



**URBANO PROJECT CELEBRATES THE CULMINATION OF "WE HEAL,"  
A PROJECT BY ARTIST NORA VALDEZ**

Friday, March 19th, 2021, 6:30 - 8:00 PM EST via Zoom

*What images, words, people, and foods bring comfort and aid healing?  
What inspires and brings hope?*



**BOSTON, MA** — Urbano Project is excited to host the celebratory culmination of **"WE HEAL,"** an art project created by artist **Nora Valdez** in collaboration with patients from the Cancer & Sickle Cell Support Programs at **Boston Medical Center**, patients from the **Dana Farber Cancer Institute**, and youth from the **Urbano Project**. This project was funded by the New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA) Creative City Boston grant, with funding from the Barr Foundation and support from the Boston Foundation.

**Register for the celebration via Zoom [here](#).**

Begun in April 2020, WE HEAL encouraged patients, many of whom are immigrants, to **explore and express their healing journey in artistic ways**. It created a space for patients to be together, share, and learn in a nurturing atmosphere. Amid the pandemic, Valdez adjusted her workshops to function in a digital space where patients, youth, and the artist worked together to explore the topic of healing. **What images, words, people, and foods bring comfort and aid healing? What inspires and brings hope?** Participants created collages, mandalas, poems, and personal prayer flags to foster peace, compassion, strength, delight, and wonder and to spread goodwill. They also recorded stories of their individual healing journeys and integrated them along with home and family photos, favorite landscapes, and sentimental images into the project's video documentation.

Join us **Friday, March 19th, 2021, from 6:30 to 8:00 pm EST** on Zoom for the presentation of the final WE HEAL book and a 25-minute video co-produced by Nora Valdez and artist Donte Thomas, which shares some of the participants' stories and experiences. This will be followed by a conversation with the artist and Q&A session inviting questions from the public. A recording of the presentation and the Valdez/Thomas video will be available to view at [www.urbanoproject.org](http://www.urbanoproject.org) after the event.

## **ABOUT THE ARTIST**



**Nora Valdez** is a born and raised Argentinian and a Boston-based artist who has been working and exhibiting since 1977. Since the beginning of her practice, Valdez has used sculpture and installations to create images that reflect on the nature of change, the life of the individual, and the natural or societal forces that buffet our souls. Most recently, her focus has been on the nature of home, the immigrant experience, and roots/rootlessness. In 2020, she received the NEFA Creative City grant for her project WE HEAL.

## **ABOUT THE CANCER & SICKLE CELL SUPPORT PROGRAMS AT BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER**

**Boston Medical Center** is the largest 'safety net' hospital in New England. The majority of its patient population is minority, immigrant, and/or living in the inner-city. BMC prides itself on providing "exceptional care without exception." One of the ways it achieves this mission is by offering social/emotional support through an ongoing array of support groups, activities, feature programs, and special events to its cancer survivors and sickle cell patients.

## **ABOUT THE DANA-FARBER CANCER INSTITUTE**

Since its founding in 1947, **Dana-Farber Cancer Institute** in Boston, Massachusetts has been committed to providing adults and children with cancer with the best treatment available today while developing tomorrow's cures through cutting-edge research.

## **ABOUT URBANO PROJECT**

**Urbano Project** is an arts non-profit that brings together practicing artists across disciplines, local youth, and community members to learn and experiment through multidisciplinary and socially engaged art projects. Through artistic collaboration, participating youth and adults are challenged to create projects that span diverse artistic disciplines and curatorial themes, all rooted in the fundamental principles of collaboration, risk-taking, and creative and critical expression.

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