



**Metro**

May 22, 2015

**TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**THROUGH: PHILLIP A. WASHINGTON** *PAW*  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**FROM: MARTHA WELBORNE, FAIA** *MW*  
**CHIEF PLANNING OFFICER**

**SUBJECT: CRENSHAW/LAX ARTIST SELECTION AND UPCOMING  
COUNTYWIDE METRO ART EVENTS**

**ISSUE**

This memo serves to inform the Board that fourteen artists have been selected for the Crenshaw/LAX project and a number of Crenshaw/LAX community engagement activities are planned. Additionally, it provides information on upcoming countywide Metro Art events.

**DISCUSSION**

**Crenshaw/LAX Corridor**

A panel of local arts professionals and community members selected 14 artists to create site-specific, integrated artworks for the Crenshaw/LAX project. The diverse range of accomplished artists includes: Ingrid Calame, Eileen Cowin, Kenturah Davis, Deanna Erdmann, Sherin Guirguis, Carlson Hatton, Mara Lonner, Rebeca Méndez, Geoff McFetridge, Erwin Redl, Kim Schoenstadt, Jaime Scholnick, Shinique Smith, and Mickalene Thomas. Metro Art has a strong track record of working with artists and communities, and in keeping with this tradition, artists will engage surrounding communities in a range of approaches such as meet the artist events, art making workshops, events at local schools, photoshoots, etc.

In compliance with Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requirements, this was a national procurement. To ensure maximum local participation and community engagement Metro Art staff did extensive outreach including a series of well attended artist workshops, community presentations, notices in local papers and on social media. The diverse selection panel was comprised of local arts professionals and community representatives known for their connection to and familiarity with the Crenshaw/LAX corridor coupled with their demonstrated experience and expertise as curators, arts professionals, and artists. The panel included: Sarah Cifarelli (Los Angeles World

Airports Art Program Director), Martin Durazo (artist who lives and works in the area), Felicia Filer (City of Los Angeles Public Art Program Director, who grew up in the area), Karen Mack (community arts organization director from Leimert Park), Michael Massenburg (artist who lives and works in the area and is President of the Board of Directors for Inglewood Cultural Arts), and Kali Nikitas (Arts Commissioner for the City of Inglewood).

Metro Art will also work with artists and communities on temporary artworks, specifically designed to mitigate impacts during the project's construction phase. Three sites have been identified for these temporary artworks and a series of workshops with professional artists and local youth will be held beginning in June.

The following are upcoming Crenshaw/LAX Art program community events and activities:

- Saturday, May 23: Artist Kenturah Davis (Florence/La Brea Station) will give a presentation followed by a photoshoot of community members for potential inclusion in station artwork. More information: <http://thesource.metro.net/2015/05/13/how-you-can-be-part-of-the-artwork-along-the-future-crenshawlax-line/>
- Thursday, May 28: Bi-Monthly Project Construction Community Update will include a presentation on the Project's Art program.
- June (date TBD): Construction phase art workshops begin.

## **Upcoming Countywide Metro Art Events**

### Metro Art Presents

This well attended series showcases arts and cultural programs at historic Union Station. The diverse, all ages, high quality programming is designed to creatively activate the landmark station and attract new riders, and leverages Metro Art's relationships with artists and arts organizations to present a range of creative collaborations. Upcoming programs include:

- Friday, May 29: "son jarocho" music performance by Cambalache
- Friday, June 5: "avant folk" music performance by Mia Doi Todd
- Friday, June 12: screening of Who Framed Roger Rabbit, a collaboration with LA Film Fest
- Friday, June 19: music performance by El Haru Kuroi drawing on various Latin American genres
- Friday, June 26: video projection and performance by artist Miwa Matreyek

### Metro Art Tours

Guided art tours attract new riders, offer opportunities for discovery, heighten the passenger experience in fun and engaging ways, and highlight Metro's diverse collection of artworks. Upcoming tours:

- Saturday, May 30: Celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month with acclaimed artist and curator Sam Lee, whose tour will provide background on the

ideas and historical information the artists have drawn from, along with insights from a Los Angeles native's perspective.

- Saturday, June 6: Beginning at Hollywood/Highland Station, the docent guided tour will focus on getting around town using transit, introduce riders to a variety of artworks, and draw attention to area destinations served by Metro.
- Sunday, June 7: Beginning at historic Union Station, the docent guided tour will focus on getting around town using transit, introduce riders to a variety of artworks and draw attention to area destinations served by Metro.
- Sunday, June 14: The docent guided tour will cover historic Union Station art, architecture and spaces not generally open to the public, including the old ticket concourse and former Fred Harvey restaurant. Additionally, the tour will explore artworks located in the Metro Rail portals and inside the Metro Headquarters Building.

### Through the Eyes of Artists

This month, the latest in our neighborhood poster series features Irwindale as depicted by the artist William Acedo. This poster is being installed on-board buses and trains. The purpose of the series is to increase ridership by encouraging the public to access the Metro system and enjoy traveling to the many neighborhoods within Los Angeles County. The poster is the 33<sup>rd</sup> in the ongoing popular series, which features neighborhoods and destinations served by Metro "through the eyes" of local artists.

### **NEXT STEPS**

Staff will continue to provide update to the Board on Metro Art activities.