



**For Immediate Release**

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**Groundbreaking Art Exhibit Features Portraits of Homelessness in New York City**

**NEW YORK** – On Saturday, September 23 from 3:00–4:30pm at The Bowery Mission’s flagship building at 227 Bowery, artist and curator Allie Wilkinson in partnership with The Bowery Mission presents the opening of FACE NEW YORK, an art exhibition featuring portraits and stories of men and women experiencing homelessness in New York City.

Curated by Allie Wilkinson, FACE NEW YORK is a groundbreaking art project designed to transform the narrative of how one can become homeless. Seventeen artists from around the world listened to the stories of eighteen New Yorkers who were experiencing or had experienced homelessness, and created portraits of them. The resulting exhibition of portraits and stories invites viewers to face the reality that for each of the more than 60,000 people experiencing homelessness in New York City, there is a different story, and a different face.

"Homelessness makes a lot of people look down on you. I don't know if I'm the face of homelessness, but I am a face of homelessness. My education didn't save me. My businesses didn't save me. My addiction brought me further and further down. So I am a face of homelessness, and it can happen to anybody," said Precious, a resident of The Bowery Mission’s residential recovery program.

“The Bowery Mission is pleased to partner with Allie Wilkinson and FACE NEW YORK to encourage more conversations and dispel myths of about who can become homeless, and to provide help and resources to men and women facing homelessness,” said David P. Jones, President and CEO of The Bowery Mission.

**About FACE NEW YORK**

Created and curated by Allie Wilkinson in 2015, FACE NEW YORK is a project designed to bring visibility to people experiencing homelessness in New York. Wilkinson collaborates with The Bowery Mission community, as well as a select group of international artists, to bring this project to life. For more information, please visit [www.facenewyork.com](http://www.facenewyork.com)

**About The Bowery Mission**

The Bowery Mission has served homeless and hungry New Yorkers since 1879. Last year, The Bowery Mission provided more than 505,000 meals to men, women and children, 97,300 nights of shelter and 56,200 articles of clothing, as well as showers, haircuts, and expert medical and optometric care. Each meal and every night of shelter is an invitation to residential recovery programs, where men and women get a second chance and lives are transformed from hopelessness to hope. The Bowery Mission’s residential programs served nearly 300 men and women who are regaining sobriety, reconnecting with family and faith, pursuing educational goals, and preparing for work and independent living. To ensure that children from tough neighborhoods thrive and succeed, The Bowery Mission’s City Camp and Summer Camp served nearly 1,200 -children from poor city communities. The Bowery Mission expanded its front-line services to new neighborhoods by opening its Community Hope Resource Center in Harlem and by uniting with Goodwill Rescue Mission in Newark, New Jersey. [www.bowery.org](http://www.bowery.org)