Friday, 3 April

6:00pm - Painting Exhibition Opening - "Feels like home" by Thomas Cartwright
Nave Gallery
155 Powder House Blvd, Somerville
Thomas Cartwright works with Refugees in Towns researchers and writers to create paintings that represent their ideas of home. This series provides important reflections on the effects of forced migration on individuals and collectives. Thomas will be present for the opening to talk about his creative process and the power and importance of visual art in advocacy for social change.

6:30-7:30pm - Dinner (open to the public)
Nave Gallery
155 Powder House Blvd, Somerville

7:45-9:30pm - Suitcase Stories
Alumnae Lounge
Aidekman Arts Center, 40 Talbot Ave, Medford
Suitcase Stories® is a traveling live performance series that features foreign and U.S.-born residents sharing refugee and immigrant stories. The Suitcase Stories® series provides a way for a community to dig beneath the headlines, exposes audiences to the complexity of immigration issues, and directly impacts life-changing refugee services.

9.30pm - “Meet-the-artist” cocktail reception
Alumnae Lounge

Saturday, 4 April

11-12:30pm - Embroidering Integration
Sophia Gordon Multipurpose Room
Sophia Gordon Building, 15 Talbot Ave, Medford
Relying on the practical examples of projects conducted among Honduran refugees in Monterey, Mexico, and among refugees from Iraq, Syria, and Palestine who live in Amman, Jordan, this workshop will address use of crafts (embroidery and stitching) in advocacy for integration. Cordelia Rizzo and Ally Hawkins, RIT researchers and writers, will discuss and demonstrate how crafts serve as a medium for trauma recovery and a tool for integration.
11:30-1:00pm - Policymaking Through Theater
Distler Performance Hall
Granoff Music Center, 20 Talbot Ave, Medford
Vahdat Yeganeh and artists from the Boston Experimental Theatre will share their latest project The Last Dream, a play by children of Temporary Protected Status beneficiaries (TPS) whose parents are at risk of deportation. This workshop will offer the audience an opportunity to learn about the creation of policy oriented theater and about the use of art in advocacy for policy change.

12:30-2pm - Lunch
Sophia Gordon Multipurpose Room

2-3:30pm - Making and Using Narratives
Sophia Gordon Multipurpose Room
Sophia Gordon Building, 15 Talbot Ave, Medford
David Valdes is a published author and playwright whose recent play, Downtown Crossing, speaks directly about refugee and immigrant experience. His work delves deeply into the meaning and importance of narratives in integration. This workshop will allow the audience to walk out with a draft of their own personal story and a fresh perspective on the social and political use of narratives.

2:30-4pm - Communitybuilding through dance and music
Fisher Performance Hall
Granoff Music Center, 20 Talbot Ave, Medford
Tim Thou, Phousita Huy, and artists from the Angkor Dance Troupe, Cambodian community art organization based in Lowell, MA, will discuss the use of traditional dance and music for community building and outreach. They will share examples of collaborative initiatives of restorative justice through music.

3:30-4:30pm - Coffee break for all participants
Sophia Gordon Multipurpose Room
Sophia Gordon Building, 15 Talbot Ave, Medford

4:30-6pm - Photo storytelling for social and legal integration
Sophia Gordon Multipurpose Room
Sophia Gordon Building, 15 Talbot Ave, Medford
Leora Kahn, media artist and activist, Executive director of PROOF: Media for Social Justice and Boston-based photographer Blake Fitch will discuss the use of visual storytelling as a tool for integration among internally displaced groups and refugees. By sharing examples of their work in Colombia and at the US border, they will guide the audience to create their own mini magazine, experiencing directly the power of visual media expression.

6-7pm - Dinner for all participants
Sophia Gordon Multipurpose Room

7-9:30pm - Open-mic
Sophia Gordon Multipurpose Room
Evening art gathering and reception - open to all. Please join us and share any and all your art and talent!