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Greenway Conservancy names Audrey Lopez as next Director and Curator of Public Art

Lopez brings her extensive experience in curation and community partnerships.

July 6, 2021 – Boston, MA – The [Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy](https://www.rosekennedygreenway.org/) today announced the selection of Dr. Audrey Lopez as their next Director and Curator of Public Art.

“Audrey’s years of experience at the intersection of public art and inclusive creative placemaking will serve as an invaluable resource as the Conservancy looks to our next chapter of inspiring and relevant art on The Greenway,” said Chris Cook, Executive Director of the Greenway Conservancy.

Lopez joins the Conservancy following her work as the Public Art and Engagement Curator at the [Santa Barbara County Office of Arts & Culture](https://www.santabarbaracountyartsandculture.org/) and, previously, as the Curator of Community Engagement at the [Museum of Contemporary Art](https://www.museumofcontemporaryart.org/) in Santa Barbara. Lopez has built a strong track record of curating, producing, and managing award-winning public art projects by both nationally recognized and emerging local artists in outdoor venues across museums and public agencies that engage and resonate with diverse communities.

“I am thrilled to join the Conservancy as Director and Curator of Public Art,” said Lopez. “I look forward to working with the Conservancy’s staff, Board, and larger creative communities in establishing the next chapter of The Greenway’s transformational Public Art Program and thriving public spaces that sustain, nourish, and expand the landscapes, imaginations, and communities of Boston and beyond.”

Lopez will begin in September 2021, succeeding Lucas Cowan, who recently left the Conservancy following his seven-year leadership of the nonprofit’s Public Art Program. In his tenure as Director and Curator, Cowan oversaw the commission and installation of 39 temporary public artworks, paving the way for The Greenway to become a premier destination to see contemporary art in downtown Boston. These works spanned new commissions from 17 local and regional artists, 17 national artists, and three international artists, in addition to two loaned pieces from international artists.

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“It has been an amazing experience to provide public art and artists such an exciting platform on The Greenway,” said Lucas Cowan. “I am thoroughly impressed with Audrey’s past vision and leadership and eagerly await her creative impressions on The Greenway.”

The Greenway’s public art vision is to bring innovative and contemporary art to Boston through free, temporary exhibitions, engaging people in meaningful experiences, interactions, and dialogue with art and each other. Through this work, the Conservancy gives artists unique opportunities to exhibit bold, new work that considers the possibilities of 21st century Boston.

“On behalf of the Board, I am very pleased to welcome Audrey to the Conservancy as our next Director and Curator of Public Art,” said Doug Husid, Greenway Conservancy Board Chair. “We are immensely grateful to Lucas for his development of the Conservancy’s award-winning Public Art Program and look forward to Audrey’s continued stewardship for years to come.”

Lopez will join the Conservancy at an important crossroads, as the country emerges from the pandemic and grapples with racial reckoning. As a multiracial Filipina American woman with a practice-based commitment to social and racial justice, Lopez has consistently and effectively advocated for equitable inclusion, access, and engagement with and for historically marginalized artists and communities, and will bring this important intersectional lens to the next generation of public art on The Greenway. “I am so looking forward to learning, working, and creating with Boston’s diverse communities and neighborhoods,” said Lopez.

“The Conservancy has redefined the role of public art in Greater Boston, incubating new ideas about the use of public space and transforming The Greenway into a vibrant, beloved regional asset where all visitors feel a sense of belonging,” said San San Wong, Director of Arts & Creativity at the Barr Foundation. “We are delighted to welcome Audrey to Boston and look forward to working with her to continue the Greenway Conservancy’s dynamic leadership in public art.”

Lopez holds an MA and PhD from the University of California, Santa Barbara, where her research focused on community-based participatory arts projects with multilingual youth and families. She earned her BA in Latin American Literature and Linguistics at the University of Maryland College Park.



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About The Greenway and the Greenway Conservancy (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.

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