

Client: Neighborhood of Affordable Housing, East Boston

Designers: Susan Balleza  
Christian Schaller

Design Completion: Spring 2005

Installation: Summer 2007

The Neighborhood of Affordable Housing (NOAH), a non-profit community development corporation, works to improve the lives of East Boston residents. Their newly constructed office building is fronted by a semi-industrial streetscape across from a vacant harbor-front block which provides a panoramic view of Boston Harbor. NOAH requested that COGdesign provide a landscape design to improve the immediate streetscape and the paved path adjacent to their building. The building's co-owner/occupant is Project Bread, sponsor of the annual Walk for Hunger.

Designers Susan Balleza and Christian Schaller were constrained by the narrow space and paved surface as well as the shaded site. The client requested a flexible design and that the existing poor quality soil be left undisturbed. In response, the COG designers developed a plan using containers of varied sizes to create smaller, defined spaces. Full of plants with a variety of foliage and textures, the containers perform double duty as seating. The designers also made recommendations for appropriate trees for sidewalk planting.

