

Art and Advocacy: *Zapatos Rojos* Installation in Boston

Lawyers for Civil Rights (LCR) works with people of color, immigrants, and low-income communities to fight discrimination, foster equity, and pursue justice through creative and courageous legal advocacy, education, and economic empowerment. In partnership with law firms and community allies, we provide free, life-changing legal support to individuals, families, and small businesses.

At LCR, we know that justice is not only shaped in courtrooms. It is also shaped in stories, culture, community spaces, and the ways people see themselves and one another. That's why we launched our [Artist-in-Residence](#) program in 2025 to [bring](#) artists like [Chanel Thervil](#) and [Damon Davis](#) into our work as partners in helping communities reflect, heal, connect, and imagine what justice can look like.

Rooted in the belief that art helps make justice and lasting change possible, LCR will help bring *Zapatos Rojos* (Red Shoes) to Boston.

Created by [Elina Chauvet](#) in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, following the murder of her sister by an intimate partner in 2009, the installation is a public art and advocacy movement. The [project](#) memorializes women and girls lost to gender-based violence and affirms the dignity and visibility of those too often marginalized or forgotten through the public display of shoes donated and painted by community members.



Please scroll down for more details.



Zapatos Rojos (Red Shoes) has been globally recognized with installations across Italy, Norway, Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, Spain, Ecuador, Canada, Brazil, Benin, Texas, Michigan, Illinois, and New York – but never in Boston.

Through this installation, LCR seeks to expand access to legal knowledge and resources, raise public awareness, and promote community healing.

LCR's commitment to this intervention is informed by our advocacy work surrounding the disappearance of [Reina Carolina Morales Rojas](#), a Salvadoran immigrant and mother of two, who vanished in 2022 after fleeing to Boston to escape gender-based violence in El Salvador. LCR worked closely with Reina's [orphaned children](#) to help them navigate the barriers they faced as they sought answers and accountability.

Survivors of violence often experience isolation, fear of authorities, limited access to legal protections, and even invisibility within public safety systems. In the current climate, the survivors who do find the courage to seek protection or hold perpetrators accountable may then face [ICE enforcement](#) at the courthouse steps, creating even more challenges. This exacerbates underreporting, isolation, and barriers to justice.

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LCR is interested in exploring partnerships with organizations that combat domestic violence and empower vulnerable populations. This project represents an opportunity to shed light on the experiences of diverse communities of women and bridge access to resources and legal knowledge during a time of fear and misinformation.

LCR will help lead a three-phase engagement and installation process:

1) Collaborative Planning (2-hour commitment): Initial engagement will focus on collaboration with partner organizations through two planning meetings (1 hour each) focused on project design, trauma-informed coordination, and integration of legal education components. The meetings will be hybrid with zoom option.

2) Public Mobilization: Following the planning meetings, the project will move into a public outreach phase, inviting project partners to join us in collecting women's shoe donations. All shoes will count toward the project goal of 100 pairs for public display.



3) Legal Empowerment and Community Activation Workshop (3-hour commitment): After 100 pairs have been collected, community partners will convene a **community workshop and shoe painting session**. Participants will help paint the shoes red after participating in a workshop on legal protections, survivor resources, and pathways to support, including information on U visas, T visas, and VAWA. We will also provide space for tabling and resource sharing by project partners, including women-, immigrant-, and youth-serving groups.

Once all the shoes are painted, project partners will organize the installation and invite volunteers to help set up the public display. We will closely coordinate with the artist [Elina Chauvet](#) to ensure the success of the installation and participatory process.

If you are interested, please contact:

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Please use the subject line: "Zapatos Rojos". We look forward to hearing from you!