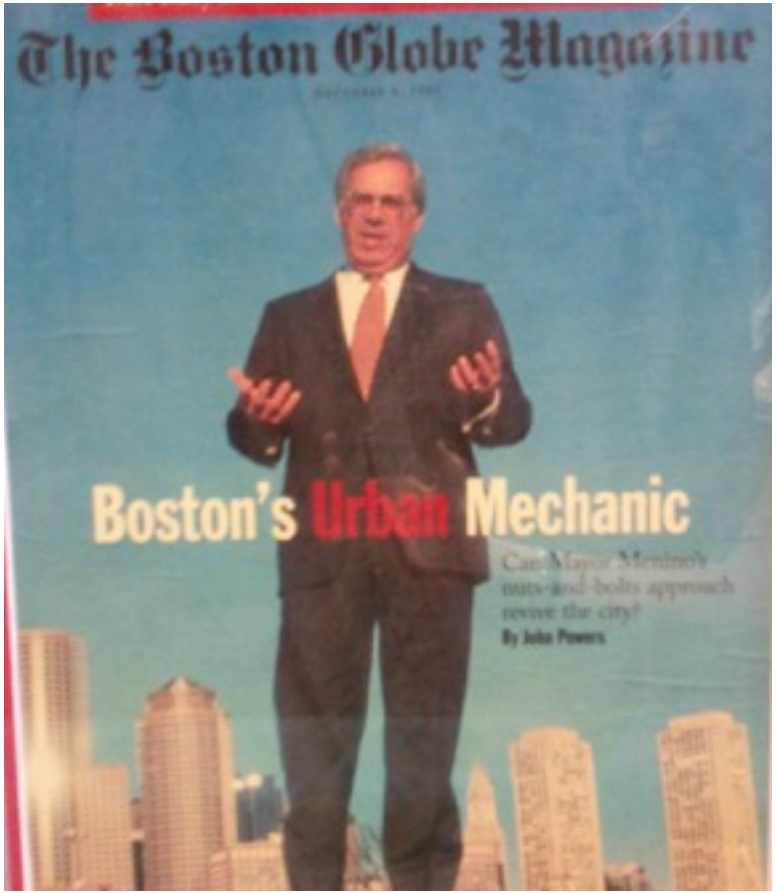
MAYOR'S OFFICE OF NEW URBAN MECHANICS

Mobility, Innovation, and Delightful Spaces

Meeting of the Minds

12.5.2016

newurbanmechanics.org | @newurbanmechs | @Kris_W_Carter



"We are all Urban Mechanics"

Thomas M. Menino
Former Mayor

WHY THE MAYOR'S OFFICE OF NEW URBAN MECHANICS?

THE MAYOR'S CIVIC INNOVATION TEAM

Formed in 2010, to be a dedicated team of people focused on what is new and next for Boston.

As Boston approaches its 400th birthday, our goal is a **thriving, healthy and innovative city** *for all; one community that is a global leader for the 21st century.*

Martin J. Walsh
Mayor

How you build is just as important as what your build

OUR TEAM

Nigel Jacob
Co-Chair

Kris Carter
Co-Chair

Michael Evans

Susan Nguyen

Marcy Ostberg

Jaclyn Youngblood

Ilona Kramer

Kim Lucas

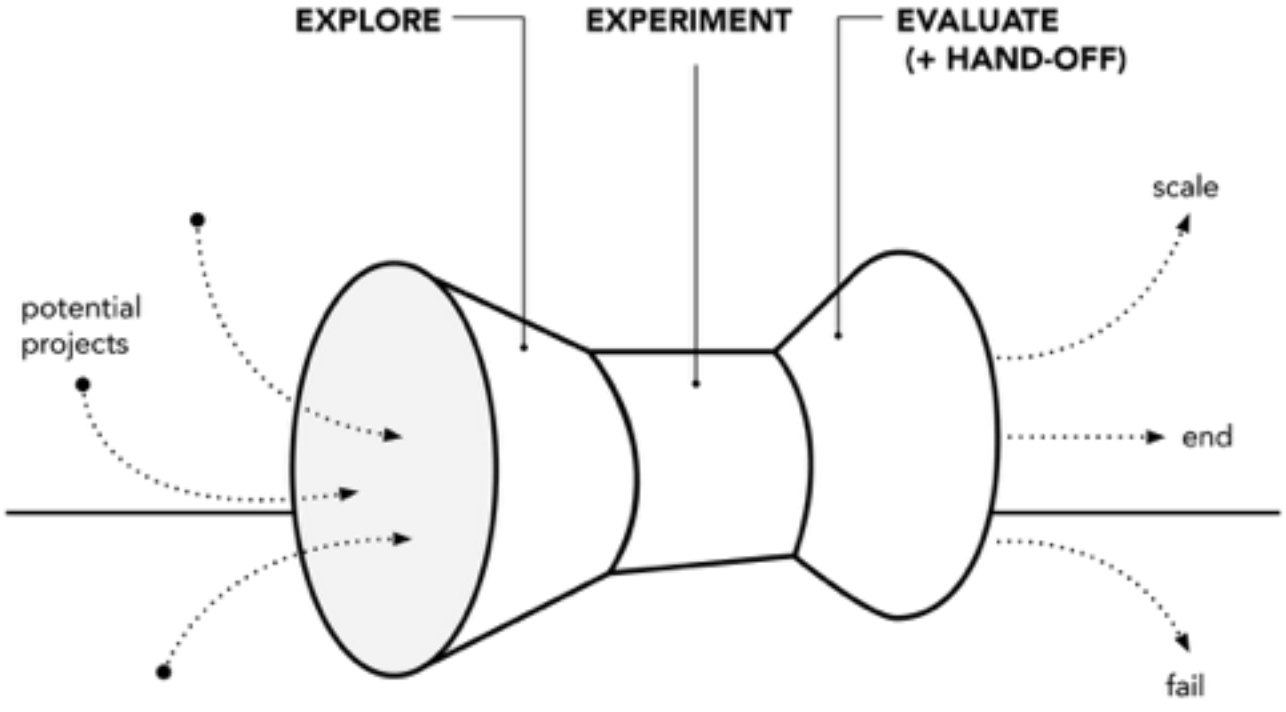
Max Stearns

Stephen Walter

Sabrina Dorsainvil

Roy Chan

OUR APPROACH



OUR APPROACH - guiding principles

1. Be the “Department of Yes”
2. Aggregate the Risk
3. Government is about Helping People

3 LESSONS

1. Build Things That People Want and Need

2. Use Experiments to Build Trust

3. Be Delightful

Lesson #1

Build Things That People Want and Need

BOSTON SMART CITY PLAYBOOK

Smart City Plays

1. Stop sending sales people
2. Solve real problems for real people
3. Don't worship efficiency
4. Better decisions, not (just) better data
5. Platforms make us go ¯_(ツ)_/¯
6. Towards a "public" privacy policy

In detail

It's not about apps.
It's not just about data.
It's not about dashboards.
or sensors.
or the internet of things.

It is about human-centered innovation.

CITY HALL TO GO

SIDE GUARDS

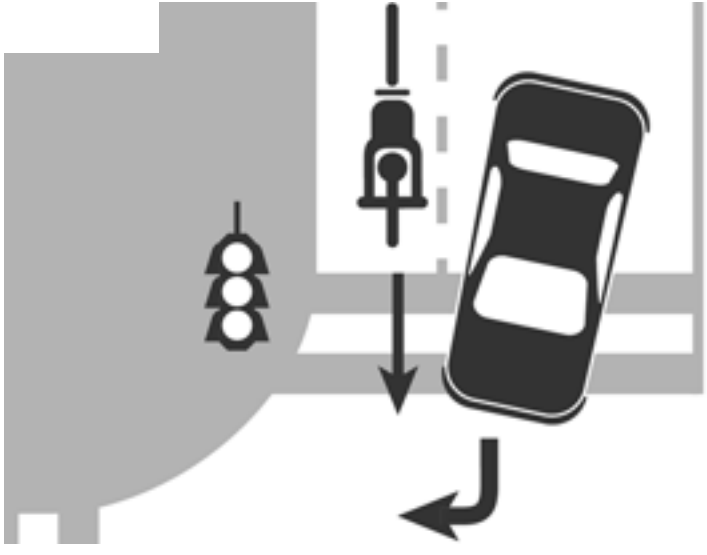
BU Today

Campus Life

December 6, 2012

Student Cyclist Killed on Comm Ave

COM grad student was talented photojournalist



SIDE GUARDS

Pilot (2013)

Current

SIDE GUARDS

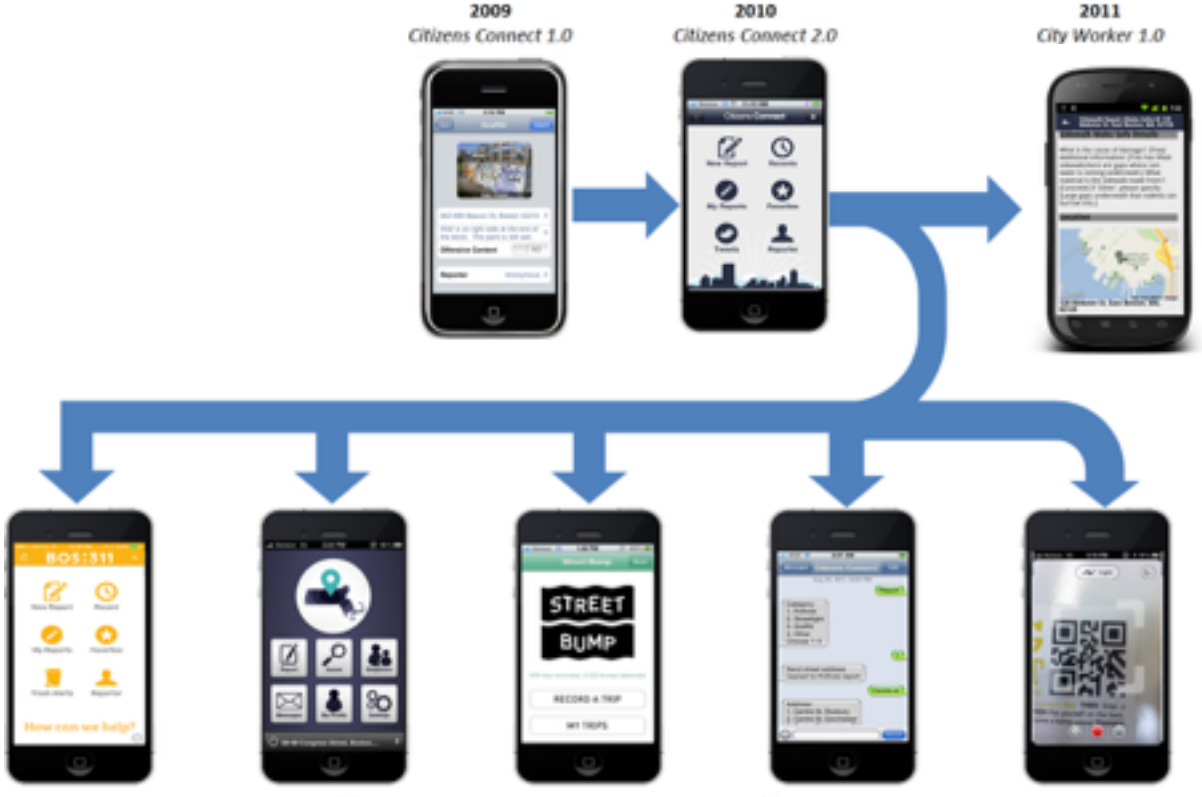
NEWS RESTAURANTS A&E HEALTH PROPERTY EDUCATION TRAVEL STYLE

A Hubway Cyclist Was Struck by a Trash Truck in the South End

Lesson #2

Use experiments to build trust

CAN TECHNOLOGY BE USED TO BUILD TRUST?



BOS:311
2015

Commonwealth Connect
2013

Street Bump 1.0
2012

Citizens Connect Text
2012

New Tag on the Block
2011

CAN TECHNOLOGY BE USED TO BUILD TRUST?

"Help!"

"Done."

CAN TECHNOLOGY BE USED TO BUILD TRUST?

Things we are known for:

Revolutions.
Championships.
~~Good Driving.~~

Join the competition.
Boston.gov/SafestDriver

City of Boston
Mayor Martin J. Walsh

ARBELLA INSURANCE FOUNDATION

CAMBRIDGE MOBILE TELEMATICS

THE MAYOR'S OFFICE OF NEW URBAN MECHANICS

Vision Zero City of Boston

BOSTON'S
Safest Driver

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

THE MAYOR'S OFFICE OF NEW URBAN MECHANICS BOSTON

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AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES

Boston will begin testing self-driving cars by the end of this year

Lesson #3

Be Delightful

(Government doesn't have to be boring)

PULSE OF THE CITY

Boston's 'Heart' Stolen One Day After Exhibit's Installation

By Whitney Burbank, WBZ-TV

Mayor Menino unveiled the citywide installation on Friday.

"They stole my heart," exclaimed Menino. "You get a little ticked off that someone would do that."

SEAT-e to SOOFA

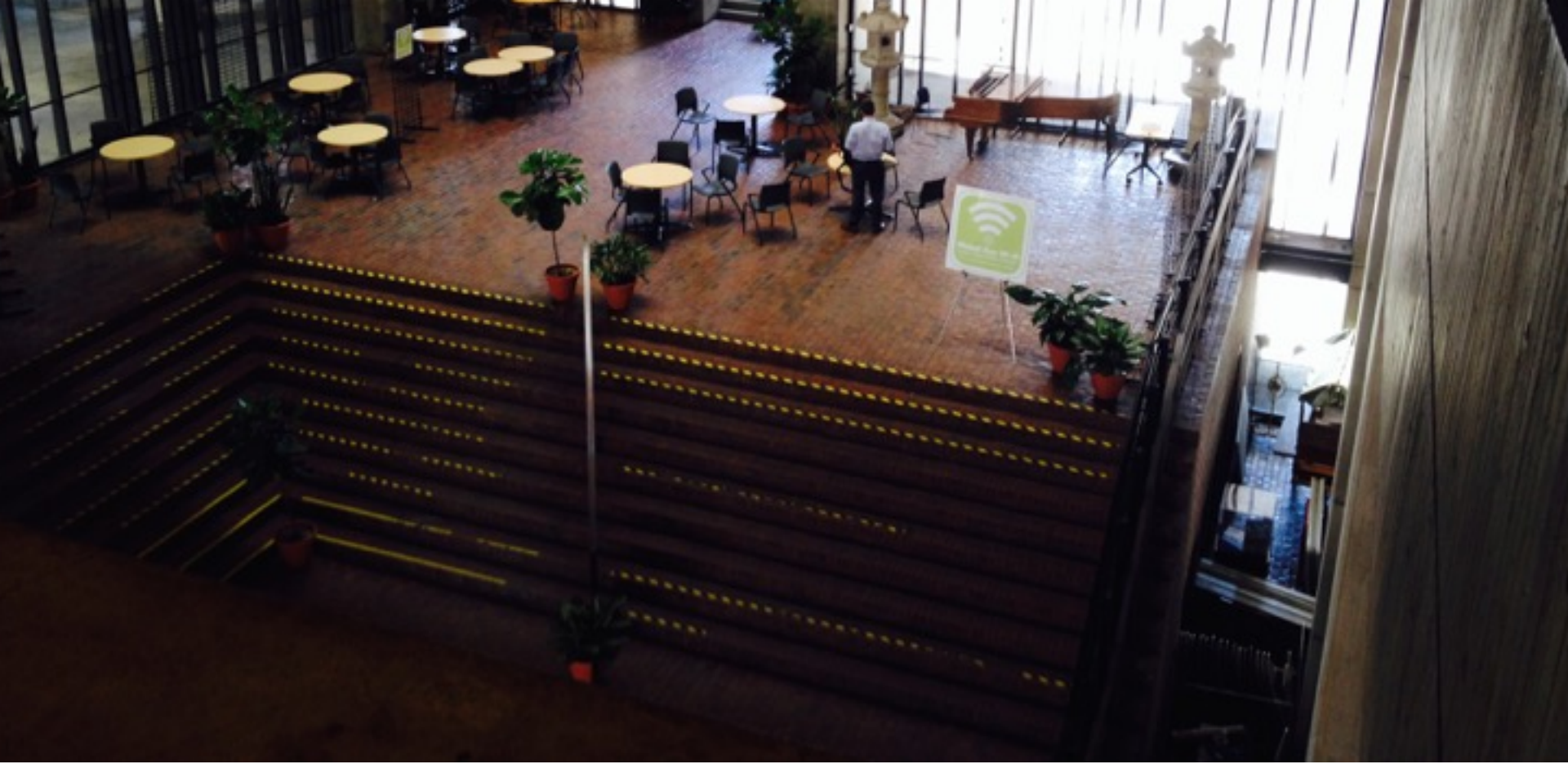
An Unintended Use Case

SEAT-e 2.0 becomes “SOOFA”

Again…an Unintended Use Case

SOOFA BENCH ANALYTICS

- Submitted ideas should aspire to have an inherent sense of wonderment and discovery built into them.



STAIRS OF FABULOUSNESS

Simple. Colorful. "Rainbow stairs will make City Hall 400% more fabulous."

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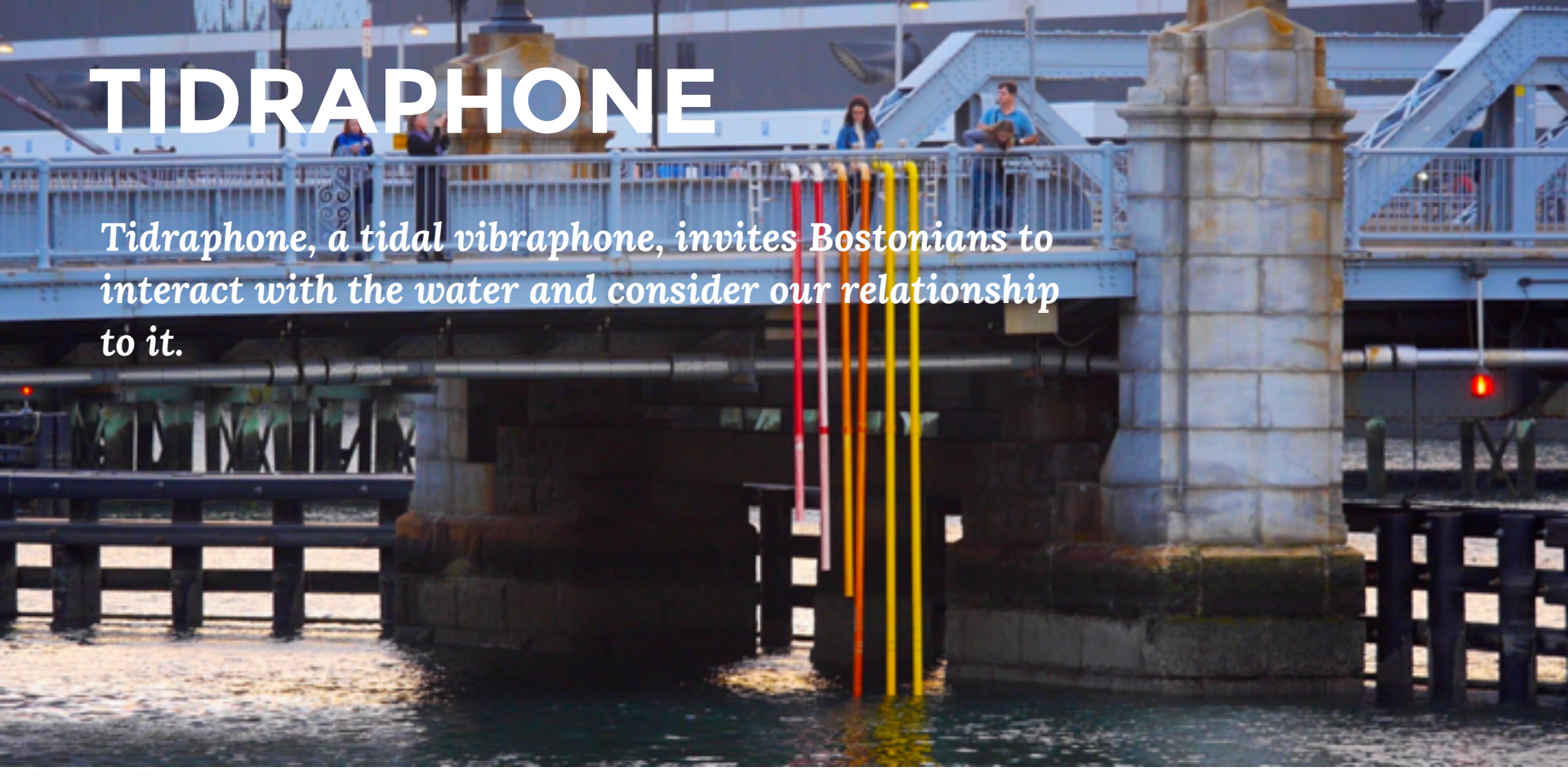
LIGHTWELL

The Light Well inspires many interpretations: an object of art, a seat, a planter, a light fixture, and a vegetated drywell for storm water filtration.

TIDRAPHONE



Tidraphone, a tidal vibraphone, invites Bostonians to interact with the water and consider our relationship to it.

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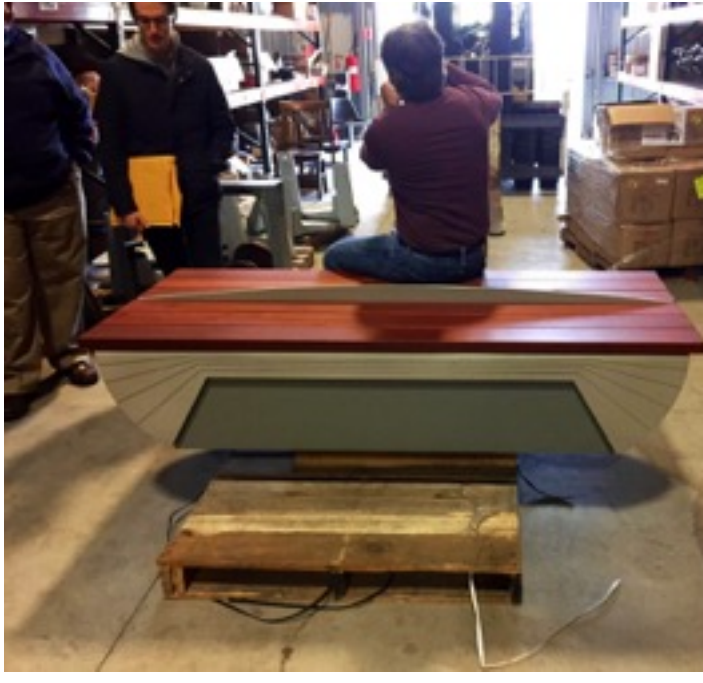
SEAT LIGHT CONTROL

The Optimus Prime of street furniture.
A street lighting control box made into a bench.



PUBLIC SPACE INVITATIONAL 2.0

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Thank you

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