

The Rose Kennedy Greenway Announces 2023/2024 Winter Lights Display: *Hatchlings*

This creative activation will prompt exploration and connection across Boston parks and provide an experiential destination during the coldest months of the year



Photos are available [here](#). Photo Credit: Aram Boghosian

November 17, 2023 - Boston, MA [The Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy](#) is excited to announce this year's winter lights display, *Hatchlings*, which will be installed throughout The Greenway and along the Charles River Esplanade in partnership with the [Esplanade Association](#), from November 2023 through February 2024. Created by interdisciplinary design team [Studio HHH](#), *Hatchlings* is a 100% solar-powered installation that playfully references one of Boston's most iconic landmarks while envisioning a brighter, more environmentally sustainable future.

Selected as the winning design via the Greenway's open call process in Spring 2023, *Hatchlings* was inspired by a whimsical question posed by Studio HHH: *What if the Hatch Shell on the Esplanade hatched a cluster of baby "shells" that wandered off down the Charles River Esplanade through The Greenway like adventurous ducklings?* In total, nine miniature Hatch Shells –the *Hatchlings*– will dot The Greenway and the Esplanade, each featuring vibrant arches in colorful animated lights.

"Studio HHH's design and concept is exciting because it creates a collaboration between these two iconic Boston parks," said Chris Cook, Executive Director of the Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy.

"We loved studying the intricate Art Deco architecture of the Hatch Shell pavilion," said Vanessa Till Hooper, founder and creative director at Studio HHH. "Through the process of working to echo its arches and angles, we discovered many layers of thoughtful design and mathematical elegance. It's a perfect structure, and we are delighted by the opportunity to draw new attention to this beautiful and historic Boston landmark."

Appearing in a range of colors and sizes from large (8.5-ft tall) to mini (2.5-ft tall), the *Hatchlings* will serve as sites for ongoing performances, photo backdrops, and activations, including winter caroling throughout

the holiday season. With two *Hatchlings* on the Esplanade and seven *Hatchlings* on The Greenway, as well as a self-guided walking tour between them, this project visually links two of downtown Boston's most-popular green connectors, while showcasing an innovative and sustainable approach to holiday lights.

"When Chris Cook and The Greenway team reached out about Studio HHH's idea, we were thrilled to partner," said Jen Mergel, James & Audrey Foster Executive Director of the Esplanade Association. "The project nods to the Esplanade's long history as a cultural convener (since the Boston Pops performed at the original music shell in the 1920s) and prompt for imagination (since Robert McCloskey's 1941 classic 'Make Way for Ducklings' about Mrs. Mallard leading her hatchlings from the Esplanade to the Public Garden). But it also marks the Esplanade's future as a site of sustainable innovation and inclusive cross-city connection, much like our friends at The Greenway."

For Studio HHH, powering *Hatchlings* with 100% solar energy was a priority from the start. "Maintaining consistent solar energy throughout the darkest months of the year was a design challenge we were excited to meet, something that our studio felt was critical to advancing the conversation about sustainability in Boston," said Teresita Cochran, solar specialist at Studio HHH. By doing so, Studio HHH's *Hatchlings* invites the public to think more critically about natural resources while pushing creative and technical limits. Through its joyful homage to one of Boston's architectural gems, Studio HHH's *Hatchlings* draws on the city's history of innovative design as a catalyst toward a sustainable future.

To celebrate the *Hatchlings*, The Rose Kennedy Greenway will host an opening event on November 19, from 5-7 pm at the intersection of Atlantic Avenue and Milk Street. Stop by to learn more about the *Hatchlings* while enjoying live music from Betty Ding and The East West Collective. Light refreshments and snacks will be served. Rain date on December 3.

The Rose Kennedy Greenway will host caroling at the *Hatchling* in the North End on December 14 at 5pm.

The Esplanade Association will host Frosty Fridays, an event series sited at the Esplanade *Hatchlings* on the first Friday of each month during the activation period: December 1, January 5, and February 2. Visitors can enjoy live performing arts, with free hot chocolate.

Visit rosekennedygreenway.org and esplanade.org/hatchlings to find the exact locations and to download a map. For more information on upcoming events in connection to *Hatchlings*, please check The Greenway's and the Esplanade Association's events calendars: rosekennedygreenway.org/calendar and esplanade.org. Follow the *Hatchlings*' winter fun on social media @rosekennedygreenway and @esplanadeinboston and share your own posts using the hashtags: #HatchlingsWinterLights // #HatchlingsOnTheGreenway // #HatchlingsOnTheEsplanade

[About The Greenway and the Greenway Conservancy](#)

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.

[About the Esplanade and the Esplanade Association](#)

The Charles River Esplanade is Boston's historic landmarked riverfront, and the Commonwealth's most-frequented state park, welcoming over 4 million visitors a year to over 6.5 miles of trails and activities along the 64-acres. The Esplanade Association is the non-profit that works in collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation to revitalize and enhance the park's amenities, sustain its natural green space, and build community through free educational, cultural, and recreational programs for all.

[About Studio HHH](#)

Studio HHH is an interdisciplinary design studio specializing in creative interventions within the built environment and public realm, led by founder/creative director Vanessa Till Hooper and art production manager Emily Castro. The studio team of all-women designers and artists, including sustainability specialist Teresita Cochran, develops meaningful and engaging experiences at the intersection of art, architecture, and technology. Studio HHH was founded in 2018 in Somerville, MA. They currently operate in Boston, The Berkshires in western MA, and Brooklyn, NY.

A Special Thank You to Our Supporters

The Greenway Winter Lights Program is exclusively funded through private sources. *Hatchlings* by Studio HHH (2023–2024) was made possible through the generous support of the Greenway Business Improvement District and Meet Boston. The presentation on the Esplanade is funded by individual supporters of the Esplanade Association's annual programs.