

Regional Connector *Art Program*



Metro[®]

Metro Art

Metro Art enhances the customer experience with visual and performing arts programming that encourages ridership and connects people, sites and neighborhoods throughout LA County. Artworks in the Metro System foster a sense of place and strengthen ties with the communities we serve. From photography installations to onboard posters, art tours and live performances, our multifaceted art programs engage and contribute to the vibrancy of LA communities.

METRO ART IS:

Integrated artworks

Rotating exhibitions

Art posters

Poetry cards and readings

Music performances

Film screenings

Multimedia presentations

Meet-the-Artist events

Youth programs

Art banners

Artist workshops

Art tours

Metro Regional Connector Project

The Metro Regional Connector Project connects the Metro Gold Line to 7th Street/Metro Center Station in downtown Los Angeles, allowing passengers to transfer to the Blue, Expo, Red and Purple Lines, bypassing Union Station. Three new stations along the 1.9-mile alignment will serve Little Tokyo and the Arts District (Little Tokyo/Arts District Station);

Civic Center, the Historic Core and Broadway (Historic Broadway Station); and Grand Avenue, Bunker Hill, Flower Street and the Financial District (Grand Av Arts/Bunker Hill Station). Additional information about the Metro Regional Connector Project is available at metro.net/projects/connector.

METRO REGIONAL CONNECTOR ART PROGRAM

The Metro Regional Connector Project Art Program encompasses a range of temporary and permanent projects. Seven artists have been commissioned to create site-specific, integrated artworks for the three new stations: Andrea Bowers, Audrey Chan, Mark Steven Greenfield, Pearl C Hsiung, Clare Rojas, Mungo Thomson and Clarence Williams. These artists are also engaging downtown communities by hosting public events and focused workshops intended to inform the artists' design processes and/or build awareness about their Regional Connector artworks. In addition, the Art Program will include

rotating exhibitions within the future stations and temporary murals for the construction site fences at Historic Broadway Station and Grand Av Arts/Bunker Hill Station. For more information about the Regional Connector Project Art Program, contact Letitia F. Ivins at ivinsl@metro.net.

To stay in the loop about upcoming Meet-the-Artist events, workshops and artist-led engagement activities, sign up for Metro Art's email list at metro.net/art, and follow us at [instagram.com/metro.art.la](https://www.instagram.com/metro.art.la) and [facebook.com/metroartla](https://www.facebook.com/metroartla).

ART ADVISORY GROUP

Station artists were selected through a competitive, community-based process by local arts professionals known for their connection to the Regional Connector corridor, coupled with their expertise in contemporary visual art and demonstrated experience as panelists. An art advisory group, including the art panel and stakeholder representatives with a strong connection to the arts, has been convened to serve as a key community touchstone during artwork development.

Charles Gaines

Artist*

Nick Griffin

Vice President of Economic
Development
*Downtown Center Business
Improvement District*

Leslie Ito

President and CEO
*Japanese American Cultural &
Community Center**

Gabrielle Newmark

Founder, Swamp Pink Landscape
Architecture & Program Director
Industrial District Green

Ming Ng

Vice President of
Community Engagement
Music Center

Escott Norton

Executive Director
*Los Angeles Historic Theatre
Foundation*

Erica Overskei

Program Manager
Arts Brookfield

Renée Petropoulos

Artist*

Cheyenne Sauter

Executive Director
Art Share L.A.

Ed Schad

Associate Curator
and Publications Manager
*The Broad**

Morgan Jaybush Sykes

Project Manager
Omgiving

Lanka Tattersall

Assistant Curator
*Museum of Contemporary Art,
Los Angeles**

Daisy Villa

Artist

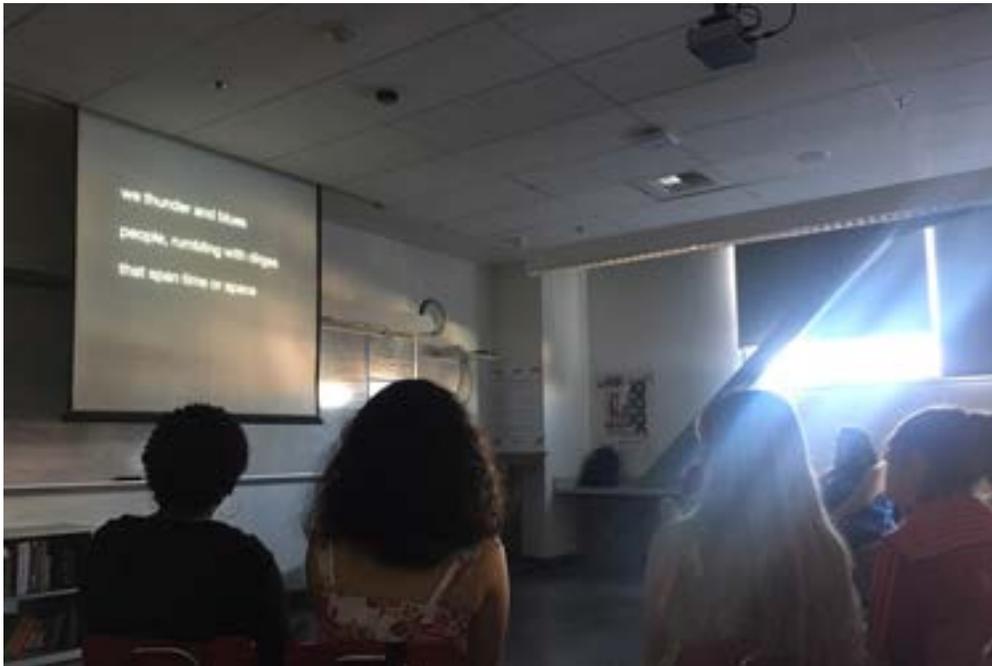
Qris Yamashita

Graphic Designer

*panelist

ARTIST-LED COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Regional Connector artists are engaging downtown communities through a range of activities, such as art-making workshops, artist talks, events at local schools and public performances that connect to the artwork. These activities are intended to inform the artists' design processes and/or build public awareness of the future artworks at Regional Connector stations.



Poetry Workshop with artist Clarence Williams



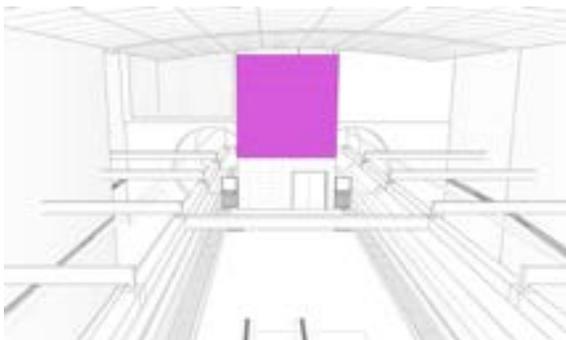
Meet-the-Artist event and workshop with artist Audrey Chan

ARTWORK LOCATIONS

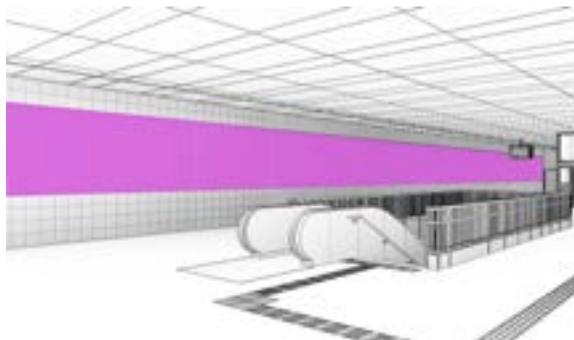
Several locations were identified at the three new Regional Connector stations for site-specific, integrated artworks, including the entrance pavilion, concourse and platform level walls. The following renderings portray a sampling of the artwork locations.



Glass entrance pavilion, Little Tokyo/Arts District Station



Platform, Grand Av Arts/Bunker Hill Station



Concourse, Historic Broadway Station

LITTLE TOKYO/ARTS DISTRICT STATION



Clare Rojas, artist
ENTRANCE PAVILION

“The landscape is the great equalizer of humanity. Our cultural traditions are deeply shaped by the earth’s [daily] rotation around the sun, lunar tides, sunrise and sunset.”

Clare Rojas’s artwork will honor the presence of the natural world within the urban landscape and highlight humanity’s shared rhythm with the land, water and sky. The sun rises and sets from east to west in her lyrical composition of gradated colors and abstracted shapes for the glass walls of the station’s entrance pavilion. Below lunar diagrams, curvilinear columns simulate waves that intermittently reveal and obscure geometric, building-like forms. The translucent surface will refract daylight in a full spectrum of

color on the surrounding pavement. The artwork draws inspiration in part from Metro’s expansive rail lines emanating from the station. The artist likens the interconnecting routes to arteries that, like LA’s historic aqueduct system and natural tributaries, lead to the ocean. Rojas will engage the community through an intergenerational crochet workshop, during which she will share her artwork and invite participants to share stories at the intersection of natural systems and cultural rituals.



Audrey Chan, artist
PLATFORM

“Perseverance, collective struggle and storytelling are vital elements of a thriving community. The artwork will create a space to dream, to form mythologies from our experiences and layered cultural histories, desires.”

Inspired by Little Tokyo, the Arts District and neighboring communities, Audrey Chan’s station artwork will celebrate Los Angeles’s vibrant and complex history. Chan’s allegorical dreamscape will feature important community figures (such as entrepreneur Biddy Mason and photographer Toyo Miyatake) and local monuments and events (including the Little Tokyo Watchtower, Aoyama tree and Nisei Week Festival). These cultural identifiers will be juxtaposed with depictions of the region’s

indigenous peoples, fauna and flora. The images will be featured on art panels flanking the station platform. Chan’s project evolved from area walks, conversations with local residents and archival research. In August 2017, she hosted a workshop during the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center’s Nisei Week celebration that sparked community conversation, formed new connections and illuminated the artwork’s symbolism and historical references.

HISTORIC BROADWAY STATION



Andrea Bowers, artist
ENTRANCE PAVILION

“I seek to reflect the diverse communities that regularly gather downtown to express their voices and their rights.”

Andrea Bowers will imbue the glass walls of the station’s entrance pavilion with messages of unity and democracy through her translation of the mottos “El pueblo unido, jamás será vencido” (The people united will never be defeated) and “By independence we mean the right to self-determination, self-government and freedom.” The first text can often be heard chanted at protests, marches and political events around the world. It originated in Chile between 1969 and 1973 as a slogan in support of Salvador Allende’s presidential election and evolved into an anthem composed by Sergio Ortega for the Chilean Popular Unity coalition. The second is taken from a

mission statement of the Brown Berets, a Chicano civil rights group founded in East Los Angeles and active during the late 1960s and early 1970s. The artwork is inspired by its location in downtown Los Angeles, which is a regular meeting place for people from all over the region to exercise their political voice through rallies, marches and street theater: City Hall, the LAPD Headquarters, Hall of Justice and the U.S. Courthouse are all within a two-block radius of the station. The artist plans to engage the community by hosting a series of pop-up performances featuring local musicians performing Ortega’s song.



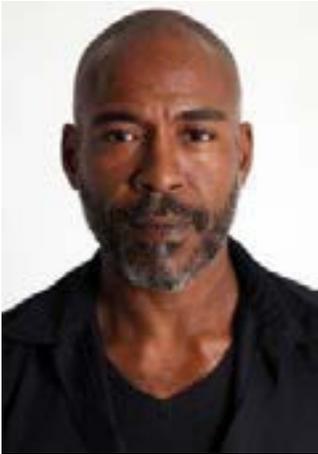
Mark Steven Greenfield, artist
CONCOURSE

“It is my hope that the overall impact of the work will be seen as a whimsical abstraction of the energy of the Red Cars and the communities that are once again being served by Metro Rail.”

Mark Steven Greenfield’s tile mosaic for the station’s concourse will be a sentimental tribute to Los Angeles’ historic Pacific Electric Red Cars, which were once an iconic fixture in the city. The artist’s concept is drawn from fond childhood memories that evolved into a profound appreciation for the transit system, which contributed to the growth of LA County between 1901 and 1961 by bringing electricity and access to outlying areas. The abstract artwork is boldly rendered in the distinguishing red, orange and yellow hues of the “Red Cars.” Symbolizing destinations

along a route, a series of rosette-like clusters of curvilinear shapes are connected by sweeping lines. Within each rosette are renditions of the unique shapes once punched into Red Car–passenger tickets. In addition to connoting the movement of rail, Greenfield’s energetic forms, sweeping gestures and dynamic composition refer to the momentum of a town always in flux. The artist plans to engage local high school art students in storytelling and a series of art-making workshops inspired by his Regional Connector artwork.

HISTORIC BROADWAY STATION (CONT'D)



Clarence Williams,
artist

PLATFORM

“The artwork will speak to downtown LA’s role as an entry point for so many types of people, the quintessential place for new beginnings.”

With particular emphasis on the often-overlooked migrations of black Americans, Clarence Williams’s deeply personal artwork for the platform of this downtown station pays tribute to the area’s legacy as a place where scores of migrants first made their way to Los Angeles. The series of porcelain enamel steel art panels will feature the artist’s black-and-white photographs documenting Louisianans displaced by Hurricane Katrina in 2005—many of whom relocated to Los Angeles—and intimate photographs of diverse Los Angeles immigrants, paired with haikus by poet and long-time collaborator Ursula Rucker. The artwork recounts

migrant journeys, from the immediate and devastating aftermath of the storm to the larger immigrant community’s adaptation to life in Los Angeles. The specific moments portrayed in these striking images and haunting texts express a universal theme: the pursuit of a better life, the pursuit of home. In October 2017, Williams presented his artwork design and Rucker led a poetry workshop with high school teens from the local Ramón C. Cortines School of Visual and Performing Arts, during which participants expressed their sense of place, home and identity through music, creative writing and rhythm.

GRAND AV ARTS/BUNKER HILL STATION



Pearl C Hsiung, artist
CONCOURSE

“I’m interested in reflecting on the epic geological and anthropological histories of the station neighborhood.”

Vivid paint streaks will stretch towards a celestial sky among billowing steam and clouds along the vertical expanse of the east concourse wall in Pearl C Hsiung’s station artwork. The erupting geyser at the center of her tile mural will give visual form to the transformative energy that exists beneath the earth’s surface and within us. The artwork evokes the unceasing topographic and sociocultural evolution of Los Angeles and the surrounding Bunker Hill neighborhood: a dense area with a rich history of dramatic change that has emerged as

a cultural destination. Various paint techniques translated to tile will reflect the artist’s background. Sumi-ink blotted on wet paper reveal influence from the Chinese scrolls and Shui-mo landscapes that once decorated her childhood home, and squeegeed enamel paint and masked spray paint allude to 1990s club and skate culture, in which she immersed herself as a young adult. Hsiung is hosting an artist talk and interactive public event that will extend to social media.



Mungo Thomson, artist
PLATFORM

“My work is broadly interested in backgrounds and in all the contextual information that we tune out and ignore but that nonetheless shapes perception.”

Mungo Thomson’s two murals for this subway platform evolved from a series of artworks in which he digitally inverts astronomical images from the Hubble Space Telescope’s online photographic archive. For this station, Thomson will recontextualize a stunning image of the Hubble’s 2015 composite photograph of the Andromeda (M31) galaxy on porcelain enamel steel tiles. Consisting of 7,398 exposures, the panoramic Hubble image is the largest ever assembled. Thomson’s inverted portrayal of the

tiled photographs—with saw-tooth edges reminiscent of traditional subway tile—is at once antithetical and befitting to its underground setting—a void in the earth as far from outer space as possible. Although it retains a sense of the cosmic, the speckled artwork conjures myriad associations, from dust, smoke and veined marble to physiologic systems and oceanic microcosms. Thomson will engage the community by presenting a lecture series in a subterranean location with the theme of underground astronomy.

ADDITIONAL ART OPPORTUNITIES

The following opportunities will be available for additional artworks at Regional Connector stations. Artists interested in these and other Metro Art opportunities should sign up for our email list. Visit metro.net/art and click on “Artist Opportunities.”



Entrance pavilion art opportunity

Grand Av Arts/Bunker Hill Station Entrance Pavilion

An artist will be selected to design entrance pavilion glass.



Concourse rendering, Grand Av Arts/Bunker Hill Station

Historic Broadway and Grand Av Arts/Bunker Hill Stations Lightboxes

Rotating exhibitions will be on view in illuminated lightboxes at Historic Broadway and Grand Av Arts/Bunker Hill stations.

CONSTRUCTION PHASE ARTWORKS

Metro Art partnered with two local arts organizations, the Japanese American National Museum and Mobile Mural Lab, on artworks designed to mitigate visual impacts during the Regional Connector Project's construction phase. Researched and created through a series of artist-

led workshops, the project engages young people from the surrounding communities in site-based investigation and the public art process. The large-scale temporary artworks were printed on vinyl and installed on construction fences at the following sites:

Historic Broadway Station

The Japanese American National Museum conducted a series of educational workshops with youth from Boyle Heights High School to co-create banners for the site of the future Historic Broadway Station.

The Japanese American National Museum promotes understanding and appreciation of America's ethnic and cultural diversity by sharing the Japanese American experience.

Grand Av Arts/Bunker Hill Station

Mobile Mural Lab worked with youth from the Museum of Contemporary Art's Teen Program to study mural design, conduct research and create a collaborative banner mural inspired by the downtown community for the Grand Av Arts/Bunker Hill Station.

Conceived in response to a Los Angeles sign ordinance that prohibited murals on private property, Mobile Mural Lab evolved into a mobile art studio serving as a space for mural education and production.



Japanese American National Museum leads art workshop with Boyle Heights High School students



Mobile Mural Lab leads MOCA Teen Program participants in site-based research and design development