



**Commission on
Human Rights** | **Cultural
Affairs**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 12, 2019

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**NYC COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS UNVEILS MURAL BY
PUBLIC ARTIST IN RESIDENCE TATYANA FAZLALIZADEH
AT DANIEL O’CONNELL PARK IN ST. ALBANS, QUEENS**

Tatyana Fazlalizadeh’s residency with the Commission involves installations across the city inspired by community members’ experiences with sexism and gender-based street harassment

NEW YORK – In partnership with the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs and NYC Parks, the NYC Commission on Human Rights (CCHR) today unveiled its second – and largest – mural installation of Tatyana Fazlalizadeh’s residency with the Commission at Daniel O’Connell Park in St. Albans, Queens. The large-scale mural features images of several faces, inspired by local Queens-based women the artist met in community conversations, and text capturing their experiences facing the daily indignities of gender-based street harassment. Located along Murdock Avenue, the work will remain up for one year.

“We are thrilled to celebrate the installation of Tatyana’s large-scale mural in St. Albans, Queens, inspired by local community activists,” said **Carmelyn P. Malalis, Commissioner and Chair of the NYC Commission on Human Rights**. “The central themes of Tatyana’s work, centering the images, experiences, and voices of Black people and women, to examine systemic racism and misogyny, inspire us at the Commission to think about creative ways to challenge systems and paradigms of oppression, whether it be through law, art, storytelling, or other means. We are grateful that DCLA gave us the opportunity to work with such a talented visual artist through the Public Artist in Residence program and look forward to sharing more of Tatyana’s work throughout the summer.”

“The Public Artists in Residence program is grounded in the recognition that our city’s artists can offer fresh insights and strategies for tackling the challenges at the heart of local public services,” said **Cultural Affairs Commissioner Tom Finkelpearl**. “The partnership between CCHR and Tatyana Fazlalizadeh exemplifies the collaborative potential to grow meaningful connections between City agencies and the New Yorkers they serve. In this case, this extraordinary mural and the community-centered process of creating it have opened much-needed discussion about the all-too-common experience of race- and gender-based street harassment that nobody should have to endure.”

“Not only will Tatyana’s mural beautify the border of Daniel O’Connell Park, it will provoke thoughtful discussion about the importance of diverse voices in our communities,” said **NYC**

Parks Queens Borough Commissioner Michael Dockett. “Parks is proud to partner with the Department of Cultural Affairs and the Commission on Human Rights to display such a moving work of art.”



About the artist: Tatyana Fazlalizadeh is a Black/Iranian visual artist and Oklahoma City native and the Commission’s 2018 and 2019 public artist in residence. Her project *Stop Telling Women to Smile* is a street art series that tackles gender-based street harassment around the world; her work can be found on walls from New York to Paris, Los Angeles to Mexico City, and more, amassing international attention for tackling violence against women in public spaces. Tatyana has been profiled by the New York Times, NPR, MSNBC, the New Yorker, Time Magazine, and listed as one of Brooklyn’s most influential people by Brooklyn Magazine. She is a 2015 Forbes 30 Under 30 recipient. She has lectured at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, Brooklyn Museum, New Orleans Contemporary Arts Center, several universities including Stanford, Brown, USC, and Pratt Institute. Tatyana's work can currently be seen on Spike Lee's Netflix series, *She's Gotta Have It*, for which she is also the show's Art Consultant. She is working on her first book, *Stop Telling Women to Smile*, with Seal Press. She currently lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

About Art in the Parks: For over 50 years, NYC Parks’ Art in the Parks program has brought contemporary public artworks to the City’s parks, making New York City one of the world’s largest open-air galleries. The agency has consistently fostered the creation and installation of temporary public art in parks throughout the five boroughs. Since 1967, NYC Parks has

collaborated with arts organizations and artists to produce thousands of artworks by notable and emerging artists. For more information about the program visit www.nyc.gov/parks/art.

About Public Artists in Residence: The Department of Cultural Affairs' [Public Artists in Residence](#) (PAIR) program embeds artists within City agencies to address pressing civic and social issues through creative practice. Since the program launch in 2015, the agency has initiated 13 artist-agency partnerships, designed to build community bonds, open channels for two-way dialogue, and reimagine realities to create new possibilities for those who experience and participate in the work. Each year-long residency culminates in a public-facing participatory art project. The 2019 PAIRs have just been announced; [learn more here](#).

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"I hope that park-goers will appreciate and feel inspired by the meaningfulness of this mural," said **Senator Leroy Comrie**. "I commend the teams at Cultural Affairs, CCHR, and Parks for leading this initiative that has not only enhanced a beloved park in our community, but has also provided a platform for a gifted woman to share her talents and provides a visual commentary on gender-based harassment that women in our community unnecessarily face every day."

"It is a privilege to be able to turn pain into something that is beautiful and to learn, build, and grow. We are excited that the NYC Commission on Human Rights, The Department of Cultural Affairs, and the City of New York Parks and Recreation Department have displayed this mural here in South East Queens to show the strength, dignity, and character of the women in South East Queens that have overcome obstacles." – **NYS Assembly Member Clyde Vanel**.

"Our Southeast Queens community has long been sustained by a rich, but often overlooked cultural arts movement," said **Council Member I. Daneek Miller, Black, Latino, and Asian Caucus Co-Chair**. "We are proud to host one of the many spectacular and socially conscious works of Tatyana Fazlalizadeh. Such forms of expression are reflective of our identity as individuals, a native people, and society, and serve tell our story for the generations to follow. I applaud the City Commission on Human Rights, Department of Cultural Affairs, and NYC Parks for their recognition of this renowned talent and selecting St. Albans' own O'Connell Park as the canvas for showcasing her remarkable artwork."

"This mural is a powerful statement for this community, and I believe it will spark healthy conversations about respect and equality. We appreciate the leadership of the Human Rights Commission in starting this community dialogue." - **Amir Abbady, Chair of the CB12 Park Committee**.