

# PESIR

Publicly Engaged  
Scholar-in-Residence

MARCH  
13-14

The 2024 Publicly Engaged Scholar-in-Residence (PESIR) featured two days of art-driven community engagement and social justice activism, featuring the impactful work of local multi-disciplinary artists, including celebrated muralist and activist Rob "ProBlak" Gibbs.



## AT A GLANCE

### ATTENDEES

- 10-50 attendants per session
- Over 150 registrants

### PARTNERS AND ORGANIZERS

- Center for the Arts
- Center for Community-Engaged Teaching and Learning
- College of Arts, Media, and Design
- Office of City and Community Engagement
- EI Ops Office
- Climate Justice and Sustainability Hub



## DESCRIPTION

The transformative impacts of the arts—including visual arts, design, architecture, music, and theater— for supporting equitable, inclusive community development has long been underrecognized in policymaking, underinvested in by public and private funders, and understudied in academic settings.

The 2024 PESIR program addressed these pervasive gaps and built connections among stakeholders working in diverse media and contexts with community-based artists, activists, and organizers. The events included panel discussions and workshops exploring the power of arts-based approaches to social change, learning from the contributions of arts activists working in Roxbury, which is the heart of Boston's African American and Black communities but also includes a growing number of Latinx and Asian residents.

## OBJECTIVES

We sought to practice our values by working closely with ProBlak and other invited community arts activists to plan a program that engages with difficult topics, including the role of higher education institutions as instruments of oppression and displacement in Black communities across the US, the forms of knowledge and expertise that are frequently excluded from centers of learning and decision-making, and the specific impacts of Northeastern's rapid growth on our Roxbury neighborhood.

## AUDIENCE

PESIR sessions drew a diverse community of Northeastern faculty, staff, and students, as well as many local community-based individuals, organizations, arts and culture nonprofits, and students and educators from neighboring colleges and local high schools.

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## PARTICIPANTS

- [Aziza Robinson-Goodnight](#), Project Manager, Artist, and Consultant, Artist in Transit at [Fairmount Cultural Corridor Initiative](#)
- [Becca Berkey](#), Director of [Community Engaged Teaching and Research \(CETR\)](#); and Interim Director of University Honors Lecturer of Human Services, CSSH, Northeastern University
- [Cara Michell](#), Assistant Professor of Race and Social Justice in the Built Environment, CAMD, Northeastern University
- [Collin Knight](#), Author and CEO of [Live Like A Local Tours Boston](#)
- [Dani Snyder-Young](#), Associate Professor of Theatre, CAMD, Northeastern University
- [Dzidzor Azaglo](#), Community Partnership Coordinator, CSSH, Northeastern University
- [Jalene Tamerat](#), Associate Director of [Community Engaged Teaching and Research \(CETR\)](#), Northeastern University
- [Jean Appolon](#), Dancer and Director of [JAE](#), a Haitian contemporary dance company
- [José Menéndez](#), Assistant Professor of Art + Design and Architecture, CAMD, Northeastern University
- [Kris Manjapra](#), Stearns Trustee Professor of History and Global Studies, CSSH, Northeastern University
- [Lily Song](#), Assistant Professor of Race, Social Justice, and the Built Environment, CAMD, Northeastern University
- [Rebekah Moore](#), Assistant Professor of Music and Faculty Scholar for the Institute for Health Equity and Social Justice Research, CAMD, Northeastern University