

## PUBLIC ART

### Make more of the city a canvas for artists

WHAT A joy to see working artist Christos Hamawi, front and center in last Thursday's Globe, shown decorating an electrical box downtown ("Painting outside the box," Page A1). At last!

I've been happily noticing these transformations around town, and wondering — with all the creative talent in the area — what's taken Boston so long.

Next stop? Please, whoever makes this happen, apply the same spirit to the concrete pillars in Back Bay Station. Engage young artists. Have a contest. Color and surprise can bring a smile to commuters and visitors alike. Boston's an exciting city. Let's brighten it up. As Back Bay Station looks now, I'm inclined to feel I've arrived in the old East Berlin.

WENDIE SAKAKEENY  
*Roslindale*

### Engage taggers, don't paint over their work

RE "PAINTING outside the box:



BILL GREENE/GLOBE STAFF

### Christos Hamawi painted an electrical box recently on Dartmouth Street as part of a Boston Arts Commission project.

Boston commissions street art to adorn appearance, ward off graffiti" (Page A1, Oct. 15): The interesting thing is how Boston chose to resolve this problem, in comparison to Philadelphia's approach. While Boston had artists come in and paint the taggers' work, Philly chose to educate their graffiti artists through engaging them and their communities in the Mural Arts Program. Their effort recognized the artistic merits of the taggers, and with the leadership of Jane Golden, it fostered community

pride and responsibility in the neighborhoods. Eventually, the taggers became the program leaders.

In the early days of urban renewal in Boston, Dana Chandler of Roxbury began a similar effort. Remnants of his work still exist in the South End and Roxbury. Too bad we don't have outside-the-box thinking in our present city leadership to provide Bostonians with the same teachable moment.

ALICE ANDRUS  
*South End*