



Uplifting the Human Spirit Through Metro Art

EMC Item 45
August 2020

RICHARD WYATT
City of Dreams/River of History
Union Station

June Board Motion/*Comments*:

“Uplift the Human Spirit Through Metro Art”

- Integrate Metro Art programs into our trains, buses
- 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*
- *Reinvigorate the arts in a post-pandemic world*
- *Provide access to arts and culture for underserved communities*

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, workouts and great food? Here, it all rolls out in the park to play close or distant!

M Metro

Visit metroart and Go Metro to Leimert Park.

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.

M Metro

Visit metroart and Go Metro to East L.A.

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 facility in the United States.

M Metro

Visit metroart and Go Metro to Griffith Park.

Inglewood

Through the eyes of artist Mikasa Kimura
 A kaleidoscope of beauty, vibrant colors, and the textures of paper and fabric. The artwork is amplified through a variety of colors, patterns and textures, as the artist combines images of her neighborhood with traditional Japanese art motifs.

M Metro

Visit metroart and Go Metro to Inglewood.

“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.

M Metro

Visit metroart and Go Metro to Long Beach.

Pasadena

Through the eyes of artist Walter Aulkin
 Passion and its beating pulse and rhythm. Passion is expressed in Aulkin's abstract perspective of people interacting in their daily lives.

M Metro

Visit metroart and Go Metro to Pasadena.

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 contribute to the development and thriving of the city.

M Metro

Visit metroart and Go Metro to Gardena.

Little Tokyo

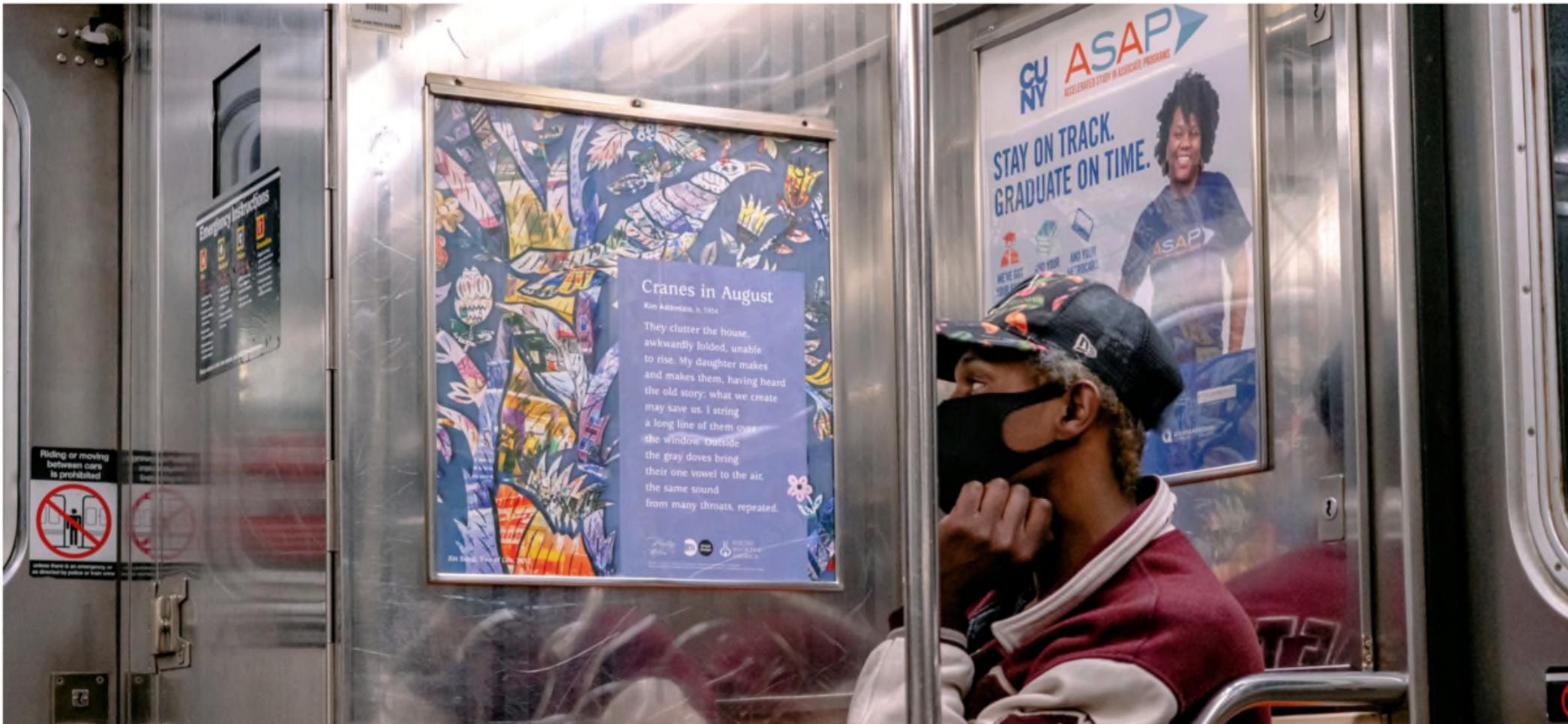
Through the eyes of artist Shizu Saldamando
 The iconic red Yagura Tower and West Gate north of Japantown Village Plaza emerge from a vivid collage of wabi paper and colored pencil against a striking, neutral green surface to create a contemporary neighborhood landscape.

M Metro

Visit metroart and Go Metro to Little Tokyo.

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.



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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”



HELEN LUNDEBERG
1939 WPA Mural: *History of Transportation*
Inglewood, CA

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



MICHAEL ALVAREZ
Artist-Led Community Workshops
Lulu Washington Dance Theatre
KAOS Network

Initiatives to be implemented in the next six months might include:

1. Champion artistic expression of local visual artists through onboard posters as space is available
2. Partner with community-based arts and cultural organizations to interpret and document this pivotal moment
3. Curate cultural programming to foster connections with the public
4. Commission local artists to creatively convey 'new manners,' safety messaging & mobility stories to surprise and delight riders

Next Steps

- Initiate pilot projects to “Uplift the Human Spirit”
- Engage local artists and arts organizations
- Report back on pilot projects and expanding the role of the arts beyond infrastructure in Reimagining transportation