

The Fenway

The Truth Is Out There: New Public Art Installation Calls for Honest Bostonians

BY KAREN MORALES

Public art does more than embellish our city streets. It avoids the usual art-viewing barriers, like museum entrance fees, fosters community and conversation, and, yes, [even works to spur economic development](#). The latest to land in the city is hitting The Fenway this month.



But what sets this piece apart is that it relies on its audience to actually complete it. Appearing as an inflatable walk-in word bubble, In Search of the Truth (The Truth Booth) or just Truth Booth for short, prompts participants to fill in a simple, yet open-ended, philosophical question on camera: “The truth is ____.” [The Cause Collective](#), the artistic consortium behind the project, then splices together some of the best answers from across the globe before ultimately delivering a compilation video of the most thought-provoking contributions, as seen here:

[Truth Booth // Director: Hank Willis Thomas // Tribeca Film Fellow: Tatiyana Jenkins, Jasmine Velez](#) from [Tribeca Film Institute](#) on [Vimeo](#).

The Truth Booth is an ongoing project and first launched in 2011. Since then, more than 5,000 people from all over the world have sat in the blow-up booth and offered pearls of wisdom, worldly observations and tales of triumph and woe in search of personal truth and meaning.



As the booth gets ready to visit Boston for the first time, Will Sylvester, one of the project's collaborators, says he's really interested to see what Bostonians will have to say about the truth.

"I'm actually expecting really positive, really strong responses about courage and strength," he says. "I go into all of these things not anticipating, and I don't want to anticipate. I think that's half of the fun and half of the curiosity that drives this project. You never know what people have to say when you go places and you're always surprised."

The traveling booth is being brought to Boston by a partnership with the development firm, Samuels & Associates, arts organization [GT Public](#), and the [Rose Kennedy Greenway](#).



Dina Deitsch, director of curatorial projects at GT Public, said she hopes the project will further contribute to the dialogue surrounding the different models that can be used to enliven Boston's public arts landscape.



“It’s something we’re hoping can be an example for other projects,” she says. “The conversation about public art in Boston has grown exponentially these past few years thanks to City Hall and this city’s vibrant art community.”



For truth seekers in Boston that want to be a part of the project, the booth will appear at The Verb Hotel from April 11th to 12th before being moved to the north end of the Rose Kennedy Greenway from April 13th to 15th.

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