



## **S. Boston Gallery Explores Youth Addiction, Recovery & Hope in Innovative Art Exhibition**

**June 9, 2021**

Boston, MA - MW Productions/SPOKE & the Gavin Foundation present "Facing Recovery, Facing Hope: Mosaic Self-Portraits from the Cushing House," now showing through June 25 at its new SPOKE Gallery at 840 Summer Street in South Boston.

"Facing Recovery, Facing Hope" showcases mosaic self-portraits created by young people in residence at Gavin's Cushing House. These moving, personal works are testaments to art's power to heal and deepen our understanding of ourselves and our place in the world. Each mosaic is embedded with a QR code that, when scanned, queues recorded video stories in which the young artists explore themes of identity, addiction, trauma, recovery, family, and community.

"These mosaics evoke the metaphor of piecing our lives together, which these brave young people are doing, often in the face of difficult circumstances," says Greg Liakos, Interim Executive Director. "They are calling us to compassion and understanding through the power of creative expression."

Cushing House youth worked closely with MW Productions/SPOKE teaching artists Richie Dinsmore and Amanda Shea, and Artistic Director Michael Dowling, to create these mosaic self-portraits, along with workshops writing poems and spoken word performance. "MW/Spoke is more than just a recreational activity. There is a real therapeutic value that teaches and encourages our residents to express themselves in healthy ways that enriches their lives." Said John McGahan, President Gavin Foundation

The Gavin Foundation operates two long-term addiction recovery homes for transitional age youth, one for males and one for females, with sixteen young men and fourteen young women between the ages of 16 and 21. MW Productions/SPOKE has partnered with the Gavin Foundation to activate the power of art to help young people recover from addiction and alcoholism for nearly twenty years. Youth who have experienced addiction come to our art studio four hours a week in the first six weeks of their recovery to work with teaching artists. The partnership is part of a larger MW/SPOKE Hope & Recovery program. In January an earlier group of Cushing House youth exhibited works in a show entitled "Heroes & Villains, at Boston's Galatea Fine Art Gallery.

"Facing Recovery, Facing Hope: Mosaic Self-Portraits from the Cushing House" will be showcased virtually as a part of MW Productions/SPOKE's annual Turning the Wheel fundraising event on Wednesday, June 16th from 6-7 pm via Zoom. The gallery will be toured virtually for attendees before and after the event. Appointments to visit the SPOKE Gallery can also be made by appointment by emailing [Info@mwproductions.org](mailto:Info@mwproductions.org).