



NEWS

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CERAMIC TILE ARTWORK OF VENICE RESIDENT EVA COCKCROFT TO BE DEDICATED AT JAN. 14 CEREMONY AT COMPTON METRO BLUE LINE STATION

Venice artist Eva Cockcroft will be joined Saturday, January 14, by student artists from three Compton area high schools for a ceremony dedicating six pairs of ceramic tile panels, two columns depicting the history of the City of Compton, and a tile mural at the Metro Blue Line's Compton Station.

The dedication ceremony will take place at noon January 14 at the station platform. The artist will be available until 2 p.m. to answer the public's questions about the work, which is part of MTA's ongoing Art for Rail Transit (A-R-T) Program that commissions artists to create public art at rail facilities throughout the county. In the event of rain, the dedication will take place in the Compton Transit Center across the street.

"Ms. Cockcroft's work is a fine example of how MTA's rail art projects are reflecting the spirit of the communities served by the Metro system," said Los Angeles County Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, an MTA Board member. "Compton residents can take real pride in their city, and its colorful history that is represented in this artwork."

The ceramic tiles depict the arrival of the various ethnic groups that have contributed to the character of Compton over the years. They include a spectrum of history and cultures from the Native American, Spanish and Mestizo contributions to the present day. One panel honors the largest Samoan community in the Los Angeles area; another documents the first African American families who settled in Compton in the 1950s with images inspired by the African American artist Jacob Lawrence.

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At the entry of the station is a large mural designed by a team of 11 students from Compton's three high schools who worked with Cockcroft. The mural, which depicts music from different ethnic groups, was contributed to by Jorge Garcia, Steve Huitron, Phillip Martin, Jose Medina and Raul Roman of Compton High School; Jamar Broom, Andrew Conard and Sean P. Williams of Dominguez High School; and Tomas Aguilar, Greg Beckley and Jacques Johnson of Centennial High School.

"As art projects continue to be installed at Blue Line stations, I encourage riders to notice and enjoy each project as they ride from station to station," said Franklin White, MTA's chief executive officer.

"The history books are filled with the stories of kings, generals and geniuses," Cockcroft said. "My work celebrates the ordinary people ignored by the books, without whose convictions and courage no progress is possible."

Cockcroft, a graduate of Rutgers University and Cornell University, is an accomplished muralist, artist and author. She has written books and articles on numerous topics, especially on Latin American and Hispanic art. Her work can be seen throughout the world, including Havana, Cuba, and Berlin, Germany.

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