



NEWS

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CONTACT: GREG DAVY/JIM SMART
MTA PRESS RELATIONS
(213) 244-7048, 244-6347
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MTA BLUE LINE, RED LINE PASSENGERS CAN APPRECIATE ARTWORK BY AFRICAN AMERICAN ARTISTS DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Celebrating Black History Month in February is as easy as hopping aboard MTA's Metro Blue Line or Red Line trains and looking at the artwork at selected stations.

Five Metro Rail stations currently feature completed artwork by African American artists of California, and nine others are hard at work on future Metro Rail art projects. It's all part of MTA's ongoing Art for Rail Transit (A-R-T) program, which commissions local artists to create public art at rail facilities throughout the county.

"I can think of no more enjoyable way to observe Black History Month than by boarding one of our trains, sitting back and getting a tour of the works of art at our stations," said Franklin White, MTA's chief executive officer.

Following is a brief guide to artwork in the Metro Rail system especially being honored for Black History Month:

RED LINE

Westlake/MacArthur Park Station -- "Into the Light" by Therman Statom. Five ordinary objects -- a house, a ladder, a leaf, a cone and a diamond -- become extraordinary when suspended in the station's skylight. Theme of change as a positive force is symbolized by the ladder.

BLUE LINE

San Pedro Station -- "Hope, Dream/Path, Focus, Belief" by Sandra Rowe. Honors the struggle to succeed of the many immigrant groups in the neighborhood.

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Washington Station -- "Running for the Blue Line" by Elliott Pinkney. The exuberant color scheme begins with the red of downtown L.A. station canopies, then adds blue, yellow and green. A group of three figures will soon be added that will capture the hard-working spirit of this industrial community.

Vernon Station -- "A Tribute to Industry" by Horace Washington. The artist salutes the many manufacturing and commercial enterprises that have been a mainstay of the area. Seven giant spools of thread and a giant sewing machine bobbin allude to the garment industry.

Pacific Coast Highway Station -- "Twelve Principles" by Joe Lewis. Artist seeks to emphasize shared values that exist in a world full of differences, including faith, family, humility, hope, honesty, integrity, education and excellence.

Future projects include:

RED LINE

Wilshire/Western Station -- "People Coming, People Going" by Richard Wyatt. Two ceramic tile murals for the end walls of the station platform will show representative members of the community approaching and leaving the viewer.

BLUE LINE

Pacific Station -- "This is Who We Are and This is What We Bring" by June Edmonds. The 12 Venetian glass murals are derived from the artist's sketches and paintings of local people from the culturally diverse neighborhood of the station.

GREEN LINE

Wilmington/Imperial Station -- "Hide-N-Seek" by JoeSam. The artist has created a giant game of hide-n-seek among the 58 freeway supporting columns.

Avalon/I-105 Station -- This station will feature the work of three artists. Willie Middlebrook's work will celebrate the contributions of the many artists in the area, both past and present. It will include portraits of musicians, dancers, visual artists and poets.

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"Pyramid" by John Outterbridge will be a bilateral, reinforced-concrete pyramid form, located on the west end of the park-'n'-ride area. The forms will incorporate shattered tile work as an homage to the nearby Watts Towers.

Stanley Wilson's ceramic-tile mural will portray the similarity in the beliefs shared by African cultures and Native American cultures, especially of Mexico. It will feature various icons of both cultures, which reveal a similar understanding of the relationship between nature and human existence.

PASADENA BLUE LINE

Lake Avenue Station -- By Pat Ward Williams. Artist Williams proposes to create a series of "windows" in the waiting area of the station that feature vignettes of photographs and stories relevant to this site.

Sierra Madre Villa Station -- By Tony Gleaton. Artist Gleaton's design is still in progress.

METROLINK

Pomona Station -- "Past, Present, Future" by William Attaway. The artwork tells the story of Pomona's changing cultural makeup and sheds light upon the common threads that weave together the city and the world.

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