



To bring a little light to the darker days of winter, the Greenway Conservancy has installed a new public art display named *Winter Optics*.

The installation is scattered throughout the entirety of the Greenway and will be available to view until March. There are no admission fees.

The three local artists involved, Yolanda He Yang, Timothy Kadish and Ross Miller, in combination, have over 75 years of experience working in "custom, site-specific projects inspired by light."

As part of the production process, several public workshops were held at Boston Public library branches, where locals were able to collaborate with the artists in the creation of the materials used.

"If kids come down and visit the park, they'll actually see their input reflected literally and figuratively back to the park," said Chris Cook, Executive Director of the Greenway Conservancy.

"It's a way to connect it to the kids that are in the communities that surround the park. It's very exciting."

The art display is part of the 2022-2023 Greenway Winter Lights Installation, a project funded and supported by The Greenway Business Improvement District (The BID).

"The board members of the BID really focused on supporting the vision for a really vibrant downtown post-pandemic and making sure that we're focused on economic recovery downtown, realizing that we can be a little sleepy in the winter," said Cook.

In the same character as art installations typically placed on the Greenway, *Winter Optics* is specifically designed to work with the natural factors of the park, both in lighting and structural design.

"Working with existing light, we seek to recycle light into sparks of color and atmospheric shimmers via a refractive holographic medium. Thoughtful use of flexible low-voltage LED sources shaped by simple, safe and durable structures allow the eye to trace light patterns within vegetated areas and into the distance," the team commented.

"Essentially, we intend to illuminate The Greenway in a sustainable, playful, intimate and memorable way through curated moments of delicate wonder."

According to Cook, the optics were strategically placed throughout darker places on the Greenway and near permanent art installations.

"It's a very subtle light touch. It's in a few different spots where the Greenway was a little bit darker," Cook said. "It's a really nice compliment to the existing lighting infrastructure that's in the park including the carousel and the light blades and some of the permanent art we have is all lit up."

Cook noted the winter lights installation as an experimental project, wherein the Greenway Conservancy is looking to bring more creative solutions to the public.

"One of the things we pride ourselves on the Greenway is taking creative approaches to programming and to public art and so we just see this the start of hopefully a long-standing tradition," Cook said.

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