



*SOS (Safety Orange Swimmers)*  
Fort Point Channel, Boston.  
October to December, 2016.

## SIZE AND MATERIALS

50 feet by 30 feet, dimensions variable.  
26 cast polyurethane foam figures, PVC conduit,  
anchoring system, and buoy paint.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

Selected by jury and commissioned by Boston's Fort Point Arts Community (FPAC) for the 12th annual Floating Public Art project, *SOS (Safety Orange Swimmers)* was installed in Boston Harbor in the fall of 2016. The installation instantly engaged the public with 22 bright orange figures floating in a dynamically changing group. Animated by wind and currents, the attention grabbing display caused passers-by to stop, look and consider. Each figure represented nearly one of the estimated 21.3 million refugees worldwide seeking safety and freedom in 2016. As of 2021 the number of refugees has increased to 26 million.

*SOS (Safety Orange Swimmers)* sparked conversation in national media, on local television and around the blogosphere. Members of the public posted hundreds of pictures online using #SOSswimmers, and the installation garnered countless mentions across social media. FPAC calls *SOS* its "most successful project to date in terms of audience engagement."

## ARTPRIZE® NINE FEATURED PUBLIC PROJECT

*SOS* was also selected to be a Featured Project by ArtPrize Nine in Grand Rapids, MI in 2017 where it was voted a Top 20 project in the Public Vote. ArtPrize is a 19-day international art competition which attracts over half a million visitors to Grand Rapids each year, making it the most attended public art event in the world.

## WATERFRONT TORONTO, LAKE ONTARIO, CANADA

Waterfront Toronto commissioned *SOS* as its first temporary public art installation. The *Swimmers* were installed in downtown Toronto in Lake Ontario off Harbour Square Park from August to October 2019 in an exploration of our interconnectedness through water.

## FORECAST PUBLIC ART REVIEW 58

In 2019, Forecast Public Art Review's editors featured *SOS* in a special anniversary issue showcasing 15 projects from across the world that "connect us to our shared humanity."

## AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS PAN YEAR IN REVIEW 2017 AWARD

*SOS (Safety Orange Swimmers)* was recognized by the Americans for the Arts 2017 Public Art Network (PAN) *Year in Review* program as an outstanding public art project. Chosen by jury from 325 entries, the 49 selected projects represent the most compelling work from across the country. PAN is the only national program that specifically recognizes significant achievements in public art.

## A+J ART+DESIGN

A+J Art+Design is a multidisciplinary collaboration between artists Ann Hirsch and Jeremy Angier. We share a commitment to site specificity, interactivity and community engagement. We make public art to provoke, entice and inspire. We offer capabilities in traditional object making as well as digital visualization and prototyping.

## INSTALLATION INFORMATION

A+J Art+Design is ready to install *SOS (Safety Orange Swimmers)* in urban waterways for durations of up to two months. *SOS (Safety Orange Swimmers)* can be anchored in place or attached to a rigid support. Installation plans are engineer-certified and materials meet or exceed Federal specifications.

# SOS (SAFETY ORANGE SWIMMERS)

