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Greenway To Exhibit New Commissions from Two Locals Artists

Site-specific sound artwork from Halsey Burgund and mural from Kawandee Virdee

July 21, 2016 – BOSTON, MA – The Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy (rosekennedygreenway.org) today announced the installation this month of two new artworks from local artists. Halsey Burgund's *From the Mouths of Monkeys* will be The Greenway's first site-specific sound artwork and will be found on The Greenway between High and Oliver Street from late July through October. A new mural by Kawandee Virdee has now been installed at Lincoln Street Triangle.

Burgund, a musician and sound artist living outside Boston, created the artwork inspired by the Chinese Zodiac's Year of the Monkey. To produce the final 8-channel audio installation, he fused spoken voice recordings from a dozen Boston-based individuals born in a Year of the Monkey (1932, 1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004, and 2016) with musical elements, alongside traditional and electronic instruments. Burgund recorded conversations with the 12 local participants, covering topics ranging from fate vs. self-determination, to linearity vs. cycles, to life after death and more. He sees his work as "a combination of socio-anthropological 'research', musical documentary and contributory experience."

Virdee's mural, titled *Pink Lines as Concentric Arches on Yellow (Boston Bloom)*, draws on the concept of using simple lines to create patterns that echo both geometric repetition and craft. The new mural graces a wall approximately 145' by 4' at Lincoln Street Triangle, a small park in the Leather District which was added by MassDOT to the Greenway Conservancy's care in July 2015 and recently replanted with an innovative garden design. This will be his largest mural to date.

"We're delighted to again commission local artists to create new art on The Greenway," said Conservancy Executive Director Jesse Brackenbury. "We're grateful to the philanthropists and foundations that help us bring outstanding art to the public."

Burgund is currently a fellow in MIT's Open Documentary Lab as well as a Research Affiliate at the MIT Media Lab, and has exhibited and performed in museums and galleries internationally, including the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, the deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, Tyne & Wear Archive and Museums, Newcastle, UK, the Museum of Science, Boston and the California Academy of Sciences. He was awarded a Smithsonian Artist Research Fellowship and conceived and developed the open-source Roundware audio platform which enables the creation of contributory, location-based audio experiences.

Virdee is an interactive installation artist and co-founder of New American Public Art. He sits on the board of Boston Cyberarts. Virdee has organized participatory artworks ranging from collaborative digital projections to large scale installations.

Burgund's new sound artwork aligns with several other current Greenway public art exhibits. It is the third Greenway Chinese-zodiac-themed artwork, along with Ai Weiwei's *Circle of*



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Animals/Zodiac Heads at the Rings Fountain and Don Kennel's 11-foot tall *Monkey See* sculpture in Chinatown Park. As a language-based work, it joins Lawrence Weiner's mural *A TRANSLATION FROM ONE LANGUAGE TO ANOTHER* on the Greenway Wall at Dewey Square and Matthew Hoffman's *May This Never End* near Faneuil Hall.

"In bringing these works to The Greenway, we are once again showcasing the breadth of what public art can do for a city and its residents," said Cowan. "Virdee's playful mural vividly animates a new corner of the park, while Burgund's piece will allow visitors to investigate how words, sounds and music give way to meaning and experience the work in their own imagination."

These new artworks are the 7th and 8th currently on exhibition on The Greenway. In addition to the works by Ai Weiwei, Don Kennel, Lawrence Weiner, and Matthew Hoffman, The Greenway is also exhibiting works by local artists Gianna Stewart (*Midden*, located between Essex and Summer streets), and Carolina Aragon (*High Tide* located at North Street).

About The Greenway

The Rose Kennedy Greenway is a mile-and-a-half of contemporary parks in the heart of Boston. The Greenway is a rooftop garden atop a highway tunnel that connects people and the city with beauty and fun. The non-profit Conservancy maintains, programs, and improves The Greenway on behalf of the public and in partnership with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Greenway welcomed 1.19 million visitors in 2015 for The Greenway Carousel, events, Wi-Fi, and Mobile Eats food trucks, plus millions more visitors who enjoyed the fountains, plazas, and gardens. The Conservancy has won numerous awards, including distinctions for our organic landscape care and park programming.

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