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Esplanade Association Commissions “*Frozen in Life*” – a 40-piece Botanical Ice Sculpture Gallery by Anna Thurber

Featuring dozens of ice sculptures in a free, open-air gallery on the Esplanade to celebrate the Spring Equinox from March 18 - March 20



March 14, 2022 -- Boston, MA -- The [Esplanade Association](#) announced today *Frozen in Life*, a three-day open-air sculpture gallery at Fiedler Field on the Charles River Esplanade. Visitors to this outdoor gallery will experience the breadth and beauty of the Esplanade’s plant species through 40+ sculptures created by Weston-based artist [Anna Thurber](#). Three seasons of Esplanade plants, all handpicked by the artist in 2021, are suspended in the ice, encouraging contemplation, conversation, and appreciation for the Esplanade’s plant biodiversity. *Frozen in Life* is free and open to the public and was created in partnership with the [Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation](#). *Frozen in Life* will be viewable daily 10am to 4pm, from March 18 - March 20, 2022.

[\[link to digital assets\]](#)

Frozen in Life is the sixth offering in the Esplanade Association’s public art program, which includes [four art murals currently on view](#) in locations throughout the 3.2-mile linear park, as well as *Hatched: Breaking through the Silence*, a four-week illumination and sound experience shown at the DCR Hatch Shell in 2021.

“We are delighted to present Anna Thurber’s poignant works that will for the first time bring together an entire year’s worth of peak blooms on the Esplanade while demonstrating the park’s beauty in enchanting ice sculptures,” offered Michael Nichols, Executive Director of the Esplanade Association. “We believe *Frozen in Life* will create lasting memories for visitors who join us on the Esplanade to take in the beauty of this one-of-a-kind exhibit before it’s gone.”

Frozen in Life is composed of more than 40 sculptures showcasing a selection of plants from the Esplanade, carefully placed in dynamic arrangements that instantly evoke the rhythm of the seasons. From Spring’s first buds, to the bright blooms of Summer, to Autumn’s colorful leaves, Thurber’s sculptures take viewers on a journey through dozens of the Esplanade’s plant species – each perfectly encapsulated in solid ice. The exhibit further showcases the fragility of plant life on the Esplanade at a time when climate change is impacting biodiversity in Boston and beyond.

“The lifecycle of flowers animates me and drives me to document the process as I capture the flowers, seed pods, full blooms, and spent petals”, says multidisciplinary artist Anna Thurber. “The temporary nature of the pieces I create is essential to the process. My time and energy are reduced to a pool of water and soggy stems, mirroring the rhythm of the seasons.”

Public art has become a core element of the Esplanade Association’s mission to support the ongoing health and vitality of the 64-acre Charles River Esplanade through capital restoration work, park improvement projects, horticultural care, public programming, concessions enhancements, volunteer engagement, and much more. In total, the Esplanade Association has raised more than \$19 million towards this mission, which is accomplished through a public-private partnership with DCR. In 2021, EA celebrated twenty years of successful stewardship and collaboration between the Esplanade Association and DCR.

Learn more, view accompanying content, and find deeper engagement with the exhibition at www.FrozeninLife.com, and at www.Esplanade.org/Frozen.

More information:

WHEN: March 18, 2022 - March 20, 2022

TIMES: 10am - 4pm

COST: The exhibit is free and open to the public.

WHERE: Fiedler Field, Boston, MA 02114 (best reached on foot from the Arthur Fiedler Footbridge)

HOW TO ENJOY: On foot, along the Esplanade. Fiedler Field cannot be accessed by car. There is no site parking or rideshare drop off on site. Nearest MBTA stops include Arlington (Green Line, 0.6m), Charles/MGH (Red Line, 0.6m), and Charles Street at Beacon Street (43 bus, 0.5m). For more information on how to access the Esplanade, visit <https://esplanade.org/the-esplanade/map-directions/>

***Frozen in Life* is Commissioned and Presented by:**

The [Esplanade Association](#) is a nonprofit organization that works to revitalize and enhance the Charles River Esplanade, sustain its natural green space, and build community in the park by providing educational, cultural, and recreational programs for everyone. Working in collaboration with the [Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation](#), the Esplanade Association is dedicated to improving the experiences of the millions of annual visitors who enjoy Boston's iconic riverside park.

About the Artist:

For over a decade, artist Anna Thurber has refined a nuanced process of creating unique ice compositions with botanicals and photographing the results. Her work lives between sculpture, performance, and photography.

Project Partner:

The [Department of Conservation and Recreation](#) (DCR) is the largest landowner in the state, managing close to 500,000 acres of property which is located throughout the majority of the 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts, including parks, forests, beaches, historic sites, reservoirs, watersheds, campgrounds, dams, and recreational facilities. DCR's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance these natural, cultural, and leisure resources for the well-being of all.

The Project Site:

Fiedler Field is an open green space on the Charles River Esplanade in Boston, Massachusetts. Named in memory of famed Boston Pops and Boston Symphony Orchestra conductor Arthur Fiedler, and adjacent to a sculpture memorializing his contributions, Fiedler Field is a prime destination for events and programs in the Back Bay neighborhood of Boston.

Credits

Commissioning Body: Esplanade Association

Project Site: Fiedler Field on the Charles River Esplanade, Boston

Artist: Anna Thurber

Project Partner: Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation

Strategy & Logistics Specialist: Ted Carr

Communications & Marketing Specialist: Kelly Courtney