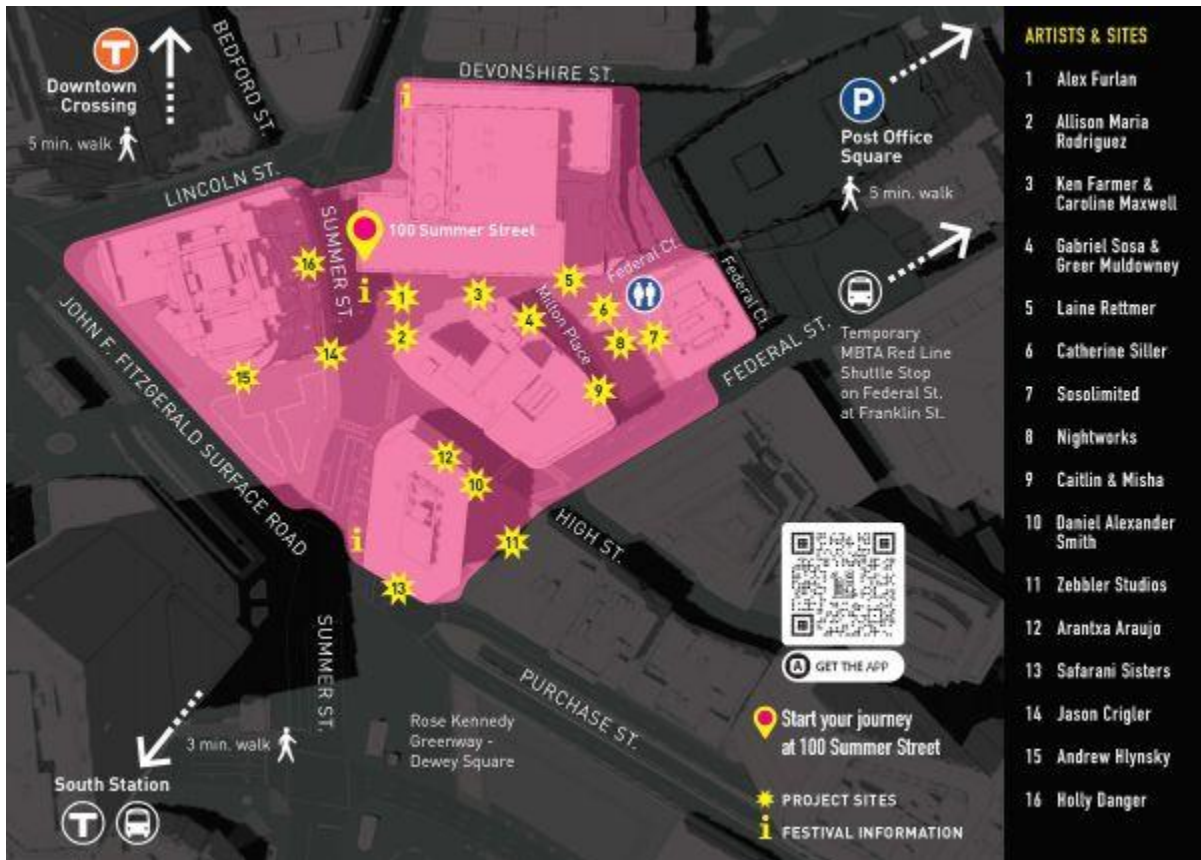


## ILLUMINUS 2019 Festival Features More Than 20 Artists Working In New Media, Light and Sound.

#ILLUMINUS2019 / #ILLUMINUS / #DowntownBoston / #Boston / #arts / #LuminArtz / #ILLUMINUSBOSTON

BOSTON–November 19, 2019 – The list of ILLUMINUS artists in 2019 -- and the downtown locations that will host the large-scale digital/video art projections, interactive installations, and performances -- are being announced today by the ILLUMINUS team, and co-presenters Downtown Boston Business Improvement District (BID) and LuminArtz. The artists, designers and creative technologists will turn a dynamic section of downtown into an immersive art experience December 5 and 6 from 5 PM-11 PM. (Rain date December 7.)



Festival Map

ILLUMINUS festival, and guest curator David Guerra of A R E A Gallery in Boston, assembled more than 20 artists and creatives working in new media, light and sound for this year's festival. Participating artists are diverse not only in their disciplines and the content of their work, but also in their backgrounds. Read comments about the selection process from this year's ILLUMINUS Lead Curator David Guerra [here](#).

ILLUMINUS partners include LuminArtz, Downtown Boston BID and Studio HHH. Epson is the anchor sponsor for ILLUMINUS in 2019, providing an unprecedented number of projectors for the artworks and installations in this year's festival. This substantial contribution marks a huge opportunity for festival artists to increase the scale and impact of their work. Information about presenting partners is available [here](#).

This year's locations, and the artists working in, on, or around them are:

### **100 SUMMER STREET**

- Cuban-American video installation and new media artist Allison Maria Rodriguez's "Legends Breathe: Divine Night" embraces the holiday timing of the festival, and features an alternative nativity scene blending gender and environmental politics, and projected onto a circular canvas.
- Boston light artist Karim Badwan creates an interactive light design that enables visitors to control its colors via the festival app.
- Brooklyn artist Ken Farmer, whose work has been seen at the Venice Biennale, the New Museum and the Palais de Tokyo, creates an immersive project that encourages shadow play.
- The windows of Boston Racquet Club are the canvas for artist, RISD instructor, and former MIT scholar Laine Rettmer, whose video "Vanitas (Lucia)" reinterprets a mad scene from Donizetti's opera Lucia Di Lammermoore to examine the control and rejection of pain in traditional depictions of women.

### **125 SUMMER STREET**

- Boston artist and projection-mapping specialist Andrew Hlynsky contributes an ambient, self-generative piece driven by pedestrians walking through the 125 Summer Street Plaza, whose footsteps create patterns on the building. His work evolves throughout each night, encouraging viewers to revisit.
- Stamford, Conn. new media artist Holly Danger creates an experimental art work that mixes digital and analog media, using motion-graphic techniques such as layered paper manipulation to create animations.

### **133 FEDERAL STREET**

- In her interactive installation, Somerville artist and performer Catherine Siller playfully critiques social media norms by taking photos of viewers and inserting

them into virtual worlds where they swim in a sea of beauty products, fly through opulent palaces, and dissolve into post-apocalyptic, industrial-chic landscapes.

- Back Bay music and art collective Nightworks, founded by Rah Zen, explores electronic instrumental beat music with expansive, live 3-D animations by media artist and designer Sam Okerstrom-Lang. This not-to-be-missed performance is seen only on Friday, December 6, from 7-11 pm.
- Internationally acclaimed Boston-based design firm Sosolimited presents a new project using specialized animations techniques in which endless warp-and-weft patterns weave mesmerizing, sequences that turn the building into an ever-changing fabric of woven light.

### **155 FEDERAL STREET**

- Boston artists Gabriel Sosa and Greer Muldowney team up for a diptych video, projected on two roll-up garage doors, that juxtaposes images of Somerville's gentrification with text from President Ronald Reagan's 1984 "Morning in America" political campaign.
- For their piece "An Ecology of Worries," Lowell-based artists Caitlin & Misha use machine-learning algorithms to process and synthesize people's recorded worries that they've collected since 2016. Amorphous animated characters projected on columns speak the amalgamated worries to viewers.

### **175 FEDERAL STREET**

- Boston multimedia artist Daniel Alexander Smith, whose work explores urbanism and neighborhoods, and the impact of technology on culture, produces "Expansion," an interactive digital work designed to make viewers look up and feel like they're being drawn into another universe.
- Video, paint and performance artists Bahareh and Farzaneh Safarani – twins known as the Safarani Sisters,

whose work serves as an exploration of their identities as Iranian women – present "Puppet Dance," a super-sized painting enhanced with digital projections.

### **THROUGHOUT THE FESTIVAL**

- The boundary-pushing, Mexican-born, NYC-based artist Arantxa Araujo will create a performance featuring an elaborate costume of glowing light, that explores ideas of sharing energy beyond one's own body. Araujo's performance will be presented in multiple ILLUMINUS locations.
- New York multimedia artist and composer Jason Crigler creates an original piece of music that expands throughout the ILLUMINUS festival footprint, with each distinct area hosting components of the music that merge as viewers walk between the areas.

"ILLUMINUS artists this year represent a diverse cross-section of backgrounds that we don't often see together in the same place," says ILLUMINUS Executive Director Jeff Grantz. "This year in particular, with so many things going on – socially, politically, and environmentally – their voices and their work are urgent and undeniable. At ILLUMINUS, we are in awe of the artists and ideas that populate David Guerra's world. We're honored to have him help us curate provocative works that address all of these things through strong visual engagement and exciting digital application of their concepts."

"It's an extraordinary thing to have this festival hosted and co-presented by one of Boston's great destinations," says LuminArtz Executive Director and Co-founder Lyn Burke. "Downtown Boston's streets, buildings and public spaces are beautiful on a regular day. But at night, with the addition of light-based work by amazing established and emerging local artists, it comes alive in a magical way." Burke says her non-profit organization, focused on the support of artists, has partnered with the Downtown Boston BID since 2016 for its access, commitment to public programming, and amenities that bring people to the area.

Downtown Boston BID President and CEO Rosemarie Sansone says she is proud of the partnership with the festival. "The ILLUMINUS festivals are great examples of how business, residential, retail and food destinations become even more appealing by bringing thousands of people to enjoy spectacular art and family-friendly activities to transformed parts of Downtown Boston."

The 2019 edition of ILLUMINUS runs December 5 and 6, from 5 pm-11 pm. (Inclement weather date: Dec. 7.) Updated information about ILLUMINUS 2019 will be available at [illumibusboston.org/2019](http://illumibusboston.org/2019), and on ILLUMINUS' [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#) pages.

ILLUMINUS is an annual festival that features projects at the intersection of art, design, technology, and science, turning Boston's public spaces into an activated urban canvas. The festival consists of artworks created with new media technologies, performances, public interventions, and immersive experiences using light and sound. Our mission is to support a network of artists, designers and creative technologists who collaborate to develop new and innovative works. ILLUMINUS gives creatives the platform to enter into conversation with the city and current culture. This festival is created by and for the Boston community.

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#### MEDIA INFORMATION:

- Select photos of previous ILLUMINUS 2019 events are available [here](#).
- Watch a video that feature the location in Downtown Boston's Financial District [here](#).

- Watch a feature story on WCVB's Cityline show [here](#).
- More artists and works, and locations for all exhibits, will be announced soon. Updated details will be available [here](#).
- Read comments from ILLUMINUS 2019 Lead Curator David Guerra [here](#).
- Advance interviews with ILLUMINUS artists, and Downtown Boston BID and LuminArtz representatives are being scheduled now.
- Information on on-site media previews and behind-the-scenes advance access will be available soon.

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