Introduction
The purpose of this project is to locate potential sites for cultural districts in Boston. “Cultural District” is a designation acquired by a city or town from the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC). The MCC has several core requirements that a proposed area must meet in order to be eligible for a cultural district designation. MCC defines these areas in the following way: “a cultural district is a specific geographical area in a city or town that has a concentration of cultural facilities, activities, and assets. It is a walkable, compact area that is easily identifiable to visitors and residents and serves as a center of cultural, artistic, and economic activity... each community is unique and no two cultural districts will be alike”[1]. Some of the main reasons cities and towns seek out a cultural district designation are to:

- Attract artists and cultural enterprises
- Encourage business and job development
- Establish the district as a tourist destination
- Preserve and reuse historic buildings
- Enhance property values
- Foster local cultural development

Cultural districts can serve a variety of purposes that can be very different depending on where the leadership comes from. There are three approaches to creating and managing a cultural district: top down or government run, bottom up or community run, or networked, which is a combination of the two. While each has its own advantages and disadvantages, the networked approach aims to incorporate as many key stakeholders as possible in the process. This diverse array of perspectives serves to balance the district and ensure it is both functional and inclusive.

Limitations
As with any data based project, there are limitations to the available data. In this analysis, finding a way to identify a concentration of cultural facilities and assets was most challenging. To get at this information, I used a data set listing every single business in Boston, which was three years old, presenting another limitation. From this, I selected out arts related businesses, entertainment related businesses, social/interactive businesses, intellectual businesses and historic or heritage businesses. Unfortunately, this only captures the business aspect of cultural facilities. Additionally it may not include all businesses or not account for new businesses.

Results & Recommendations
As expected, downtown Boston is perfect for a cultural district, this is the historic and business hub of the city. Boston has already designated two cultural districts in this area, the Boston Literary Cultural District and the Fenway Cultural District.

There are over a dozen sites to investigate, each demonstrating a concentration of arts, entertainment, social and open spaces, historic architecture and facilities. Additionally, many of these cultural hotspots are in close proximity to public transit, ticking another box of the suitability criteria. Further research into these neighborhoods is needed, but this suitability analysis provides a clear plan to work from.

Environmental Justice Neighborhoods
Environmental Justice Neighborhoods are communities in which at least 25% of the population has limited English proficiency, at least 25% of the population is minority, and the median household income in the community is less than 65% of the statewide median [2].

These communities have historically been marginalized, a cultural district designation could aid residents and the neighborhood through business growth and job development, bring attention to local artists and culture, and possibly provide a jumping off point for reviving or preserving historic buildings in the area. There are three neighborhoods that stand out-Egleston Square in Jamaica Plain, Dudley Square in Roxbury, and Fields Corner in Dorchester. They meet many of the criteria for cultural district suitability and are environmental justice communities. The map below shows the environmental justice communities in Boston.