



NEWS

December 12, 1994

**CONTACT: GREG DAVY/JIM SMART
MTA PRESS RELATIONS
(213) 244-7048, 244-6347
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CERAMIC TILE ARTWORK OF VENICE RESIDENT EVA COCKCROFT TO BE INSTALLED BEGINNING MONDAY, DEC. 12, AT COMPTON BLUE LINE STATION

Six pairs of ceramic tile panels and two columns depicting the history of the City of Compton will be installed during evening hours the week of Dec. 12 at the Metro Blue Line Compton Station.

The panels, created by Venice resident Eva Cockcroft, emphasize the arrival of the various ethnic groups that have contributed to the character of Compton over the years. The artwork is part of the ongoing Art for Rail Transit (A-R-T) Program, which commissions artists to create public art at rail facilities throughout the county.

"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 Blue Line," 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 panels depict 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.

Already installed at the entry of the Compton 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

(MORE)

COMPTON STATION ART

Page 2

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 Blue Line 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.

#