

Kathleen Bitetti, visual artist, curator, and policy expert, www.kathleenbitetti.com

For over twenty five years, **Kathleen Bitetti** has been advocating and advising on local, state and national levels for artist's rights, first amendment and intellectual property protection, access to affordable health care & health care reform, arts funding, small business issues, the creative and cultural economies, and the development of free or low cost resources/ services for artists working in all genres, small arts related businesses, cultural nonprofits, and grassroots organizations. Bitetti has helped to craft state and national legislation and regulations, has organized, served on, and moderated panels on policy issues, and has given numerous lectures, talks and trainings on advocacy and public policy methods. She is the co-founder of HealthcareforArtists.org, ArtistsUndertheDome.org and the Massachusetts Artists Leaders Coalition (MALC).

She currently serves on the State's Creative Economy Council. Kathleen headed Boston Mayor Marty Walsh's 2013 arts & culture policy election team, crafted that mayoral campaign platform, and also served on his 2014 arts & culture transition team. She was also one of the main architects of the Massachusetts Artists Leaders Coalition's white paper for the 2014 Massachusetts Governor's race. She is the co-author of *Stand Up and Be Counted*, the first survey of Massachusetts' artists on their work lives, socioeconomic status, access to healthcare, and medical and non-medical debt. She was the executive director of the Artists Foundation from 1992 to 2009, the director of the Lillian Immig Gallery at Emmanuel College from 1999 to 2010 and the director of the Harbor Gallery at University of Massachusetts, Boston from 1989 to 1992. In January 2011, she joined Medicine Wheel Productions as Chief Curator.

Since the early 1990s, her art work has involved the creation of conceptually based sociopolitical objects, installations, performative actions, performative based public art projects, and community based projects. Research, unassuming and often undetectable autobiographical references, historical references, contemporary sociopolitical issues, and sewing are very important to Bitetti and help to comprise the foundation she builds on for all of her artworks. Her work deconstructs the American dream, fairy tales, nursery rhymes, and lullabies that are part of our childhood and adult culture. Her work also often addresses gender roles/ gender assignment, class/ caste systems, the fragility of family dynamics, domestic violence and the underlying threads of violence and danger that underpin American society.

Her work is in the permanent collections of the DeCordova Sculpture Park & Museum, the New Bedford Art Museum and Gozo Contemporary (Malta). She has had solo show at UMass Boston, Emmanuel College and her work been included most recently in group shows at Simmons College, Bunkerhill Community College, MassArt & Design, and the Distillery . Bitetti is currently an artist & instigator in residence at The Next Mile Project and she is an artist & curator in residence at Julie's Family Learning Program. Although her residency with Quincy Historical Society ended in 2013, she continues to work with them on various projects. In 2015 she became an artist in residence at two Boston based organizations: 1) [Julie's Family Learning Program](#) - where she is both an artist & curator in residence 2) [The Next Mile Project](#)- where she is an artist & instigator in residence. In January 2016, she will be having a solo exhibition, *"Remember the Ladies..."* at the Next Mile Project. This show will feature her existing art work and ongoing art project that focus on Abigail Adams.