



# Uplifting the Human Spirit Through Metro Art

EMC Item 39

October 15, 2020

**RICHARD WYATT**  
*City of Dreams/River of History*  
Union Station

# Board Directives to “Uplift the Human Spirit Through Metro Art”

- Integrate Metro Art programs into trains, buses (set-aside percentage of onboard ad space with preference for local artists)
- Champion artistic experimentation including provocative works responsive to the issues & concerns of our time
- Think about how artists might be included in the Reimagining of transportation
- Support local artists, include performing arts
- Reinvigorate the arts in a post-pandemic world
- Provide access to arts and culture for riders from underserved communities
- Include \$400K in FY21 budget to accomplish these goals

# Capital Projects (% for Art)



CHRISTINE ULKE  
*El Aliso de Los Angeles*  
Division 13

# Current Arts Impacts

## Americans for the Arts Report 8/11/20

- 94% report income loss
- 63% have become fully unemployed
- 76% use their art to raise morale and create community cohesion

## Brookings Institute Report 8/11/20

- Creative economy is one of the sectors most at risk
- California will be hit hardest in terms of absolute losses
- Small stop-gap measures will not undo the damage; a substantial and sustained recovery strategy is required
- Opportunity to develop strategies to hire local artists and create online platforms

**Leimert Park**

Through the eyes of artist Sam Jax  
 Jax visually evokes one of L.A.'s best-kept secrets. When also can you experience jazz, hip-hop, blues, poetry, artwork and great food? Here, it all rolls out in the park to play close or distant!

Metro

**East L.A.**

Through the eyes of artist Antonio Rodriguez  
 Rodriguez illustrates how East Los Angeles continues to honor its diversity and offer the community a sense of family and love.

Metro

**Griffith Park**

Through the eyes of artist Bob Zoell  
 Bob Zoell is Griffin Park as a naturalist, his artwork featuring birds, animals, and green spaces. He's the largest transportation art project in the world.

Metro

**Inglewood**

Through the eyes of artist Mikasa Kimura  
 A kaleidoscope of beauty, Mikasa Kimura uses the textures, colors, and forms of nature to create a vibrant and colorful scene.

Metro

# “Integrate Metro Art Into Trains, Buses”

**Long Beach**

Through the eyes of artist Christine Nguyen  
 An intricate, expressive downtown playfully intertwines old-fashioned architecture and new with iconic Long Beach landmarks, including the Aquarium Islands, El Dorado Square Center and The Water Pyramid at California State University, Long Beach.

Metro

**Pasadena**

Through the eyes of artist Walter Aulin  
 A scene of bustling people and historic Pasadena is captured in Aulin's vibrant, expressive style.

Metro

**Gardena**

Through the eyes of artist Jonathan Anderson  
 Beneath suspended power lines, a vibrant green garden blooms around a central figure working the land, calling to mind the many farms and nurseries that contributed to the development and thriving of the city.

Metro

**Little Tokyo**

Through the eyes of artist Shizu Saldamanda  
 The iconic red Yagoro Tower and blue tile roofs of Japanese Village Plaza emerge from a vivid collage of wabi paper and colored pencil against a striking, warm green surface to create a contemporary neighborhood landscape.

Metro

# On Subways as Riders Return: Odes to Their Resilience

Leaders of the “Poetry in Motion” program hope verse can help to comfort and encourage people as they return to the trains in greater numbers.



“Champion  
artistic  
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NONI OLABISI  
*1995 Commemorative Poster*  
Metro Green Line



**Metro Green Line**  
Summer 1995

Rosa Parks' contribution to the history of transportation and civil rights is honored in this powerful work by artist Noni Olabisi.

This is a copy of the poster by Noni Olabisi commissioned by the MTA's A&E Program in celebration of the opening of the Metro Green Line.

“Think about how artists might be included in the Reimagining of transportation”





# FY21 Initiatives May Include:

1. Champion artistic expression of local visual artists through new “Silver Linings” poster series featuring works by local artists
2. Partner with community-based arts and cultural organizations to interpret and document this pivotal moment
3. Curate cultural programming (podcasts, playlists and select live performances) to foster connections with the public
4. Commission broad range of local artists, musicians, dancers, etc

# Next Steps

- Temporarily reprioritize FY21 resources
- Engage local artists
- Advance cultural equity initiatives
- Explore ways to include artists in Reimagining transportation
- Report back to Board in April