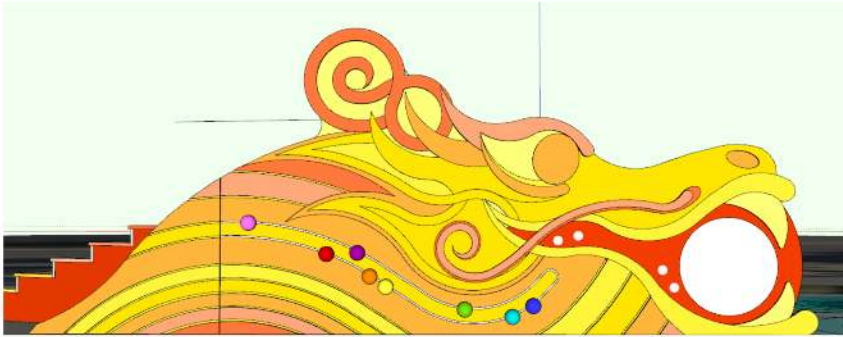


Ponnapa Prakkamakul to Share Joy with 2024 *Year of the Dragon* Artwork
The public art installation will be installed in Auntie Kay and Uncle Frank Chin Park



October 16, 2023 - Boston, MA - The [Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy](https://www.rosekennedygreenway.org/) is excited to announce its collaboration with artist Ponnapa Prakkamakul on a new public art installation, *Year of the Dragon*, which will debut in early 2024. The project draws inspiration from Chinese dragons, deities associated with water and weather, and seeks to connect and anchor members of the Chinatown community via joy and play.

“In Chinese mythology, dragons are associated with rain, wind, and bodies of water, either as creators or protectors of the landscape,” says Prakkamakul. “With the geological history of The Greenway, most of the area used to be part of the Boston Harbor. This history inspired me to visualize the entire 1.5 miles of the Greenway as a green dragon that protects and brings joy to the neighborhoods along the Boston waterfront.

“I believe that joy is a shared experience that can pass on from one person to another. This collective experience brings people together and strengthens our sense of community, especially in a community experiencing transformation from gentrification. The proposed installation aims to foster playful moments that spark joy and bring people together.”



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The project consists of two parts: *the dragon's "head"*, an interactive dragon made from plywood engraved with quotes from community members and featuring interactive play elements, and *the dragon's "body"*, a vinyl ground mural collaboratively created with A-VOYCE (Asian Voice of Organized Youth for Community Empowerment).

"We're delighted to support Ponnapa Prakkamakul's new project in Chin Park. *Year of the Dragon* was chosen by a Chinatown-based jury of artists, youth, and community members who were moved by Prakkamakul's vision to deepen community-centered joy and play here," says Audrey Lopez, The Greenway's Director and Curator of Public Art.

As part of the visioning process, Prakkamakul held a series of co-creation workshops with members of the public and various stakeholders in Chinatown. These workshops spanned a variety of age groups in order to encompass a broad range of perspectives and lived experiences. Input from these workshops has informed the final design of the project.

Prakkamakul is documenting her creative process on an Instagram account dedicated to the project, @yearofthedragon_greenway.

The piece will be installed in February - stay tuned on The Greenway's social media (@rosekennedygreenway on Instagram and @HelloGreenway on Twitter) to learn when the opening reception will be.

Thank You to Our Supporters

The Greenway Public Art Program is exclusively funded through grants and private sources, including the generous support of The Barr Foundation, Goulston & Storrs, and Meet Boston. Additional support for *Year of the Dragon* is provided by TD Charitable Foundation.

About Ponnapa Prakkamakul

Ponnapa Prakkamakul is a multidisciplinary artist and landscape architect based in Massachusetts. As a third-generation, ethnically Chinese person born in Thailand, she relocated to Hong Kong and then the United States in 2009. Inspired by her multinational background, Ponnapa's work explores the relationship between humans and their environment, focusing on cultural displacement and a sense of belonging. Using found materials foraged from landscapes and stories collected from local communities, Ponnapa aims to create place-specific artwork that genuinely represents their identity and cultivates a stronger sense of place. Recently, Prakkamakul was a 2022-2023 Now + There Public Art Accelerator Fellow, where she created an artwork for the Leather District in collaboration with Chinatown community members. Prakkamakul is a member of the Kingston Gallery and is a registered landscape architect at the interdisciplinary design firm, Sasaki.



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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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