



*for immediate release:*

**Fort Point Arts Community presents**

*Toll With Me*

**A temporary public art installation by Gianna Stewart**

**May 1, 2015, Boston, MA** - The Fort Point Arts Community (FPAC) announces a new temporary public art installation in conjunction with the upcoming 2015 Spring Open Studios weekend: *Toll With Me*, by Gianna Stewart.

8,500 bells, each one hanging from a simple jump ring in the openings of the chain link fence, will be installed along A Street in an undulating form. The bells' metallic finish will catch the sun on bright day, and, says Stewart "they will reveal the invisible winds that walk with us on A Street. I believe a simple gesture like these bells becoming part of an everyday object—the fence along A Street—is a way to bring poetry to the everyday."

Gianna Stewart is a Boston-based sculptor with a strong interest in public art. She received her MFA from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston 2014.

*Toll With Me* will be located on A Street on the fence bordering the US Post Office parking lot, between Wormwood and Melcher Streets. The installation will be on display beginning May 11<sup>th</sup>. The artist will begin installing the project on May 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, and invites the public to take part in the final installation over Open Studios weekend, May 15-17<sup>th</sup>.

An expanded public art series is planned for May, with two additional installations in Fort Point: *Bright Side of the Road II* will transform a neglected city space on Congress Street into an unexpected, gardenlike oasis through "guerilla urban gardening" by Michael Moss and Claudia Ravaschiere, and *Artist at Work*, a plexiglass and solar LED sculpture by John Hanson will be installed on the Fort Point Harborwalk

*Toll With Me* and the Spring Public Art Series are held in conjunction with Fort Point Spring Open Studios Weekend, to be held Friday through Sunday, May 15-17th. During Open Studios, more than 75 artists will open their studio doors to the public. Studios will be open Friday evening from 4-7pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 12-5pm. Open Studios visitors will explore the neighborhood and go inside the historic Fort Point warehouse lofts to meet local artists, including: painters, sculptors, ceramicists, jewelers, performance artists, fashion designers, printmakers, book artists, photographers, and more. Artwork will be available for purchase directly from the artists.

Fort Point Open Studios events are free and open to the public. Free parking during Open Studios is available. A downloadable map and details of Fort Point Open Studios will be found on [www.fortpointarts.org](http://www.fortpointarts.org)

Open Studios and the Public Art Series are organized by Fort Point Arts Community (FPAC), which represents over 300 artists in all media working and living in this unique waterfront neighborhood. Fort Point is recognized as one of New England's largest established arts communities. For more information on the Fort Point Arts Community visit [www.fortpointarts.org](http://www.fortpointarts.org).

*Toll With Me* is made possible by the generous support by a grant from The South Boston Community Development Fund.

*Toll With Me* was selected by a jury of artists, arts professionals, and community members.

*FPAC thanks our selection panel:*

**Valerie Burns:** Fort Point residents and former longtime president of Boston Natural Areas Network; with BNAN Valerie has created, protected and activated community gardens and parks in Boston neighborhoods through sustainable public-private partnerships.

**Lucas Cowan:** Public Art Curator at Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway Conservancy. Lucas leads the Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy's efforts in bringing world-class temporary exhibitions of contemporary public art to the park system. Cowan was previously the Director of Public Art Programs with the Maryland State Arts Council, and the Senior Curator of Exhibits for the Chicago Office of Tourism and Culture and Millennium Park in Chicago.

**Elisa H. Hamilton:** FPAC member artist. Elisa is an artist whose work focuses on the vibrancy of our ordinary experience. She has been the recipient of four FPAC public art grants, one of which launched her ongoing project "Dance Spot" which was featured as a two-day program last Spring at DeCordova Sculpture Park, Lincoln and recognized with an honorable mention in Mayor Martin Walsh's 2014 Public Space Invitational.

**Alice Vogler:** Performance artist, curator and educator. Alice was the co-owner and curator of MEME Gallery in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She has shown her work in many performance events over the last 15 or so years all over the world. She is the Arts Program Manager at the Boston Children's Museum.

**Karin Goodfellow,** Boston Art Commissioner participated in the jury in an advisory capacity.

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