

Honoring the Bold Spirit of Chinatown

The upcoming season of Public Art in Chinatown on The Greenway

February 10, 2022 – Boston, MA – The [Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy](#) and [Pao Arts Center](#) today announced the commission and upcoming 2022 installation of new public artwork, [YEAR OF THE TIGER](#), by New York City Chinatown-based artist [Cheryl Wing-Zi Wong](#). Throughout the summer, this artwork will be activated through the associated *Year of the Tiger Performance Series* as part of a new public art collaboration between the two organizations. Additionally, the Conservancy is excited to announce the return of Boston-based artist [Yu-Wen Wu](#)'s beloved [Lantern Stories](#) to Auntie Kay & Uncle Frank Chin Park on The Greenway this season.

YEAR OF THE TIGER

In partnership with Pao Arts Center, Cheryl Wing-Zi Wong has been commissioned to create an artwork celebrating the Year of the Tiger, as part of an annual series honoring the Chinese Zodiac on The Greenway. Throughout her practice, artist and architect Cheryl Wing-Zi Wong creates transformative spaces and explores how we can share space together. Her upcoming artwork, *YEAR OF THE TIGER*, is a community pavilion and a site-specific public artwork that creates a new, intergenerational hub to gather outdoors, perform, or engage in public programs.

“Boston’s Chinatown, like so many other North American Chinatowns, is a vibrant community, founded within a bitter history of exclusion. I’m incredibly excited to have the honor of creating a new public artwork for Mary Soo Hoo Park, in the heart of Boston’s Chinatown,” said artist Cheryl Wing-Zi Wong. “My hope is that *YEAR OF THE TIGER*, embodying the spirit of the tiger, this year’s Chinese zodiac animal, can activate the park as a vibrant community gathering hub. I can’t wait for all of the amazing programs, performances, and meals that will be shared here!”

YEAR OF THE TIGER PERFORMANCE SERIES

Conceptually building on the bold, confident, and generous characteristics of the Tiger, different line-ups of Boston-based artists will activate the pavilion through a monthly series of music, theater, and spoken word performances. The *Year of the Tiger Performance Series* honors the strength of the community of performing artists in Boston while also cherishing the visions of the Chinatown community.

“We are thrilled to partner with the Greenway Conservancy to bring innovative new public art to Chinatown. In presenting these performances and stories outdoors, we hope to bring opportunities for visitors both from within and outside of the neighborhood to connect and share with each other,” shared Cynthia Woo, Director at Pao Arts Center. “Interactions and connections

are so vital to everyone’s health and well-being and the *YEAR OF THE TIGER* stage will help foster these interactions.”

This performance series developed as part of a collaboration between Pao Arts Center and the Greenway Conservancy to build on the [New Narratives](#) curatorial series by [Leslie Condon](#), an interdisciplinary artist and curator from Greater Boston.

“Over the past two years, it has been awe-inspiring to witness how our Asian, Asian American, and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities continue to endure and thrive amid innumerable challenges. At this moment, it is even more crucial that we disrupt outdated notions of our individual and collective identities through more generative modes of expression,” said Leslie Condon. “I am thrilled to bring *New Narratives* to The Greenway at Mary Soo Hoo Park and cannot wait to highlight the many talented Boston-area AAPI artists, creatives, and performers who are examining their own complex identities through their artwork.”

LANTERN STORIES

Additionally, the Conservancy is excited to announce the re-installation of [Lantern Stories](#) by Boston-based interdisciplinary artist [Yu-Wen Wu](#). First commissioned by the Greenway Conservancy in 2020, *Lantern Stories* was immediately beloved by the Chinatown community yet also faced restrictions posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Returning in 2022, the artist and Conservancy envision an installation which can provide a luminous canopy to the many festivals and celebrations that typically occur on Auntie Kay & Uncle Frank Chin Park on The Greenway each season.

“In this new iteration, I’m excited to expand the focus of *Lantern Stories*’ beyond Boston’s Chinatown and explore the impact of Asian American communities on civil rights more broadly,” shared artist Yu-Wen Wu. “I am also preparing a West coast iteration of the project to open in San Francisco’s Chinatown this summer, so I’m especially excited by this opportunity for bicoastal dialogue on social justice and the exchange of these communities’ stories.”

Lantern Stories’ canopy of lanterns illuminate the history of immigration and the ongoing fight for social and racial justice in the United States while celebrating Chinatown’s cultures and resiliency. “The idea for this work evolved during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and as events were unfolding across the country that further fueled the Black Lives Matter movement,” stated artist Yu-Wen Wu. “It is my hope that *Lantern Stories* will offer opportunities for civic dialogue, social action, and simply the pleasure of experiencing the beauty of lanterns lit from within during these challenging times.” Wu’s first installation came together after a year and half of community listening sessions, design, and fabrication. In 2022, Wu plans to update the installation to reflect our current moment.

“These projects will provide space for gathering and celebration for the vibrant, intergenerational communities of Chinatown,” said Sheila Novak, Associate Curator of Public Art for the Greenway Conservancy. “We are looking forward to supporting projects which directly engage the Chinatown community’s vision for engaging public art as a central strategy for creative placekeeping and for centering community power.”

About Public Art in Chinatown

Every ten years since 1990, Chinatown community members have come together to develop and publish a grassroots master plan that outlines the community’s “vision and priorities for community development.” In the [2020 Master Plan](#), as in prior years, public art was identified as a key strategy for specific needs such as creating safer streets, supporting historic preservation and celebrating the culture of the neighborhood. The Greenway Conservancy’s Public Art Program seeks to work towards and honor these goals of the Chinatown community, and has supported the creation of new public art in the neighborhood since 2015.

Upcoming Events & Programming

- March 3, 2022 from 6p-7p; [Virtual Studio Visit with Cheryl Wing-Zi Wong](#)
- May 14, 2022; Inaugural *Year of the Tiger Performance Series* event at the *YEAR OF THE TIGER* pavillion, details to follow

A Special Thank You to Our Supporters

Public Art in Chinatown on The Greenway is funded exclusively through grants and private sources, including generous support from The Barr Foundation, TD Charitable Foundation, the Paul & Edith Babson Foundation, Rebecca A. Lee, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and the Boston Cultural Council/Reopen Creative Boston Fund administered by the Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture. Photo requests may be forwarded to rlake@rosekennedygreenway.org.

About Cheryl Wing-Zi Wong (www.cw-zw.com/projects)

Cheryl Wing-Zi Wong is a New York-based artist working at the boundary of art and architecture. Born and raised in Los Angeles, Cheryl received her B.A. in Art and Italian at UC Berkeley and her Master of Architecture from Columbia University GSAPP. Her work has been commissioned by the NY State Thruway Authority, NYC Parks Department, City of Inglewood, City of Calgary and by the Washington DC Government. To learn more about Cheryl and her practice, check out her [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#), in addition to her [website](#).

About Yu-Wen Wu (www.yuwenwu.com/)

Yu-Wen Wu is an interdisciplinary artist living and working in Boston. Born in Taipei, Taiwan, Wu’s subjectivity as an immigrant is central to her artwork. Arriving at an early age, her experiences



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have shaped her work in areas of migration--examining issues of displacement, arrival, assimilation and the shape of identity in a new country. At the crossroads of art, science, politics and social issues, her wide range of projects include large-scale drawings, site-specific video installations, community engaged practices and public art. To learn more about Yu-Wen and her practice, check out her [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#), in addition to her [website](#).

About the Pao Art Center (paoartscenter.org)

Pao Arts Center was established in 2017 as a visionary program collaboration between [Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center \(BCNC\)](#) and [Bunker Hill Community College \(BHCC\)](#). Located at 99 Albany Street in downtown Boston, Pao Arts Center is Chinatown's first arts and cultural center. Pao Arts Center represents the belief that investing in arts, culture, and creativity are vital to the health and well-being of individuals, families, and vibrant communities. Through its innovative approach, Pao Arts Center empowers creativity, connection, learning, and support.

About The Greenway and the Greenway Conservancy (rosekennedygreenway.org)

The Greenway is a contemporary public park in the heart of Boston. The Greenway welcomes millions of visitors annually to gather, play, unwind, and explore. The Greenway Conservancy is the non-profit responsible for the management and care of The Greenway. The majority of the public park's annual budget is generously provided by private sources.

The Greenway Conservancy Public Art Program brings innovative and contemporary art to Boston through free, seasonal exhibitions that engage people in meaningful experiences, interactions, and dialogue with art, each other, and the most pressing issues of our time. Past Greenway exhibitions can be viewed on [the Conservancy's website](#).

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