



## CALL TO ARTISTS: Request for Qualifications

### City of Salem, Forest River Pool Spray Deck & Filter Building Facade Design

(CONTRACT No. 21EX-03)

The City of Salem, MA invites artists to submit qualifications for a \$40,000 Public Art Commission Grant Award, under MGL c. 30B, §2, to participate in the design and construction of a spray deck/splash pad and filter/pump house wall, both to be built adjacent to the new Forest River Pool and Bathhouse, which are being renovated and rebuilt over the coming year. This commission grant also includes the development of a branding logo, signage template, and style guide to be used by the Forest River Park and Pool facilities. The grant does not include materials costs, this is just the artist stipend, materials will be covered by a separate budget. See details below.

The Salem Public Art Commission, in conjunction with the City of Salem Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services; Mayor Kimberley Driscoll or her designee; neighborhood representatives; and bh+a (the architects for the pool restoration), will be the acting Art Jury managing the artist selection process. The selection process will include three phases:

- **Phase 1:** Open National Call for the Submission of Qualifications by interested parties. Questions about the project may be submitted in writing. Answers will be publicly posted. 3-5 artists/artist teams will be selected from submission pool as finalists.
- **Phase 2:** Submission of design proposals by the 3-5 finalists. Finalists identified during phase 1 will be invited to create and submit a full design proposal for the project. A stipend of \$500 will be provided to each selected artist/artist team.
- **Phase 3:** Public Input process and Interviews. Designs will be put on display in a public location and community members will be invited to choose their favorites and provide feedback. The Art Jury will conduct interviews with each Finalist. One artist will be selected by the Art Jury for this commission based on the finalists' presentations, community input, and pending final formal approval by the Mayor.

**To be considered for this commission, submit your qualifications via email to [jbarry@salem.com](mailto:jbarry@salem.com) as well as [twatkins@salem.gov](mailto:twatkins@salem.gov) by 4pm, Wednesday, September 30, 2020.**

The Forest River Pool is in Forest River Park, a wooded area, located at 32 Clifton Ave, Salem, MA 01970. The park is situated on Salem Harbor, with coastline along over 50% of its boundary and residential neighborhoods abutting the remaining boundaries. This project is approximately 3.5 acres of the southeastern section of the park. Constructed in the early 20th century as a tidal bathing pool and bathhouse, the pool has undergone numerous alterations over the years, including a bathhouse constructed in the 20's or 30's, a major renovation in 1972 which created a kiddie pool, and a conversion from salt water to fresh water in 1999. The City of Salem closed the facility after the 2017 season. A design for a new pool and a renovation of the bathhouse is nearing completion and construction will be starting in the fall of 2020. The design includes a location for a new splash pad/spray deck, which has been identified as a location for a public art collaboration. In addition, there is a small filter building which faces the pool with an elevation that the City desires to incorporate into this project as a decorative vertical surface. Together these two areas are the basis of this RFQ. The current goal is to unveil the new spray deck and completed filter building facade in the late summer of 2021.

The selected artist or artist team will be provided with a **\$40,000 grant plus materials** for the design and implementation of the **two (2) two-dimensional (2D) elements** as well as the design of a **logo, signage template and over all style guide** that is in keeping with the look and feel of the 2D elements created by the artist. The commission grant must cover all services from design development through to completion and implementation, including but not limited to: artist fee, travel/transportation, insurance, community meetings, research, coordination with City staff, consultants and the contractors, as well as any special material requests, fabrications, and installations. Standard material and construction costs are separate and will not be paid out of this grant but do have their own separate budget that must be adhered to which will be divulged during Phase 2 of the project.

### **ELIGIBILITY:**

- Salem is committed to providing equal opportunities for ALL. Artists of all gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, age, sexual orientation/ identity, religion/beliefs, education and physical ability are encouraged to apply.
- Salem residency not required.
- The City is seeking qualifications from artists with the following:
  - Experience in the design of interactive, visually engaging and durable installations which engage the public through play
  - Experience with 2D design implemented in the physical realm (This project has both vertical and horizontal surfaces.)
  - Experience with the collaborative development of art projects for public use, including collaborations with architects and landscape architects
  - Proposers may apply as individuals or as artist teams.

### **PARAMETERS:**

- Design and materials should be in keeping with the naturalistic look and feel of the place. Think nature, water, woods, and ocean. How do we help this place feel connected to and a part of the landscape that surrounds it?
- Design and materials must be strong, durable and able to withstand the setting, exposed to the elements adjacent to the ocean. Materials will include unit pavers, concrete, brick, stone, boulders, tile, and wood. Exact materials will be identified in collaboration with and provided to the artist by the architects and construction team.
- The spray-ground surface is roughly 30' by 55', or 1,650 square feet. The shape and borders of the footprint can be adjusted during design as ideas are developed. Surface should be appropriate for play when wet and for use by all ages.
- Filter/pump house wall is approximately 10' high by 30' long. Wall could be load bearing or a veneer placed over a load bearing wall.
- Style Guide & Logo should be in keeping with naturalist look and feel of the above features and the place itself. Sign template should be versatile to be used in various locations for various informative purposes across the pool area and park land.
- See attached for a narrative description and sample images from the architect and landscape architect.

### **DESIGN & PAYMENT PROCESS:**

1. The selected artist/artist team will be paid one-third of the total commission for supplies and research time upon signing of City contract, which will include milestone dates.

2. Contracted artist/artist team will begin work by meeting with the architects and construction team, using virtual means to the fullest extent possible.
3. Artist/artist team will review and coordinate the development of the design with representatives of the Art Jury, including architect bh+a and landscape architect Kyle Zick and the contractor Colantonio, no less than once per month
4. Once the designs, approach, materials, and estimated construction costs are agreed upon by all parties, the artist/artist team will begin a detailed design which will serve as the basis of the construction.
5. Upon completion of the design for construction that meets the City's satisfaction and standards an additional one-third of the balance of the contract will be paid, upon receipt of a reasonably detailed invoice for services rendered.
6. Upon completion of the construction installation that meets the City's satisfaction and standards the final one-third balance of the contract will be paid, upon receipt of a reasonably detailed invoice for services rendered.
7. The new work will be unveiled at a public celebration in late summer or Fall 2021. If the artist would like to give a talk about their process at this event, that would be most welcome, but is not required.

**ARTIST SELECTION PROCESS:**

1. Call is open, interested parties **may submit questions** in writing to [jbarry@salem.com](mailto:jbarry@salem.com) by 11:59pm on Sunday, **September 13<sup>th</sup>**. Answers will be publicly posted to [www.salem.com/public-art-commissionon](http://www.salem.com/public-art-commissionon) by 4pm on Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>.
2. Artists **submit qualifications via email** to Julie Barry, Senior Planner for Arts and Culture at: [jbarry@salem.com](mailto:jbarry@salem.com), as well as to Purchasing Agent, Tom Watkins at: [twatkins@salem.com](mailto:twatkins@salem.com).

**Requested qualifications are:**

- **Brief biographical information/artist statement**
  - **Statement of interest for this specific commission, why does it interest you, what do you envision for the project?**
  - **A formal CV and/or Resume**
  - **No less than 5 and no more than 10 .jpg image examples of relevant previous work**
  - **Contact information including artist name, mailing address, phone number, email, & website**
3. The Art Jury reviews all submissions and selects a short list of 3-5 finalists. (A stipend of \$500 will be provided to each shortlisted individual/team for the design of a formal proposal.)
  4. Finalists Submissions of formal design proposals
  5. Interviews, including a presentation of the proposed design and Q&A with the Art Jury
  6. Public Input Process around submitted designs
  7. One artist/artist team will be recommended by the Art Jury for this commission grant, based on the finalists' presentations in the interviews & public feedback, and pending final formal approval by the Mayor.

**TIMELINE:**

September 2, 2020	Call Opens, any questions may be submitted in writing
<b>September 13, 2020 by 11:59pm</b>	<b>Deadline for submitting questions about the call or project</b>
September 14, 2020 by 4pm	Answers to written questions publicly posted to website
<b>September 30, 2020 at 4pm</b>	<b>Deadline for submissions of qualifications</b>
October 9, 2020	Shortlist finalized & artists notified
October 30, 2020 at 11:59pm	Deadline for formal design proposals
November 2-8, 2020	Selected finalists' interviews & public input gathered
November 9-13, 2020	Final selection made, awarded artist notified and contracted
November 16, 2020	Public announcement of selected artist

November/December 2020  
January/March 2021  
April-July 2021  
Fall 2021

Detailed designs created for materials & estimating  
Construction documents developed in partnership with bh+A  
Project under construction  
Grand Opening Unveiling Celebration & Possible Artist's Talk

### **HOW TO SUBMIT QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Artists/Artist Teams must submit qualifications via email to:  
[jbarry@saalem.com](mailto:jbarry@saalem.com) and [twatkins@saalem.com](mailto:twatkins@saalem.com).
- Requested qualifications are:
  - Brief biographical information/artist statement
  - Statement of interest for this specific commission, why does it interest you, what do you envision for the project?
  - A formal CV and/or Resume
  - No less than 5 and no more than 10 .jpg image examples of relevant previous work
  - Contact information including artist name, mailing address, phone number, email, & website if any
- Deadline for submissions of qualifications is **Wednesday, September 30, 2020 at 4pm**

### **DISCLOSURE STATEMENT:**

The City of Salem is not liable for any costs incurred by the proposer in submitting this proposal. The City reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to award the agreement in its best interest. The City reserves the right to make multiple awards. Any municipal permit fees required will be waived by the City, however, the awarded artist may still be required to pull the permits.

MGL c. 30B, §2 defines "Grant agreement", [as] "an agreement between a governmental body and an individual or nonprofit entity the purpose of which is to carry out a public purpose of support or stimulation instead of procuring supplies or services for the benefit or use of the governmental body. Therefore, this Contract is exempt from the rules and regulations of MGL 30B S. 5 or 6.

The City of Salem does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, gender expression, age, national origin, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations.

Attached is a template for the City of Salem contract with insurance requirements, which will be executed for this grant agreement. A Certificate of Insurance will be required at the time of contract execution.

### **QUESTIONS:**

For more information or to submit your written questions about the project please contact: Julie Barry, Senior Planner of Arts & Culture at [jbarry@saalem.com](mailto:jbarry@saalem.com) or 978-619-5681.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- Appendix A (page of this document): bh+a Architect Memo Re: Artist Collaboration
- Appendix B (page of this document): Pages 19-27 of the Forest River Pool Final Report by bh+A, dated 10/28/18.
- Appendix C (page of this document): City of Salem Grant Agreement Contract Template
- Additional Designs, Plans, and Studies can be viewed at the following link under "Forest River Pool":  
<https://www.salem.com/planning-and-community-development/pages/studies-and-reports>

9 Channel Center Street  
 Suite 300  
 Boston, MA 02210

617 350 0450 tel  
 bha@bhplus.com  
 www.bhplus.com

July 30, 2020

Jenna Ide  
 City of Salem  
 98 Washington Street  
 Salem, MA 01970

Re: Forest River Park Pool and Bathhouse – Artist Collaboration

Dear Jenna:

Two elements have been identified at the proposed Forest River Park Pool Project where artwork can be integrated. The spray ground adjacent to the bathhouse and the east elevation of the filter building are the two elements. The integration of the artwork will require collaboration between the Design Team, City, CM, and the artist.

**Spray Ground**

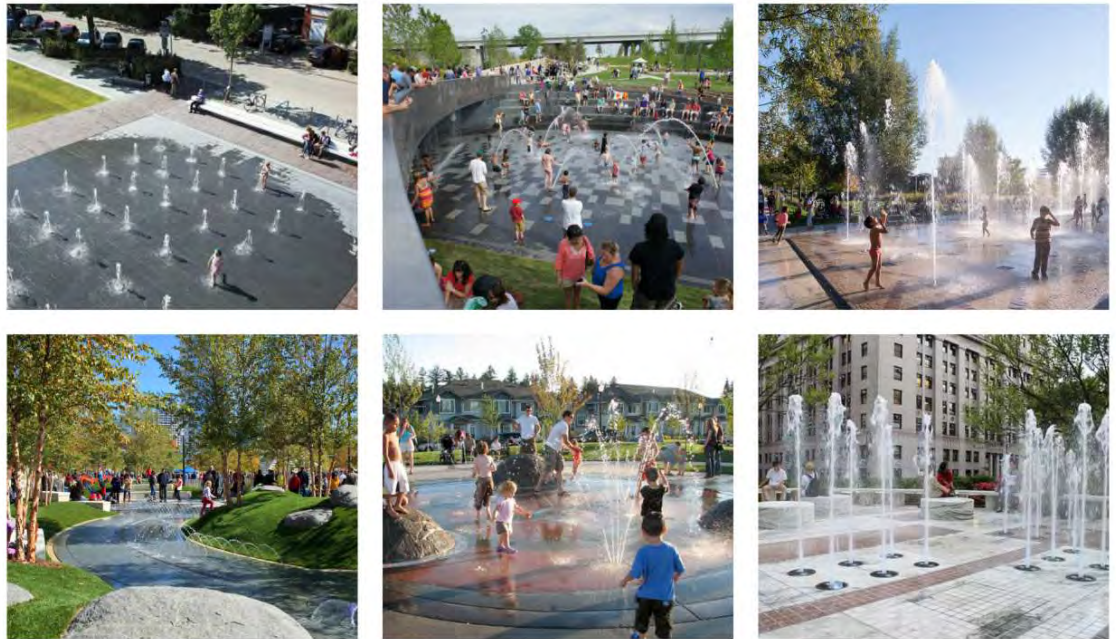
The spray ground is an element that will provide the park with an aquatic activity beyond the normal pool season. The spray ground will be available for the warmer days in May and September. It will also be available for park users during off-hours and when the pool is closed for swimming lessons and maintenance during the swim season.

The spray ground is not a typical spray deck that one would see at other public pools, private clubs, and water parks. It will not utilize brightly colored free-standing geometric elements or figures; the spray ground is envisioned as a naturalistic area that incorporates materials and elements of the park using masonry, stone, rock, wood and similar elements. The current design development drawings indicate a linear paving pattern, boulders, randomly spaced water sprays, and large wooden seating elements. The water sprays become vertical elements when they are in operation. When the spray elements are not operating, the spray ground must be a well-designed plaza or park setting that can be enjoyed by park users.





KZLA has provided the following examples of naturalistic spray grounds



[Forest River Pool](#)  
 City of Salem, MA

Splash Pad Precedents



**Process for Spray Deck**

The Design Team would look to the artist to provide an overall theme for the spray ground, possible interpretive information, suggestions on the form, size, height, and type of vertical elements, collaboration on paving material and patterns, and the integration of water sprays. A design/ideas meeting between the artist and the Design Team would be the first step. All parties would agree on the general size and limits of the spray deck so work can continue on components outside of this area.

**Technical Design Parameters**

We assume the design process will lag behind the completion of construction documents and the start of actual construction. The spray ground can be viewed as a separate phase.

- The final design would need to stay within the agreed upon limits.
- The Design Team would provide guidance on the water service available and the number of elements possible with and without pumping.
- The water usage and drainage will follow the current assumptions used and incorporated into the conservation and permitting drawings.
- Work on the utilities supporting the spray ground could continue before the spray deck is completed.
- Schedule, staging, and delineation of surrounding and supporting work requires feedback from the CM.

**Filter Building**

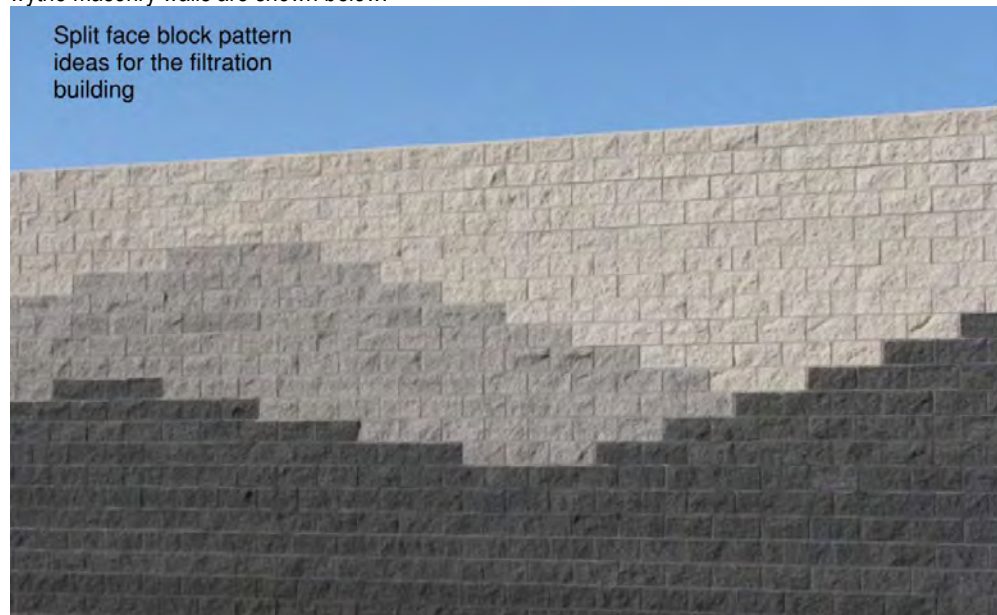
The filter building houses the pool filtration equipment and support spaces for the lifeguard staff. The building currently reflects the design elements of the new community room addition at the bathhouse. The east wall facing away from the pool is a windowless surface with double doors to provide access into filter room. The wall is roughly 10 feet high and 30 feet long. This wall surface will have a prominent presence for park users that will walk the perimeter of the park and utilize the newly created green space to the east of the pool.

**Process for Filter Building**

Working with masonry/modular building materials, the artist would work with the Design Team to develop patterns, forms, and possible imagery utilizing modular masonry units that can include decorative concrete masonry units, glazed tile, and other modular elements.

The current wall design is a single-wythe wall that provides structural support and is the exposed exterior finish. In order to incorporate a decorative/artistic pattern, we suggest that the east wall be designed as a veneer wall. The structural inner wall can be constructed allowing the majority of the building to be completed before the artwork is installed. A brick shelf would be incorporated into the east foundation to support a veneer layer of masonry. This layer can be installed after the building is constructed; this would require minor work to ensure this layer is connected and weathertight joints are created between the veneer and other building elements.

A single-wythe block wall can be maintained; however, the design of the wall would need to be advanced very quickly and most likely not within the time frame for construction. Examples of single-wythe masonry walls are shown below:



Forest River Park Pool and Bathhouse – Artist Collaboration  
July 30, 2020  
Page 4



By utilizing a masonry veneer wall, the opportunities and possibilities for the artist are significantly increased, and the opening and use of the pool does not require the design and installation of the artwork. Examples included the following:





Forest River Park Pool and Bathhouse – Artist Collaboration  
July 30, 2020  
Page 5



Forest River Park Pool and Bathhouse – Artist Collaboration  
July 30, 2020  
Page 6



We feel that the artist will need time to develop their ideas and concepts. The Design Team would work collaboratively with the artist to integrate the artwork into the project. Simultaneously we would be continuing the design, documentation, and construction of the remainder of the project. We feel that the approach to each element described above provides the collaboration and time needed to integrate the artwork into the Forest River Park Pool.

Feel free to contact me with questions.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Scarlata, CSI, CCS, CCCA, AIA  
Principal

copies to: Margaret Wood  
Clara Castro

enclosure: none

**FORM A - AREA**

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
 MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Assessor's Sheets USGS Quad Area Letter Form Numbers in Area

33-0743-201 33-0743-202			SAL.916 SAL.GM SAL.2149
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**Photograph**



**Town/City:** Salem

**Place (neighborhood or village):** 32-38 Clifton Avenue

**Name of Area:** Forest River Park

**Present Use:** Park; recreation and culture; landscape

**Construction Dates or Period:** pre-1817 (Pickering House); C 1920 (Bathhouse); 1930 (Pioneer Village); pre-1938 (Garage); pre-1971 (Pool)

**Overall Condition:** Good to fair

**Major Intrusions and Alterations:** Pioneer Village partially rebuilt (1960s-1980s); Pool renovated (1971-72 and 1999); Bathhouse renovated in (1971-72)

**Acreage:** 31.2599

**Recorded by:** Tonya Loveday

**Organization:** Epsilon Associates, Inc.

**Date (month/year):** July 2018

**Locus Map**



see continuation sheet

**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**

Forest River Park, 32-38 Clifton Avenue (SAL.916), is a public park established in 1907 by the City of Salem. The park contains over 30 acres of land and is characterized by rolling hills largely covered with mature trees and an expansive shoreline along Salem Harbor that forms the park's east and south boundaries. Forest River Park's north and west boundaries are defined by the rear property lines of the residential lots on the south side of Shore Avenue and the east side of West Terrace and West Circle (see Figures 1 and 2). The park entrance at the intersection of Clifton and Shore Avenues is demarcated by a pair of stone and concrete piers with secondary piers flanking the sidewalks that extend from the intersection (photo 1). The park is also accessible from West Avenue.

The park contains various buildings and recreational structures, including a caretaker's house and garage/restroom facility near the park entrance off West Avenue, a pool and bathhouse at the south end of the park along the harbor, and a collection of reproduction colonial buildings at Pioneer Village at the park's northernmost section. These structures are described in further detail below.

Other recreational park elements are present, including a tennis court, concrete slide, and various playground equipment (photos 41-43). A concrete slide was installed north of the Forest River Park Bathhouse by 1955. The slide features four lanes that descend from a concrete and stone platform with metal railings. A tennis court is located at the southernmost part of the park next to the Forest River Park Pool and was likely added around 1971 when the pool was renovated. Two swing sets northwest of the slide appear to date from the same period. Towards center of Forest River Park is a playground that was installed by 1995. A basketball court and baseball diamond at the park's northwest corner have been temporarily removed as part of the City of Salem's effort to upgrade the park's drainage system.

Forest River Park also features park furniture, such as benches and picnic tables, and trash receptacles. Park pathways provide pedestrian and limited automobile access to different parts of Forest River Park. These include a combination of dirt pathways and paved asphalt drives with concrete curbing and metal guardrails at select locations. Wood bollards line the pathway that leads northwest to Pioneer Village. The beachfront next to Pioneer Village is lined with a concrete retaining wall (photo 18-19). The circular concrete retaining wall along the beach south of Pickering Point is faced with stone veneer (photo 23).

## HISTORICAL REPORT

### Col. Timothy Pickering House

The oldest extant building within Forest River Park is the Col. Timothy Pickering House (SAL.2149; photos 4-5 and 7-8), located at the park entrance east of where West Avenue terminates. The two-story vernacular dwelling was constructed by 1817. Based on an examination of the building's architecture and a comparison of historic atlases, it appears to have been moved and expanded between 1874 and 1887 (see Figures 3 and 4). The building's westernmost four bays seem to date to the Second Period (1725-1780) of colonial architecture. Here, the south elevation and the westernmost two chimneys form a relatively symmetrical block. Further research and an examination of the building's interior would likely yield more information on the building's construction and history.

The dwelling's gable ends are two bays wide facing east and west, while the north and south elevations are nine bays wide. The exterior is clad in painted wood shingles. Two entrances are located on the south elevation, each in the next-to-last bay. These paneled wood doors are covered with modern metal screen doors. Added later to the building are the projecting pedimented hoods above the two doors on the south elevation. A third entrance is located within the first bay of the east elevation and features a solid paneled wood door. Windows openings at the first story of the north and south elevations have six-over-six double-hung replacement sash. A single sliding window is located at the first story of the south elevation. Second story windows at the north and south elevations are set immediately under the eaves and have three-over-six double hung replacement sash. Windows on the gable ends have six-over-six double-hung replacement sash. Louvered vents are tucked beneath the gables of the east and west elevations. Asphalt shingles cover the building's gable roof. Three white-washed brick chimneys rise from the north slope of the roof. A short wood picket fence extends south from the dwelling to surround the lawn bound by the park pathways and the Forest River Park Garage on the property.

### Forest River Park Garage

Immediately southeast of Col. Timothy Pickering House is the single-story concrete block Forest River Park Garage (photos 7-8), constructed at an unknown date but by 1938 based on historic aerial images. The garage functions today as a restroom with storage space. A modern multi-paneled garage door is located on the south elevation. Next to that is a pair of one-over-one pivot windows, set above a single wood sill. The building's concrete block exterior and windows sills have been uniformly painted. The same style and configuration of pivot window is found centered on the west elevation. Two pairs of such windows are also located on the north elevation. In between the north elevation windows is a narrow solid door. The east elevation features two doors that provide access to the men's and women's restrooms. Concrete steps lead to the entrances which are topped with projecting flat hoods. The asphalt shingle gable roof overhangs on the north and south elevations. The end bays have vertical wood paneling in the gables. Trees and shrubbery have been planted along the building's east elevation, shielding much of the view of the restroom entrances.

### Forest River Park Bathhouse

The single-story brick and stucco Forest River Park Bathhouse (photos 23-27, 29-30, 32-40) is located at the southeast edge of Forest River Park along the Salem Harbor. The building dates to the late 1920s and has an unusual yet symmetrical shape with the centermost bays of the north, south and west elevations recessed. The corners of the building that project feature cast stone quoining. The west elevation, facing the Forest River Park Pool, is the bathhouse's primary elevation. The projecting end bays of this elevation feature paired one-over-one pivot windows set within a low arched opening. The windows share a single wood sill supported by four scrolled brackets. Centered within the recessed section of the west elevation is a hexagonal projecting center bay. Each side of the projecting bay contains three awning windows. Flanking the projecting bay on both sides is a solid door. Transoms above the doors have been infilled. Shielding the projecting bay and the two doors is a shed roof overhang with exposed rafters and simple end brackets. Next to each door is a pair of two stacked awning windows with a wood sill supported by two scrolled brackets. A plaque commemorating the work done to the bathhouse and pool in 1971-72 has been installed at the northwest corner of the west elevation. New electrical and plumbing was installed as part of the renovation.



The north elevation of the bathhouse features groups of four awning windows set within low arched openings with wood sills, supported by four scrolled brackets. These windows are in the projecting end bay at the building's northwest corner and the north elevation's centermost bay. While recessed from the end bays, the centermost bay projects slightly and features quoining. The window opening in the projecting end bay at the northeast corner of the building at this elevation has been infilled. The recessed portions of the elevation flanking the centermost bay each have two stacked awning windows with a wood sill supported by two scrolled brackets. An outdoor shower platform is within the recessed portion of the north elevation. The south elevation is nearly identical to the north with few exceptions. The projecting end bay at the southeast section of the building features a door and large round vent instead of a window. Also, the centermost bay within the recessed portion of the south elevation does not slightly project and therefore does not have quoins.

The seven-bay east elevation features a continuous arcade of large arched openings with roll-up metal sheet doors. The centermost bay has a decorative gate, providing access to the building's open central corridor and interior. Within the corridor are two doors as well as eight arched window openings that been infilled with concrete blocks. The building's timber frame roof is topped with a cast stone cornice and a low parapet wall. The bathhouse exhibits signs of deterioration. The exterior stucco is in need of repair, particularly inside the central corridor and around fenestration, and wood elements such as the window sills, decorative brackets and the shed hood overhang are deteriorating due to paint failure and exposure to the elements.

A concrete stairway descends from the west elevation of the bathhouse to the Forest River Park Pool. The north, south and west elevations are enclosed with galvanized chain link fencing. Outside of the bathhouse is a parking island containing a freestanding rusticated stone and metal plaque monument commemorating the 1999 restoration of the Forest River Pool. Two bicycle parking racks are also located outside of the bathhouse.

### Forest River Park Pool

West of the bathhouse facing the Salem Harbor is the Forest River Park Pool (photos 25, 28-29, 31 and 40). Originally a tidal pool, the pool was formalized into a concrete structure at an unknown date. The pool was renovated in 1971-72, and again in 1999 when it was expanded and converted from salt water to a recirculating, fresh water pool. The current pool configuration includes two separate sections that together have a surface area of approximately 15,150 square feet and a perimeter measuring 724 linear feet. The southernmost section is rectangular in shape, 65 feet wide by 187 feet long, and ranging in depth from three to nine feet. North of that is a 50-foot by 60-foot wading pool with a maximum depth of three feet. A narrow concrete decking area surrounds the pool. Metal handrails line the concrete ramp that leads from the bathhouse to the wading pool. The pool area is surrounded by a galvanized chain link fence.

## HISTORICAL REPORT

### PIIONEER VILLAGE

Pioneer Village (SAL.GM; photos 11-17) occupies the northernmost section of Forest River Park, bounded by the Salem Harbor to the east, park pathways and a small parking lot to the south, and wood stockade fencing to the west and north. A pond is located at the southeast corner of the village, while a mature forest characterizes the village's northern section. Originally built in 1930, resources within Pioneer Village today include eight structures and various landscape elements. The majority of the structures are small, single-story wood reproduction cottages with gable roofs either clad in wood shingles or thatch, with a single chimney. The village also features a reproduction blacksmith shop with a firepit. At the center of the village is the two-story "Governor's Mansion." The wood mansion has a steeply pitched gable roof with wood shingles and a single brick chimney. South of the mansion is a garden with period plantings, framed by rudimentary wood fencing. A reproduction English wigwam is situated to the northwest of the other village structures. West of the wigwam is a dugout shelter. (A second dugout and a cornfield were lost during a storm in March 2017.) Pioneer Village also features a pillory and two small wood bridges. A wood ticket booth is located outside of the village along the park's pathway. Many of the buildings within Pioneer Village have been rebuilt or significantly rehabilitated since 1930. Further research is necessary to determine when the work occurred and what, if any, original fabric remains.

### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The area today known as Salem was first inhabited by members of the Pawtucket group of Native Americans commonly referred to as the Naumkeags. When the first European settlers, the "Old Planters," arrived in 1626, Salem was called Naumkeag. These early English settlers had abandoned an earlier failed settlement in Cape Ann and established themselves on the south side of the North River and on the peninsula jutting northeast into Beverly Harbor. A second wave of settlers arrived in 1628 and situated themselves further up the North River. The settlers utilized the common field system, pasturing animals and planting crops in common fields. In 1640 there were at least ten common fields in Salem, the two largest

being North Field on the north side of the North River and South Field between the Forest and South Rivers. South Field, approximately 600 acres in size, contained the land on which Forest River Park is located and was reportedly used by Native Americans who referred to the Forest River as Mashabequa, meaning "Great Cove." The common field system was short lived. After about 1640 official grants of common land were less common, and in the 1660s the town(ship) and the selectmen (or proprietors) disposed of common and undivided land by sale or lease.

The Forest River Park property has avoided the dense development seen in the neighborhood areas largely because the land remained under relatively consistent private ownership until the first part of the twentieth century. The park land's earliest known private owners following the termination of the common field system were William Flint (1603-1673) and his wife, Alice Williams Flint (1608-1700). In 1699, Alice, then a widow, deeded the land to her daughter, Alice Flint Pickering (1636-1713), wife of Lieutenant John Pickering (1637-1694). The property remained in the Pickering family and was eventually under the ownership of Colonel Timothy Pickering Jr. (1745-1829), the great-grandson of John and Alice. Col. Pickering was an attorney and politician who served in the Revolutionary War. He was an aide to General George Washington and held various appointed positions including Postmaster General and Secretary of War. Col Pickering later served as the third United States Secretary of State under Presidents George Washington and John Adams. He furthered his political career by represented Massachusetts in both chambers of Congress from 1803 to 1811 as a member of the Federalist Party.

Col. Pickering provided the first reference to a building on the Forest River Park property, the Pickering House (SAL.2149), in an 1817 correspondence, referring to a cabin in the "Southfields." It is likely that the building was constructed several decades earlier, around 1750. It was not used as the Pickering family's primary residence, which was located at 18 Broad Street (SAL.1044; NRDIS 1973; LHD 1981).

Following the death of Col. Pickering in 1829, his estate sold the property to William Batchelder (b. abt. 1784), a New- Hampshire-born farmer/laborer, who then immediately sold the land to

merchant John Winn (abt. 1765-1835). Deed records from this period note an apple tree lot on the property as well as “Pickering’s Point Pastures,” likely the land at the easternmost part of the park known today as Pickering Point. Winn owned the property for only a few years before it was again sold in 1835, just months before his death. The property’s new owner, David Pingree, served as President of the Naumkeag Bank and later worked as a merchant. During the period in which he owned the Forest River Park land, Pingree resided at 128 Essex Street, known today as the Gardner-Pingree House (SAL.2455; NHL 1970; NRDIS 1972; LHD 1977).

In 1859, the trustees of David Pingree sold the Forest River Park land to the Asiatic Bank, which subsequently sold it to Richard Lavers (abt. 1813-1887), a farmer. Lavers was married to Mehitable A. Batchelder (1818-1885), daughter of William Batchelder, and thus his acquisition of the land returned it back to the Batchelder family. The Batchelders and Lavers did not reside at the Pickering House during their ownership of the property.

In 1864, the property went into foreclosure and was taken by the Salem Savings Bank. The bank then sold it to Jay H. Moulton (1811-1895), who was married to Olive O. Batchelder (1809-1896). Both were born in New Hampshire, making it possible that Olive was related to the family of William Batchelder. As was the case with prior owners, the Moultons did not live at the Pickering House. The atlas for 1874 shows three secondary structures on the property in addition to the Pickering House, which appears to have a smaller footprint and more northern location than present (see Figure 3). The construction and demolition dates as well as the uses of these buildings are unknown.

Mary Porter Tileston Hemenway (1820-1894) purchased the property from the Moultons in 1887 for \$1. Mary’s late husband Augustus Hemenway (1805-1876) was a Salem native and prominent mariner and ship owner, famed for opening trade between the United States and Chile. He is thought to have been the wealthiest man in America at one point, with a wide range of commercial and real estate interests in New York and Boston, and commercial ventures abroad that involved lumber in Maine, mining in Chile, and a sugar plantation in Cuba. Originally from New York, Mary became well-known as Boston’s wealthiest woman following the death of Augustus. She was a renowned philanthropist who invested both her time and financial resources supporting various causes such as the anti-slavery and

suffragette movements. Mary was also an early advocate of historic preservation and is credited with saving Boston’s Old South Meeting House in 1876.

Mary Hemenway had a fascination with Native American culture and invested in its study and preservation. She launched the “Hemenway Southwestern Archaeological Expedition” (1886-1894) to undertake a series of archaeological explorations in New Mexico and Arizona. In 1886, Mary appointed a board to oversee the construction of a “Pueblo Museum” in Salem where the artifact collections from the expedition would be featured. Unfortunately, Mary died before the museum materialized, and many of the Native American artifacts that had been collected were given to the Peabody Museum at Harvard University. It is rumored that Mary had a museum built on the Forest River Park land that was dismantled after her passing, however these claims could not be substantiated. Under the ownership of Mary’s estate, the property contained the Pickering House and two other structures near the house (see Figure 4). It is possible that these were two of the outbuildings seen in the 1874 atlas, perhaps moved and/or altered.

In December 1907, the Board of Park Commissioners of the City of Salem took the Forest River Park land by eminent domain to establish a public park (see Figure 5). Salem’s first Board of Park Commissioners was appointed in 1893, following the passage of the Park Act in 1892. The Park Act established the Metropolitan Park Commission which created the expansive Metropolitan Park System of Greater Boston by its power of eminent domain. By 1975, the Metropolitan Park System of Greater Boston contained over 7,000 acres of land across numerous municipalities around Boston. Forest River Park is an early example of a suburban municipal park outside of Boston that reflects the influence of the progressive late nineteenth century park movement.

The acquisition of Forest River Park was noted as one of the Board’s most important accomplishments in the first two decades of the twentieth century, along with the acquisition of two other parks, Highland Park (known today as Salem Woods) in 1906 and Gallows Hill Park in 1912. A clubhouse at the center of the park was added shortly after the acquisition (see Figure 6). By 1911 the City had made various other improvements to the park.

## HISTORICAL REPORT

The Pickering House was converted into the park caretaker's residence. A baseball field, football grounds, and pedestrian pathways were laid out. At the park entrance, ornamental walls and posts were installed. Additionally, the clubhouse was moved to the waterfront and remodeled into a public bathhouse for the salt water tidal pool that opened into the harbor (see Figures 7, 8 and 10). The following year, the City established a nursery within the park and planted 125 oak, elm, ash and maple trees. Upon maturing, these trees would be moved to Salem's streets, and the nursery replenished to maintain the supply.

On June 25, 1914, a fire broke out following an explosion at the Korn Leather Factory at 57 Boston Street in Salem. Known as the Great Salem Fire, the conflagration spread rapidly, burning 253 acres and leaving nearly half of Salem's 48,000 residents homeless. Camps, or tent cities, were quickly established in different parts of the city. The largest makeshift camp was at Forest River Park, which at that time was still very much characterized by its open pastures (see Figure 9). On June 26, 100 tents were erected at Forest River Park. Within two days, 1200 displaced people were living in the camp at Forest River Park. An additional 300 people arrived the following day. By then, there were over 400 tents and a large dining tent with the capacity to seat several hundred. National Guard soldiers managed the distribution of food and assisted with other relief efforts in conjunction with the American Red Cross and civil authorities. The tent city at Forest River Park operated for several months while the city worked to rebuild itself.

In the late 1920s, the old bathhouse was replaced with the present bathhouse (see Figures 10, 11 and 12). The construction of municipal pools peaked during the 1920s as Americans had more time for leisure and pool equipment and sanitation measures improved. It is unknown who designed the Forest River Park Bathhouse, however it is architecturally similar to the bathhouse that once stood at Smith Pool at Cat Cove near Winter Island, designed by Ambrose Walker. A formalized concrete pool replaced the tidal pool at Forest River Park, likely in the 1960s. The pool and bathhouse were renovated in 1971-72 (see Figures 18-20). The bathhouse provided restrooms, changing rooms, and concession stands for patrons. It also housed a caretaker's room, a first aid room, a lifeguard station and information stand. The last major upgrade to the pool occurred in 1999 when it was converted from salt water to fresh water.

Various other structures and park elements were added through the years. A garage was constructed east of the Pickering House by 1938. It today functions as a restroom with storage. A concrete slide and two swing sets were installed by 1955. Two tennis courts at the southernmost part of the park next to the pool was added in the early or mid-1970s. By 1995, a playground had been established towards the center of Forest River Park.

### PIONEER VILLAGE

Situated in the northernmost section of Forest River Park is Pioneer Village. Created in 1930 for the Massachusetts tercentenary, Pioneer Village has the distinction of being America's first living history museum. The three-acre village contains a variety of structures intended to give visitors a glimpse into the everyday life of the colonists. It originally features twelve buildings in a designed landscaped and included a reproduction of the *Arabella*, the flagship of John Winthrop's fleet, in the Salem Harbor. Pioneer Village was intended to be a temporary exhibit, yet it was never dismantled. The reproduction ship was severely damaged in a hurricane in 1954 and was subsequently burned.

Pioneer Village was conceived by George Francis Dow (1868-1936), a leading historian and antiquarian in New England. He founded the Topsfield Historical Society in 1894, was a member of various other organizations including the Massachusetts Historical Society and the New England Historic Genealogical Society. Dow served as an officer of the Essex Institute of Salem, and later was elected curator of the Society of the Preservation of New England Antiquities (now Historic New England). He spent the rest of his life serving as curator, museum director, and editor of the organization's magazine, *Old-Time New England*. Well-versed in the architecture of New England, Dow was tasked with the restoration of several eighteenth-century homes for both private owners and historical societies. In 1935, his book *Every Day Life in the Massachusetts Bay Colony* was published. In it were several illustrations from the recently created Pioneer Village (see Figures 14-17).

Other advisors to the construction, arrangement and furnishing of Pioneer Village in 1930 included Rose Briggs and Donald Macdonald-Miller. Briggs worked for Pilgrim Hall in Plymouth and was responsible for designing the costumes worn by the reenactors. Macdonald-Miller was an architect and early member of the Society of the Preservation of New England



Antiquities. He provided the drawings for the Governor's Mansion at Pioneer Village.

Pioneer Village remained a popular tourist destination until the 1950s when it began to deteriorate due to deferred maintenance and vandalism. Three of the buildings were lost due to fire in the 1960s and 1970s and were replaced with similar structures. The date(s) of the losses of the wigwams and dugouts is not known. By the mid-1980s, about half of the original structures were no longer extant. The City of Salem Park Commission voted to demolish Pioneer Village in 1985. The village was saved by the Pioneer Village Associates who signed a contract with the Park Commission in 1986 agreeing to restore and manage Pioneer Village. Led by Peter LaChapelle, then chief of visitor services at the Salem Maritime National Historic Site, and Dr. K. David Goss, a career museum administration professional, the Pioneer Village Associates and their team of volunteers restored Pioneer Village. The deteriorated structures were rebuilt, and the gardens replanted. Pioneer Village reopened for the 1988 season, and a grant reopening was held in June 1990. For their roles in the restoration of Pioneer Village, Goss and LaChapelle won the American Society of Travel Writers prestigious Phoenix Award in 1991.

Despite being leased to the House of Seven Gables until 2003, Pioneer Village again suffered from deferred maintenance and vandalism, and was included in Historic Salem Inc.'s "Most Endangered Resources" list for 2003. Over the course of the next five years, Salem Preservation Inc. managed and restored Pioneer Village. Partnering with a wide range of volunteers and stakeholders, Salem Preservation Inc. made various building repairs and site improvements. In 2008, Gordon College's Institute for Public History signed a five-year lease to use both Pioneer Village and Old Town Hall to host "History Alive!," the school's interactive theatre program. Gordon College elected not to renew their lease in 2013, and the City of Salem again took over operations at Pioneer Village. Today, access to tours of Pioneer Village is limited to weekends during the months of June through September. Its remote location on the South River has left Pioneer Village subject to both flooding and vandalism. The City plans to address deferred maintenance at Pioneer Village following the completion of the drainage project that is currently underway.

HISTORICAL REPORT



Undated postcard of the old bathhouse at Forest River Park, likely ca. 1920.  
Source: City of Salem. Original tidal pool as designed in early 1900s



Undated photograph of the bathhouse at Forest River Park, likely dating to the late 1920s. Source: City of Salem. Summer day at the Forest River Pool on the banks of Salem



Undated photograph of the bathhouse at Forest River Park, likely dating to the late 1920s. Source: Stephen J. Schier and Kenneth C. Turino, *Images of America: Salem, Massachusetts, Volume II* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 1998), pg.39.



**FORM A - AREA**

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
 MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Assessor's Sheets USGS Quad Area Letter Form Numbers in Area

33-0743-201 33-0743-202			SAL.916 SAL.GM SAL.2149
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**Photograph**



**Town/City:** Salem

**Place (neighborhood or village):** 32-38 Clifton Avenue

**Name of Area:** Forest River Park

**Present Use:** Park; recreation and culture; landscape

**Construction Dates or Period:** pre-1817 (Pickering House); C 1920 (Bathhouse); 1930 (Pioneer Village); pre-1938 (Garage); pre-1971 (Pool)

**Overall Condition:** Good to fair

**Major Intrusions and Alterations:** Pioneer Village partially rebuilt (1960s-1980s); Pool renovated (1971-72 and 1999); Bathhouse renovated in (1971-72)

**Acreage:** 31.2599

**Recorded by:** Tonya Loveday

**Organization:** Epsilon Associates, Inc.

**Date (month/year):** July 2018

**Locus Map**



see continuation sheet

**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**

Forest River Park, 32-38 Clifton Avenue (SAL.916), is a public park established in 1907 by the City of Salem. The park contains over 30 acres of land and is characterized by rolling hills largely covered with mature trees and an expansive shoreline along Salem Harbor that forms the park's east and south boundaries. Forest River Park's north and west boundaries are defined by the rear property lines of the residential lots on the south side of Shore Avenue and the east side of West Terrace and West Circle (see Figures 1 and 2). The park entrance at the intersection of Clifton and Shore Avenues is demarcated by a pair of stone and concrete piers with secondary piers flanking the sidewalks that extend from the intersection (photo 1). The park is also accessible from West Avenue.

The park contains various buildings and recreational structures, including a caretaker's house and garage/restroom facility near the park entrance off West Avenue, a pool and bathhouse at the south end of the park along the harbor, and a collection of reproduction colonial buildings at Pioneer Village at the park's northernmost section. These structures are described in further detail below.

Other recreational park elements are present, including a tennis court, concrete slide, and various playground equipment (photos 41-43). A concrete slide was installed north of the Forest River Park Bathhouse by 1955. The slide features four lanes that descend from a concrete and stone platform with metal railings. A tennis court is located at the southernmost part of the park next to the Forest River Park Pool and was likely added around 1971 when the pool was renovated. Two swing sets northwest of the slide appear to date from the same period. Towards center of Forest River Park is a playground that was installed by 1995. A basketball court and baseball diamond at the park's northwest corner have been temporarily removed as part of the City of Salem's effort to upgrade the park's drainage system.

Forest River Park also features park furniture, such as benches and picnic tables, and trash receptacles. Park pathways provide pedestrian and limited automobile access to different parts of Forest River Park. These include a combination of dirt pathways and paved asphalt drives with concrete curbing and metal guardrails at select locations. Wood bollards line the pathway that leads northwest to Pioneer Village. The beachfront next to Pioneer Village is lined with a concrete retaining wall (photo 18-19). The circular concrete retaining wall along the beach south of Pickering Point is faced with stone veneer (photo 23).



## APPENDIX C



CITY OF SALEM  
Planning & Community Development Department  
**Contract Number: 21EX-03**

### **Public Art Grant Award Agreement**

1. THIS AGREEMENT made and concluded this Xth day of XXX in the year Two Thousand XXXXXXXX by and between XXXXXXXXXXXX; hereinafter referred to as the (Vendor) and the City of Salem, 93 Washington Street, Salem, MA 01970, a municipal corporation established under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting by and through its Mayor, Kimberley Driscoll; its Purchasing Agent, Thomas P. Watkins; and its XXXXXXXX, thereto duly authorized, hereinafter referred to as the (City).
2. WITNESSETH, that the said Vendor has agreed and by these presents does agree, for the consideration hereinafter contained to XXXXXX.

In case of any alteration of this contract, so much thereof as is not necessarily affected by the change, shall remain in force upon all parties hereto; and no payment for supplies and services furnished under such alteration shall be made until the completion of the whole contract, and the adjustment and payment of the bill when rendered for same shall release and discharge the said City from any and all claims or liability on account of any supplies and services furnished under this contract, or any alteration thereof.

3. Performance Period: XXXXXXXXXXXX
4. The Vendor shall not assign or transfer this contract, or any part thereof without the prior written consent of the Purchasing Agent of said City.
5. And the said Vendor further agrees to indemnify and save harmless the said City of Salem, its officers and agents from all claims and actions of every name and description brought against the said City, or its officers and agents, for or on account of any injury or damage received or sustained by any person, structure or property, by or from the said Vendor, servants or agents, or by, or on account of, any act or omission of the said Vendor, or servants or agents, in the performance of this contract; and the Vendor hereby agrees that so much of the money due to under, and by virtue of, this agreement, as shall be considered necessary by said Purchasing Agent, may be retained by the City until all such suits or claims for damages as aforesaid, shall have been settled, and evidence furnished to the satisfaction of said Purchasing Agent, provided, however, that notice of such claims, in writing and signed by the claimants, shall be previously filed in the offices of the City Clerk of said City.
6. It is furthermore agreed by the Vendor that the performance of this contract shall be strictly in accordance with its proposal dated XXXXXXXX now on file at the Office of the City Purchasing Agent of Salem, Massachusetts, which proposal is hereby made a part of this contract by reference.
7. IN CONSIDERATION WHEREOF, the City agrees to pay to the Vendor XXXXXXXXX, said payment to be made within thirty days from receipt and acceptance of a reasonably detailed invoice. **THE ABOVE**

**CONTRACT NUMBER MUST BE REFERENCED ON ALL INVOICES IN ORDER FOR THE VENDOR TO BE PAID.**

**8. Insurance Coverage:**

**General** - The Vendor shall before commencing performance of the Contract be responsible for providing and maintaining insurance coverage in force for the life of the Contract of the kind and in adequate amounts to secure all of the obligations under the Contract and with insurance companies licensed to write insurance in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. All such insurance carried shall not be less than the kinds and amounts designated herein, and the Vendor agrees that the stipulation herein of the kinds and limits of coverage shall in no way limit the liability of the Vendor to any such kinds and amounts of insurance coverage. All policies issued shall indemnify and save harmless the City of Salem, its agents and employees from any and all claims for damages to persons or property as may rise out of the performance of this Contract.

**Vendor's Comprehensive General Public Liability and Property Damage Liability Insurance** - The Vendor shall carry Comprehensive General Liability Insurance providing for a limit of not less than One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) for all damages arising out of bodily injury to or death of one person, and subject to that limit for each person, a total limit of not less than One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) for all damages arising out of bodily injuries or death of two or more persons in any one accident; and Vendor's Comprehensive Property Damage Liability Insurance providing for a limit of not less than One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) for all damages arising out of injury to or destruction of property in any one accident, and subject to that limit per accident, a total (or aggregate) limit of not less than One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) for all damages arising out of injury to or destruction of property during the policy period.

**Comprehensive Automotive and Property Damage Insurance** - The Vendor shall carry Automobile Insurance covering all owned vehicles, hired vehicles or non-owned vehicles under the control of the Vendor while performing work under the Contract in the amount of not less than One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) for all damages arising out of bodily injuries to or death of one person and subject to that limit for each person, a total of not less than One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) for all damages arising out of bodily injuries to or death of two or more persons in any one accident; and Property Damage coverage in the amount of not less than One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) for all damages to or destruction of property.

If applicable, the Vendor must carry Workman's Compensation Insurance in the amounts prescribed under Massachusetts State Law and meet all other City and State Laws and Regulations.

The General Liability and Auto Liability policies shall name the City of Salem as Additional Insured. In addition, A Waiver of Subrogation in favor of the City of Salem shall be provided for on the General Liability policy.

No cancellation(s) of such insurance, whether by the insurer or by the insured party shall be valid unless written notice thereof is given by the parties proposing cancellation to the other party and to the City of Salem at least fifteen (15) days prior to the intended effective date thereof, which date shall be expressed in said notice, which shall be sent by registered mail, return receipt requested. These provisions shall apply to the legal representative(s), trustee in bankruptcy, receiver, assignee, trustee, and successor(s) in interest of the Vendor.

All insurance coverage shall be at the sole expense of the Vendor and shall be placed with such company as may be acceptable to the City of Salem and shall constitute a material part of the contract documents.

Failure to provide written proof to City and continue in force such insurance as aforesaid shall be deemed a material breach of the contract and may constitute sufficient grounds for immediate termination of the same.

- 9. This Agreement may be terminated upon thirty (30) days prior written notice for failure of Vendor to provide adequate service as determined by the Purchasing Agent.
- 10. This Agreement will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This Agreement is subject to the provisions of Massachusetts's law, and to all lawful implementing regulations, as amended from time to time.
- 11. IN WITNESS WHEREOF the said; (XXXXXXXXXX); Vendor hath caused these presents and an instrument of like tenor to be executed in its name and behalf by a properly authorized officer of said company. An instrument of like tenor to be executed by the City in its name and behalf by its Mayor; its Purchasing Agent, and its XXXXXXXXXXXX.

All duly authorized as aforesaid, and its corporate seal to be hereto affixed.

**XXXXXXXXXX**  
**By:**

**CITY OF SALEM**  
**By:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Authorized Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Kimberley Driscoll,**  
**Mayor**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Authorized Officer (print name)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Laurie Giardella,**  
**Finance Director**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Title**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Tom Daniel,**  
**Dir., Dept. of Planning & Comm Development**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Thomas P. Watkins,**  
**Purchasing Agent**

**Approved as to form:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Elizabeth Rennard, Esq.,**  
**City Solicitor**