

As We Rise project showcases collaboration along The Greenway

A new monumental projection artwork floats local dancers above downtown Boston

October 13, 2022 – Boston, MA – The Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy today announced As We Rise, a new dance projection project led by Australian artist Wendy Yu that will bring public art to the side of the iconic Federal Reserve Bank of Boston building at 600 Atlantic Ave, adjacent to Dewey Square on The Greenway. This large-scale video-based artwork will be projected on the building's northern exterior wall, and will be viewable from both The Greenway and along portions of Boston's waterfront every evening beginning October 25, 2022 through November 29, 2022.

Commissioned by the Greenway Conservancy in early 2022, artist Wendy Yu collaborated with The Flavor Continues and ILLUMINUS to create a site-specific video projection that features short bursts of freestyle-based street dance from 5 local dancers spanning multiple generations. The 15-minute video highlights the dancers' movements as they interpret music in the moment and engage community techniques in ways that reflect their individual styles. The artwork will appear on the Federal Reserve building and loop continuously from dusk to 10p each evening through November 29, 2022.

<u>Wendy Yu</u> is a Sydney-based interdisciplinary artist who works with dance and urban media art. She designs interactive works with computer systems to build large-scale immersive experiences in public spaces. Her practice elevates forms of movement and dance typically confined to the streets –such as breakdancing and everyday athletic feats– to contemporary abstract art landscapes. By catapulting dancers' movements to new heights, Yu creates unexpected moments of inspiration and embodied engagement in urban environments.

Of her work, Yu shares, "In my dance projection design works, I create engaging immersive environments that make the viewer feel in awe of what they are seeing. By elevating dance in this abstract, large-scale, and digitally-designed way, I create new opportunities for viewers to experience the incredible control and precision that dancers and athletes share in their practices."

"The As We Rise project highlights the critical importance of building opportunities for reciprocal, mutual creative exchange between international artists and Greater Boston's diverse artist communities. The artistic collaboration at the core of this project creates an innovative platform to share the intricate, complex, yet often overlooked practices and traditions of street dance in exciting new ways," says Audrey Lopez, the Greenway Conservancy's Director and Curator of Public Art. "In addition, the support of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston underlines how



cross-sector partnerships can work to collectively reimagine and activate the urban and sometimes isolating landscapes of downtown Boston."

Yu's <u>previous video installations</u> and work as an artist, choreographer, dancer, and computer programmer have been featured in major cities and institutions across the globe since 2019, including Atlanta, Brooklyn, Barcelona, Beijing, Berlin, Istanbul, Melbourne, Canberra, and Sydney, among others. Yu has also been commissioned by and worked in collaboration with well-known international brands, including Adidas Basketball and Ace Hotel Sydney.

To celebrate and launch *As We Rise*, we invite you to join us for a public opening reception on Tuesday, October 25th from 5:30p-7:30p, with a rain date of Wednesday, October 26th from 5:30p-7:30p. This event will be held on The Greenway at Atlantic Avenue and Pearl Street. Light refreshments and short remarks will be shared, along with music and dance from our partners at <u>A Trike Called Funk</u> and <u>The Flavor Continues</u>.

A Special Thank You to Our Supporters

Public art on The Greenway is funded exclusively through grants and private sources, including generous support from The Barr Foundation, the Boston Cultural Council, and Goulston & Storrs. *As We Rise* was also made possible through gifts from the Greater Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau, the South Station Tower, and Yotel. The Greenway Conservancy is thankful to partners at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston for their support of this public art display, in particular for hosting the projection infrastructure and artwork. In addition, the Conservancy is thankful to Pao Arts Center for providing a space for dancers and the filming of this artwork.





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

The Greenway is a contemporary public park in the heart of Boston that 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 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.

About the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston

The Boston Federal Reserve Bank, one of 12 regional reserve banks, serves the First Federal Reserve District, which includes all of New England except Fairfield County, Connecticut. Within the district, the Bank monitors local economic conditions to aid in the formulation of monetary policy, engages in outreach to promote economic growth and community revitalization, supervises banks and bank holding companies, and provides financial services to facilitate banking operations.

Learn more about the Boston Fed on the Bank's website.

About Wendy Yu

<u>Wendy Yu</u> is a Sydney-based interdisciplinary artist who works with dance and urban media art. She designs interactive works with computer systems to build large-scale immersive experiences in public spaces. <u>Her practice</u> vaults forms of movement and dance typically confined to the streets or practiced low to the ground, such as breakdancing and everyday athletic feats, to contemporary abstract art landscapes. Yu's work as an artist, choreographer, dancer, and computer programmer has been featured in major cities and institutions across the globe.

About The Flavor Continues

Started in 2019, <u>The Flavor Continues</u> (TFC) is Massachusetts' first community-led and community-focused non-profit organization serving the Street and Club dance communities by providing primary programs, events, education, media, and a community space and studio for Street and Club dancers. TFC advocates for equal rights and sustainable pathways in the artistic realm and promotes collaboration across disciplines, generations, and geographies of Greater Boston. To learn more and support TFC's mission, visit www.theflavorcontinues.org, subscribe to their monthly newsletter, and follow @theflavorcontinues on social media for upcoming offerings and updates.

About Illuminus



Since 2014, <u>ILLUMINUS</u> has been supporting local artists, designers and creatives to produce nighttime, site specific, experiential pieces in a variety of mediums including new media technologies, performance, light, and sound. <u>ILLUMINUS</u> puts Boston's creative community in direct conversation with the city with the goal of developing new works that ignite imagination, create moments of connection, and serve as a contemporary expression of Boston. Learn more at <u>www.illuminusboston.org</u>.

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