

## Greenway Conservancy Announces 5th Annual Chinese Zodiac Public Art Installation for Year of the Pig

*Elliott Kayser's installation brings good luck and a unifying message to The Greenway*

**January 30, 2019 – Boston, MA** – The [Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy](#) today announced the completed installation of a new public art commission, *Year of the Pig* from artist Elliott Kayser, continuing the annual curation of sculptural installations celebrating the twelve years of the Chinese Zodiac.



Traditionally on the zodiac, the pig brings with it good luck, intelligence, and prosperity. To celebrate the occasion, sculptor Elliott Kayser's *Year of the Pig* installation consists of 8 pig sculptures located along the length of The Greenway, leading visitors on a simple treasure hunt towards the gem that is Boston's Chinatown. The bright red pigs at the Essex Street Gate on the Greenway are positioned to greet visitors upon their arrival to Chinatown. The installation will run from February 2019 through January 2020.

"*Year of the Pig* will be a unique twist on our annual Chinese Zodiac installation as multiple sculptures will be located along The Greenway," said Conservancy Executive Director Jesse Brackenbury. "We're excited to celebrate the history, connections, and values that each installation brings to both the residents of Chinatown and the many visitors throughout The Greenway."

With the aim of celebrating both past and present, each year a new artwork has been installed in front of the Essex Street Gate. The installation's goal is to celebrate the culture, history, and traditions of the Chinese New Year and the Chinatown community through the ideas and expressions of contemporary artists. Past zodiac curations have included Risa Puno's community storytelling abacus, *Year of the Dog* (2018), Chis Templeman's 3D rooster printer *Make and Take* (2017), Don Kennell's 12-foot *Monkey See* (2016), and Kyu Seok Oh's paper-mache *Wandering Sheep* (2015).

Through his art, sculptor Elliott Kayser aims to reconnect people to our shared agricultural heritage, believing that connection and good stewardship leads to sustained environmental, economic, and community health.

“I like to imagine visitors discovering one pig, then another, curiosity prompting them to explore the park and into Chinatown,” said artist Elliott Kayser, “This neighborhood is a place full of treasures, with unique flavors and surprises behind every corner.”

There are an estimated 48 native Chinese pig breeds still in existence today. To celebrate that diverse heritage, six of the eight sculptures hidden along The Greenway will be painted and glazed with unique patterning of specific breeds. From central China, three varieties of commonly called “two-end-black” pigs; from the TaiHu valley comes the Ba Xuyen, a pink pig with black hair; and two black-brown breeds that hail from Wuzhishan and Tibet. The two pigs at the entrance to Chinatown will be glazed red as a stylized interpretation of this traditional zodiac symbol.



This installation is funded exclusively through competitive grants and private sources, including The Barr Foundation, The Boston Foundation, New England Foundation of the Arts, and Oxford Properties. Photo requests may be forwarded to [rlake@rosekennedygreenway.org](mailto:rlake@rosekennedygreenway.org).

**About The Greenway and the Greenway Conservancy ([www.rosekennedygreenway.org](http://www.rosekennedygreenway.org))**

The Greenway is the 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.

**About Elliott Kayser (<http://www.kayserceramics.com>)**

Elliott Kayser is a sculptor and current resident artist at the Mesa Arts Center. He received his Bachelor’s degree from Alfred University in 2007, and his MFA in Ceramics from ASU in 2017. While between degrees, Elliott moved to Ann Arbor, MI where he worked at a ceramic tile company and volunteered on small family farms. His art over the past decade has been about the values learned in the fields, taking care of both the animals and the people within the agricultural community. Elliott's current shows include a solo exhibition at Mesa Contemporary Art Museum and a two person show with Paul Briggs at Eutectic Gallery.

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