

A worker views a mural depicting Native American history painted on the exterior of the Metrolink maintenance facility at Taylor Yard. PHOTO by Alan Nakagawa.

MTA Unveils Art Honoring the Past at Cypress Park Event



(Feb. 1, 2002) The MTA unveiled a group of art works in Cypress Park, Thursday, during an event planned to express appreciation for community cooperation in the location of a rail facility at the Taylor Yard.

A virtual outdoor museum that showcases the history and culture of the area, the arts complex was funded by the MTA as a way of revitalizing the community and as part of an agreement that allowed the LACTC to build a Metrolink maintenance facility.

"The art work is the MTA's way of saying 'thank you.' This day is proof-positive that public agencies and communities can work hand-in-hand for the better good," said Board Chairman John Fasana, who, along with Board members Hal Bernson and Beatrice Proo, spoke at the event.



Fasana expressed appreciation to the people of Cypress Park for "...graciously allowing a Metrolink maintenance facility to be built in record time when the commuter rail system was desperately needed in our area."

^ Board Chairman John Fasana and Board Member Beatrice Proo, far right, congratulated artist Jacqueline Dreager on her sculpture of a prehistoric whale skull. PHOTO by José Ubaldo.

The outdoor sculptures include an impressive eight-foot tall bronze cast of a prehistoric whale skull by artists Jacqueline and Ron Dreager. The original skull was found in 1931 in Elysian Park.

The whale skull and other sculptures are displayed on land adjacent to property purchased recently by the state for use as parkland. That 30-acre site will be one of the first open spaces developed by the state for recreation in or near downtown Los Angeles.

In addition to the whale sculpture, reporters were treated to views of a dazzling mural the artist team Sindicato Regeneracion painted on the exterior of the Metrolink maintenance building. Wider than a drive-in movie screen, the mural depicts Native American history.

Other works of art on the site include a 150-foot walkway in the form of a serpent whose eyes light up at night, bone beds with replicas of prehistoric mammal and sea life, mammoth femurs and a frog-shaped

bench.

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