



NEWS

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METRO ART WINS NATIONAL AWARD

A Metro Art project titled "A Tribute to Industry" at the Vernon Station of the Metro Blue Line has won national recognition from the U.S. Department of Transportation and the National Endowment for the Arts.

It is one of 37 art works nation-wide to receive the 1995 Design for Transportation Awards.

The Vernon Station project by artist Horace Washington incorporates a whimsical tribute to the garment industry and other manufacturing enterprises that were essential to the development of the area. Large spools of thread serve as stools, and giant tools as benches. The same motif is repeated in the floor tiling.

Transportation Secretary Federico Peña reestablished the national awards, not held since the early 1980s, to promote user-friendly design in transportation. "When you go to an airport or a train station, and you're in a hurry and are stressed out, shouldn't the surroundings at least be aesthetically pleasing? It's hard to quantify, but those sorts of positive effects make the quality of life a little better for Americans," Peña said in announcing the awards.

The Universal City Metro Red Line Station also has received national recognition with a featured display in "Architecture" Magazine.

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The design team for the project, Siegel Diamond Architects and artist Margaret Garcia, focused on the history of the site, close to the Campo de Cahuenga where Mexico ceded California to the United States in 1847. The project also received a design award from the San Fernando chapter of the American Institute of Architecture (AIA).

In addition, the Marine/Redondo station on the Metro Green Line was honored recently with a 1996 "Urban Beautification Award" from the Los Angeles Business Council. Artist Carl Cheng and Escudero-Fribourg Architects combined underwater and outerspace themes to reflect two entities that dominate the region, the seacoast and the aerospace industry.

The recent awards add to a growing list of honors for Metro Art projects: the 1995 Los Angeles Business Council "Transportation Design" Award for the Baldwin Park Metrolink Station design by Siegel Diamond Architects and artist Judy Baca; the 1994 Caltrans "Excellence in Transportation" Award for several Metro Red and Blue Line art projects; the 1994 Downtown News "Best of Downtown" Award for Stephen Antonakos' neon works at Pershing Square Station on the Metro Red Line, and the Progressive Architecture Design Citation, 1992, for the Metro Red Line Vermont/Santa Monica Station design by architects Ellerbe-Becket, Inc. and artist Robert Millar.

"We are proud of these artists," said MTA Chief Executive Officer Joseph Drew. "We are proud that they have been recognized for enriching the daily life of the people of this city."

The MTA has commissioned more than 150 artists to create both permanent and temporary public art for the city's Metro system. To date, 65 permanent projects and 30 temporary ones have been completed.

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