts, STEM, and English Language Arts

DEADLINE: April 27, 2017

People's Sculpture Racing (PSR) proposes a 6-8 grade STEAM unit for Cambridge schools in 2017–2018, and to fund planning meetings among Cambridge Public School teachers this spring. Sculpture racing is a unique genre, invented in Cambridge in the 1980s, in which fine arts sculpture is integrated with engineering to create mobile art raced at public events. PSR, a Cambridge-based arts organization collaborating with the Cambridge Arts Council, produces short races of fine art sculpture on wheels and promotes STEAM education.

The unit calls for students to collaboratively research, design, build, race, and exhibit a fine arts kinetic racing sculpture, and document the process. Sample images are on the reverse side.

We would like to offer 2-3 teachers a stipend at \$40/hour for 3-4 hours of planning time. PSR offers its services in an ongoing manner in the form of engineer and artist consultants, co-grant writing, logistical support, and display opportunities. Funding for this project has been made available by a grant from the Cambridge Arts Council and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

The STEAM unit would provisionally require at least 10-15 hours of in-school time. To this students would ideally add several hours of out-of-school time at a race and exhibition. The project is scalable to different grade and skill levels, resources, and time frames. This project-based curriculum embraces 21st Century “4 Cs” skills of critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication; as an interdisciplinary project offers something for every student; and provides visible demonstrations of learning. Additionally, it provides an opportunity for teachers to collaborate with other departments. The curriculum engages the following Massachusetts Learning Standards:

- Curriculum Frameworks**
- 1999 MA **Visual Arts: Learning Standards** (1.5, 4.5, 4.6, 4.8, 10.1)
 - 2016 MA **Science and Technology/Engineering:** “Engineering Design;” “Materials, Tools, and Manufacturing;” and “Technological Systems”
 - 2011 MA **English Language Arts:** “Speaking & Listening (1, 3.7);” “Reading Standards for Literacy in Science and Technical Subjects (4-6)”

People's Sculpture Racing collaborated in 2015 with the MIT Museum to produce a workshop and a “signature” Cambridge Science Festival exhibition. It produced a race at the Cambridge Arts River Festival that WBUR ARTery called “among the best art around Boston in 2015.” The Cambridge EL STEAM network awarded PSR & Maud Morgan Arts a collaboration grant for 2016 workshops. Parts & Crafts & Artisan's Asylum are other collaborators.

The curriculum planning and development project is supported in part by a grant from the Cambridge Arts Council and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.



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