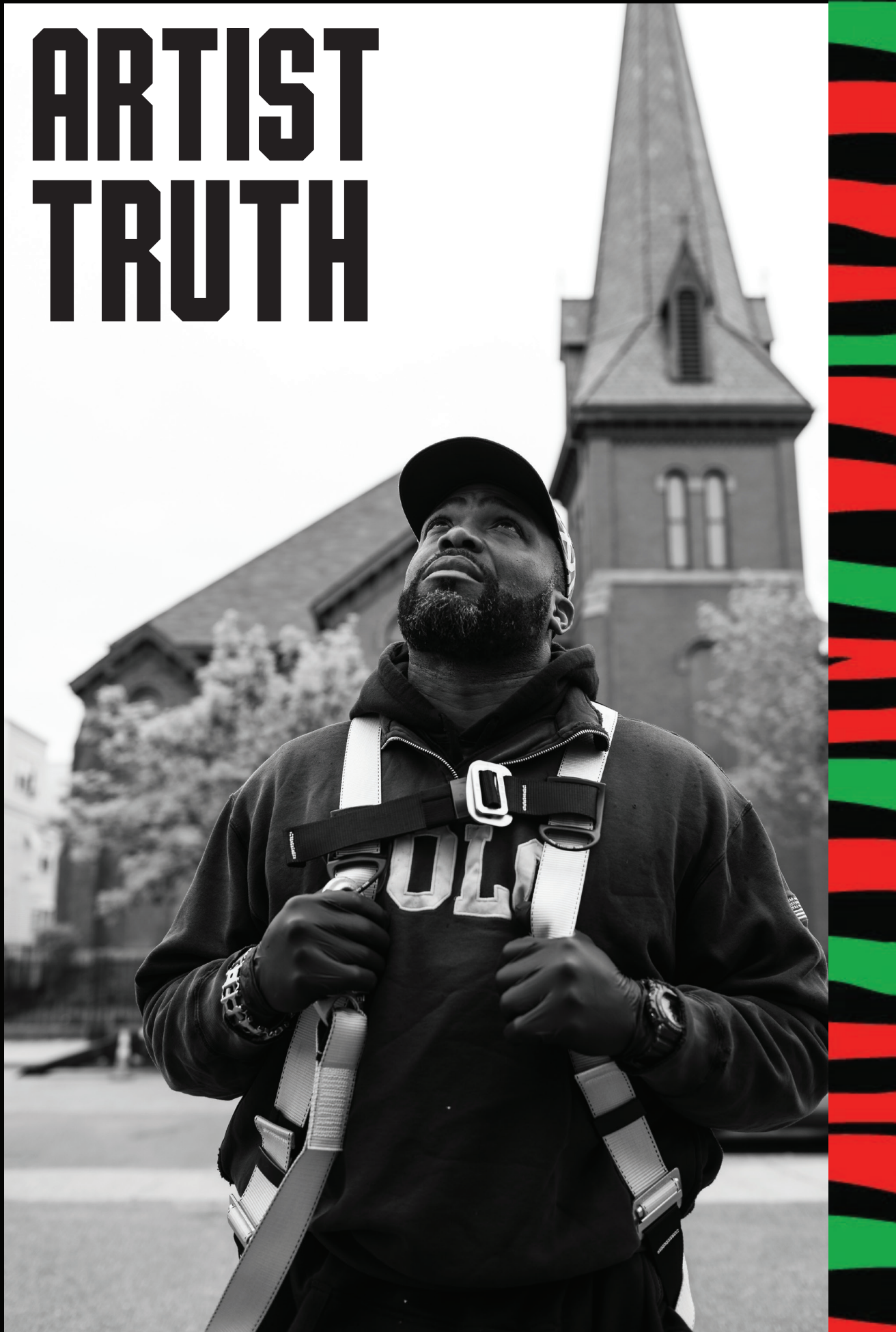


THE GREEN WAY

Rose Kennedy Greenway.org



ARTIST TRUTH



My Graffiti style is an evolved form of story-telling, a tool for me to chronicle and immortalize the culture and history of the neighborhoods that I grew out of. Graffiti acts as a contemporary form of hieroglyphs, a way to document and pay homage to the under-heard people in my community. My vision, as an artist influenced by Hip-Hop and the writers that came before me, has been to represent and speak for anyone who has a shared experience. Artists need to be acknowledged for having a personal practice that can span experiences that aren't bound by a neighborhood or city. That's how you find other like-minds. I'm a Black man from Roxbury but my community is across the nation and the world. We don't have to wait for special moments to express. We just need a surface to share our voice. When anyone encounters my work, I want them to be able to take a second...and stop. I want them to feel inspired and seen. If someone takes a moment to look up, smile and think, then I have done my part to create a more connected world. It is this energy that I want to bring to the Greenway. This is a unique opportunity to ask visitors and residents of Boston to join a conversation that is happening locally, nationally, and globally. The celebration of Black portraiture and Boston has a story to tell. My hope is to add to Boston's skyline in a way that elevates the voices and work of those who've come before us as well as our future generations.

ARTIST BIO



Rob “ProBlak” Gibbs is a visual artist and organizer who has transformed the cultural landscape of Boston through graffiti art since the early 90’s. Gibbs grew up in Roxbury, Massachusetts during the Hip-Hop Golden Age and was in his teens when he found that graffiti was a powerful form of self-expression.

In 1991, Gibbs co-founded Artists for Humanity (AFH), an arts non-profit that hires and teaches youth creative skills, ranging from painting to screen printing to 3-D model making. For the past 29 years, Gibbs has served in many leadership roles at AFH and currently is the Director of Artist Fellowships. Rob’s personal practice includes the curation of multiple exhibitions and maintains the ongoing role of curating a rotating public art campus in Boston, offering emerging graffiti writers and muralists real-time opportunities to experience a guided practice. Gibbs had his debut solo exhibit titled “Small Change” at the Crewest Gallery in Los Angeles in 2012 and since has participated in more than 25 group and solo exhibitions. His most recent Breath Life mural series has received national acclaim.

ProBlak has a strong focus on arts education. He has been an adjunct educator for Boston Public Schools, conducted countless workshops, and is a formal and informal mentor to artists who are early and mid-career. Most recently he served as a guest lecturer at Northeastern University for their “Foundations of Black Culture: Hip-Hop” course, curated the 2019 BAMS Fest’s “Rep Your City” exhibition and was invited to be one of two Artists-in-Residence with the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston making his, the inaugural residency.

ProBlak is the recipient of a number of awards, including the 2006 Graffiti Artist of the Year award from the Mass Industry Committee and the Goodnight Initiative’s Civic Artist Award. In 2020, he was honored with the Hero Among Us award by the Celtics, Boston’s NBA team and he was and was awarded the Brother Thomas Fellowship in 2019 and the MLK Drum Major Award in 2021. His work has been covered in publications and media outlets like WBUR- the ARTery, the Boston Art Review, Boston Magazine, 2020 Best of Boston Artist of the Year, Forbes, PBS News Hour, the Boston Globe and many others. In 2021, February 1st was proclaimed to be Rob “ProBlak” Gibbs day in the City of Boston.

Beyond his own personal artistic practice, ProBlak envisions graffiti and hip-hop as avenues to reach and educate young people. He continues to expand his practice as an artist and educator. Lastly, his role as father to Bobbi, his daughter, is his strongest reason for wanting to leave images of beauty, strength and resilience in the work he creates.

ARTIST WORK



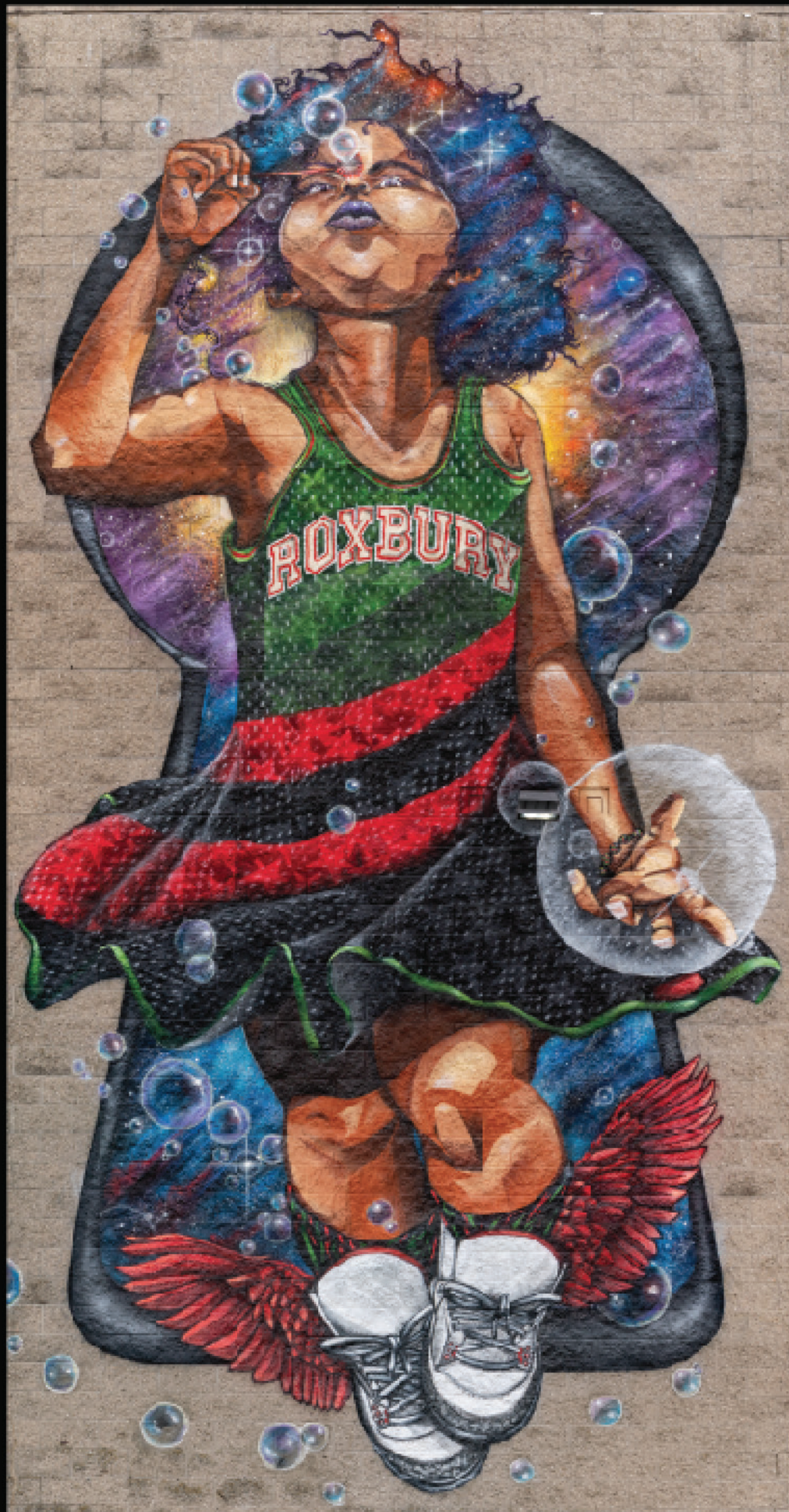




BREATHE
LIFE

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ROXBURY



COLLABORATIONS

PROBLAK X MAX SANGSING



COLLABORATIONS

PROBLAK X MARKA27



COLLABORATIONS

PROBLAK X GO-FIVE



COLLABORATIONS

PROBLAK X MARKA27

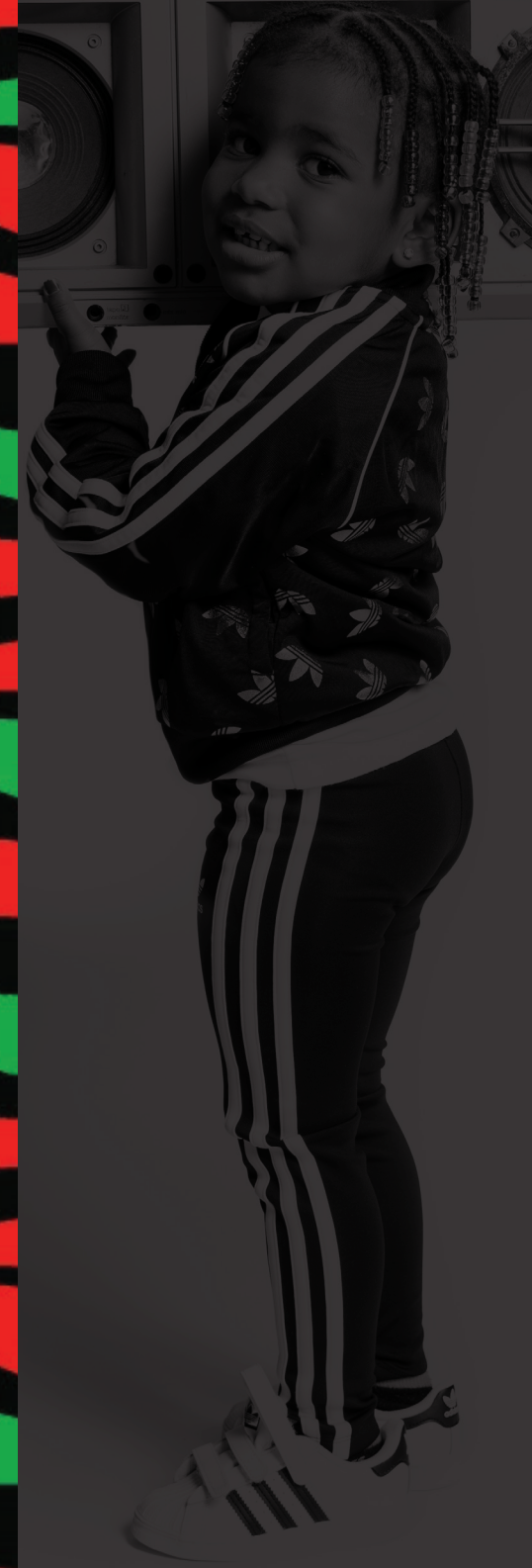


BREATHE LIFE TOGETHER

As a father and a long-time mentor for young people, I want to elevate the powerful voices of the Black and Brown communities in Boston. Like the neighborhoods I grew out of, this image is of a beautiful young Black girl rising out of the grass, naturally and with true belonging. She is pointing you in the direction of the Boston neighborhoods from where our deep roots come. The history of Black and Brown communities in Boston is not a mystery – but it is not always given the space and voice it deserves. Whether you are a traveler to Boston or a resident, she is asking you to join the conversation about her future, your future, and the future of our communities.

She will not be excluded from this conversation – her image is intended to build the confidence of those she represents. Her stance, her outfit, and her look. She is powerful.

The story of this visual is about honoring the past, present and future. And reminding us that we can do this together.... ToGetHer.





THANK



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