



**Nurturing and supporting public art ecosystems  
- Providence, RI -**

## **Summer/Fall 2018 Projects & Programs**

### **JULY**

#### **A Big, Shiny World Premiere: Rado Kirov's *Free Fall III* Sculpture at Empire and Fountain Streets**

We're going big and shiny this summer! Bulgarian sculptor and metalsmith Rado Kirov mesmerizes viewers with the shimmering, mirror-like quality of his stainless steel surfaces, something he's dubbed the "Mercury Effect." His stunning works have been presented as gifts to Pope John Paul II and the Crown Prince of Japan. Rado's latest masterpiece, *Free Fall III* (pictured right), will have its world premiere in Providence as part of our rotating 3-D Art program.



#### **Visual Poetry in Motion: George Sherwood's *Grey Area***

##### ***Kinetic sculpture at LaSalle Square***

We're bringing a bit of zen tranquility to the busy urban environment of Downtown in the form of Massachusetts sculptor George Sherwood's transfixing *Grey Area*. Hundreds of strips of stainless steel are suspended in a grid, a piece of sculpture that responds in real time to the wind and sun. It creates a hypnotic effect that will inspire passersby to take a peaceful moment out of their day and just enjoy the dance.

#### **The Metal Guy Rides Again: Peruko Ccopacatty's *Wild Horses* Sculpture at Union Station**

In February, we installed four sculptures from Rhode Island's own Peruko Ccopacatty in Kennedy Plaza, a project more than 20 years in the making. We had to remove them in late May to make way for PVDfest, but we just couldn't get enough of his work – and judging by the reactions at Kennedy Plaza, neither could the rest of Providence. Now, the self-proclaimed "metal guy" rides back into Downtown with *Wild Horses*, another of his steel works in a brand new location for our 3-D Art program, the plaza at Union Station.

## JULY (CONT'D)

### **Standing Tall: Gabriel Warren's *Column 6***

#### ***Sculpture at Fountain and Dorrance Streets***

Gabriel Warren's *Column 1* has been standing proudly at the corner of Fountain and Dorrance Streets since Spring 2016. Now we're swapping it out to make room for *Column 6* (pictured in progress below), the latest in his "Piesterion" series, a collection of sculptures inspired by the Rhode Island artist's time in Antarctica. (In 1999, he became the first sculptor from any country to be invited to the frozen continent, courtesy of the National Science Foundation and the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts.)



### **Let It Rain: Our newest Avenue Garden takes shape**

#### ***At Fountain and Dorrance Streets***

In 2015 we launched The Avenue Gardens program, planting and maintaining a series of perennial gardens in high traffic locations around Downtown, each one encompassing one of our sculpture pads. We're getting ready to kick off the next phase of that project. In the fall, we will plant Providence's first bioswale at Fountain and

Dorrance Streets, a garden that draws

and filters runoff water from the adjacent crosswalks and parking lot. But keep your eyes on that corner all summer as we hardscape the area, transforming it into a little pocket of nature in the concrete jungle.

### **Turn Right at the Big Mural: New public art wayfinding signage**

#### ***Various locations Downtown***

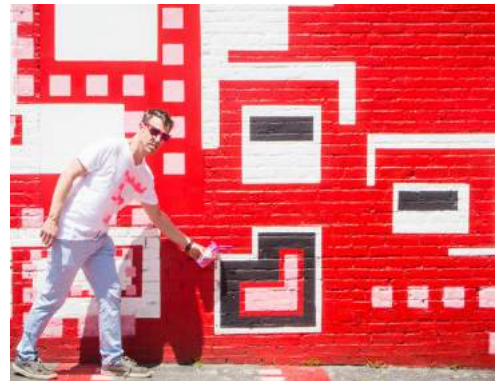
With nearly a dozen locations (and more on the way) around Downtown hosting Avenue Concept murals, sculptures, and gardens, you could stumble upon a fabulous work of public art almost anywhere. We're taking the guesswork out of it with a new series of wayfinding signs and illustrated maps. Think of it as your own self-guided public art walking tour.



## ONGOING ARTIST RESIDENCIES & FELLOWSHIPS

### **On and Off the Wall: 2-D Resident Artist Sam White**

Sam White does it all: from murals to interactive installations to the massive art carnival Wooly Fair, which he founded and directed from 2005-13. He's produced work for PVDFest, The Dean Hotel (go see his 8-bit *Octopus Song*, pictured right, on the rear wall), and Brown University. We can't wait to see what he comes up with next, which is why we've chosen him as our 2018 2-D Resident Artist. He'll be working on a series of projects over the summer, culminating with his first Providence gallery show in the fall.



### **Trash to Treasure: 3-D Resident Artists Bonnie Combs & Jen Long**

Jen Long is a toy designer, singer, and musician; she was one of the creators of the Whale Guitar, a unique musical instrument project intended to raise awareness of manmade threats to the Earth's oceans. Bonnie Combs is a local food and sustainability advocate who works for the organization that manages the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor. Together they will explore the ways that waste, particularly that which ends up in our waters, can be given new life through art.

### **Exploring Nature Downtown: Farm Fellow Jessyloo Rodrigues**

#### ***Walking tours on the last Saturday of every month***

Join our Farm Fellow, herbalist and urban farmer Jessyloo Rodrigues, on a free, guided walking tour of The Avenue Gardens, our Downtown perennial gardens. The tours will showcase the seasonal evolution of the gardens and other Downtown greenspaces. Jessyloo will teach you about the plants, as well as the functionality of the gardens, which help divert rainwater, filter pollutants, and provide refuge for various pollinators (bees, birds, etc.) throughout the growing season. Tours meet at 11am on 7/29, 8/26, 9/30, and 10/28 in front of The Dean Hotel (122 Fountain St.).



## LATE SUMMER/EARLY FALL

### **A Big Name on a Big Wall: Resident Mural Artist Gaia**

#### ***Mural at Custom House Street***

We've had our eyes on the east-facing wall at Custom House Street (on the side of Knead Donuts) for a few years now. It's a huge surface looking out onto the heart of the city, making it a perfect canvas for our mural program. We've had our eyes on the work of Baltimore-based muralist Gaia for almost as long. He's produced projects on all six habitable continents, and was named one of "The 100 Leading Figures in Urban Art" in 2010. We're bringing him to Providence in August and it's going to be huge.



### **Textile, Industry: Dave Cole's**

#### ***Knitting Machine***

#### ***Installation at Kennedy Plaza***

We think public art should make a big impression – and sometimes we mean it literally. Artist and Brown alum Dave Cole brings his colossally-scaled *Knitting Machine* (pictured left) to the heart of the city in early September. Watch in awe as two giant excavators wielding telephone poles as knitting needles will construct a giant textile project over the course of a week in Kennedy Plaza.

### **Coming Soon to a Bus Near You: Design Fellows Myles Dumas and Colin Gillespie**

#### ***RIPTA Art Busses, all around the city***

Public art meets public transportation as our Design Fellows, Myles Dumas and Colin Gillespie, wrap the outside of 15 RIPTA busses in contemporary art, and use the interiors to present stories and history from Providence's 15 wards. Myles and Colin are both designers at the award-winning local creative agency, NAIL, where they've worked on ambitious visual campaigns for clients like the *Providence Journal*, the New York City Marathon, and the AS220 Youth Moving Bus project. The first busses will roll out in late September/early October.



## LATE FALL

### Magazine launch

We've teamed up with the former editors of *Take Magazine* to launch a new coffee-table magazine showcasing and documenting the past five years of public art by The Avenue Concept. Stay tuned for this gorgeous new full-color book in late October.

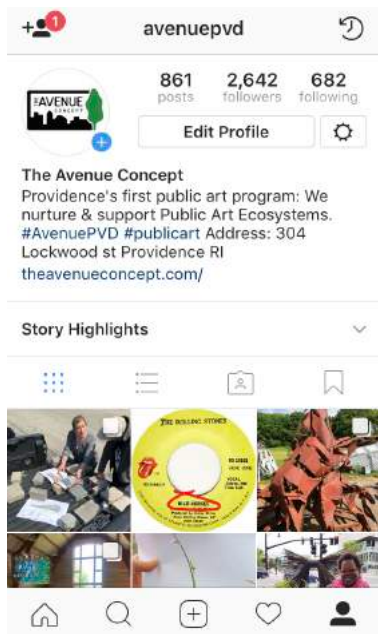
### Website re-launch

We're completely overhauling our online presence to create *the* go-to resource for public art in Providence. The team at Work-Shop Design Studio, known for creating innovative digital experiences for the likes of RISD, MIT's GOV/LAB, and the Smithsonian Institution, is working overtime to bring public art to the web in an exciting new way.

### Magazine/website launch party & Sam White gallery show

We're launching a new magazine. We're launching a new website. We're renovating our headquarters in South Providence. Sam White has never done a gallery show in Providence. These all sound like great reasons to have a party. Get ready, because it's going down on October 27.

—ALL DETAILS AND SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE—



### MORE INFORMATION:

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