



NEWS

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CONTACT: MARY ANN MASKERY/
JIM SMART
MTA MEDIA RELATIONS
(213) 922-2736/922-2700
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MTA HOSTS PUBLIC ART TOUR AT GATEWAY TRANSIT CENTER

Sometimes a bus stop is more than a bus stop.

In the Patsaouras Bus Plaza, by Union Station, the bus stops ... make that 'waiting pavilions' ... are works of art. Glass and metal forms stretch like floating leaves to shelter the seating areas.

The public is invited to tour these and eight other major public art projects at the Gateway Transit Center on Sunday, June 22, 1997, to see how basic structures, such as bus stops, benches, fountains, even a fish tank have been molded into an aesthetic environment for travelers. The art projects range from large murals to works in ceramic, bronze, and glass, as well as light and water.

Public tours will take place at 2:30, 3:00, 3:30, and 4:00 p.m. Tours in Spanish are also available. Free posters depicting some of the art work will be distributed.

The artist team responsible for the bus shelters, Kim Yasuda, Torgen Johnson, Noel Korten, and Matthew Vanderborgh, will be on hand for a reception that will honor all of the artists who created the public art projects at the Gateway Transit Center.

The reception starts at 2 p.m. The meeting place for reception and tours is in the East Portal area behind Union Station... near the fish tank.

The aquarium is part of another major project that draws on the history of the Los Angeles River that once flowed near the Gateway site. Line drawings of figures, representing the many peoples that have crossed the area, are etched into the glass of the fish tank. More...

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Near the aquarium, a 'river' of tile flows with symbols of the flora and fauna of the region.

Opposite, water trickles across the top of a bench, covering artifacts excavated from the original Chinatown.

An 80 foot long mural towers over the waiting area, featuring prominent portraits of the many settlers who have made the L.A. basin their home. The mural and seating areas are the work of May Sun, Richard Wyatt, and Paul Diez.

Above the escalators to the Metro Red Line, artist Bill Bell has installed his work of 'light sticks,' that creates patterns of light and sound, with signs of fleeting images passing between.

Artist Michael Amescua's painted metal screens, featuring birds, butterflies, and reptiles, grace several areas of the Gateway Transit Center.

A corner park of benches and fountains features colorful hand painted and dimensional ceramic tiles. The whimsical work, the project of the artist team of Roberto Gil de Montes, Elsa Flores and Peter Shire, forms an inviting entrance to the Patsaouras Plaza from the corner of Vignes and Cesar Chavez.

The East Los Streetscapers (led by Wayne Healy and David Botello) have enhanced a seating area under the pedestrian bridges with hand painted and glazed ceramic tiles.

Three major mural projects grace the public floors of the MTA Headquarters building that faces the Patsaouras Bus Plaza. Artist Patrick Nagatani's "Epoch" collage mural greets visitors at the entrance of the MTA Boardroom. It draws on the history of locomotion, both human and mechanical.

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Across the hall, artist Margaret Nielsen's "L.A. Dialogs" chronicles Los Angeles history, primarily through images of antique postcards.

Artist Jim Doolin's series of murals depict the Los Angeles of 1870, 1910, 1960 and post-2000.

"We are very proud of the work of these artists," says Maya Emsden, Director of Metro Art. "They have taken a public space and they have given it a human dimension. Their work helps to provide a friendly and welcoming environment for travelers."

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