

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Metro Art Program Policy

Los Angeles County is recognized as one of the world's most important creative capitals and is home to an incredible range of remarkably talented artists. Since the early 1980's, Metro has been at the national forefront of interweaving art and transit and transforming quotidian commutes into pleasurable journeys. The revisions below include recent Board directives and Guiding Principles.

Metro Art is L.A. County's cultural connector providing increased and equitable access to arts and culture for Metro's diverse ridership through programs that add vibrancy, identity and a sense of place. Known for a broad range of artists who have been commissioned, Metro Art programs are also recognized for their innovative and impactful community engagement. Alongside a unique volunteer docent-guided tour program, Board-approved programs include percent-for-art, phased art asset management, onboard posters, and the performing arts. Together, these award-winning initiatives express the vibrancy and spirit of the region, elevate the customer experience, and include both emerging and established artists in the reimagining of transportation with the following Guiding Principles:

- Put people first
 - Uplift customer journeys and local communities through artistic expression
 - Provide paid opportunities for artists at all levels of their careers
 - Engage riders and stakeholders through shared sense of ownership
 - Provide workforce development and career pipeline opportunities
- Connect to creative communities throughout LA County
 - Celebrate connections to diverse local arts and cultural destinations
 - Present curated partnerships and sponsorships
 - Foster and facilitate arts tours and highlight creative communities
 - Facilitate creative outreach and engagement
 - Provide opportunities and technical assistance for local artists
- Champion innovation
 - Collaborate with internal departments to integrate the arts across transportation modes and initiatives
 - Leverage strategic funding opportunities
 - Support artistic experimentation
 - Explore new technologies and advance best practices

Metro Arts & Design oversees and directs all arts and cultural programs on Metro property and is the technical lead for all agency non-Metro property arts and cultural strategic initiatives.

The department is also responsible for the implementation of the phased art asset management program.

In accordance with FTA Circular 9400.1A (Design & Art in Transit Projects) and APTA SUDS-UD-RP-007-13 (Best Practices for Integrating Art Into Capital Projects), a minimum of 0.5% of construction costs for transit capital projects is allocated for public art. Real estate acquisitions, vehicle procurement, professional services, unallocated contingency, and finance costs are excluded from the calculation. The art allocation shall be used for artwork and may not be spent for other general Project costs such as signage, supergraphics, engineering, administration, overhead, cost overruns or betterments. When art replaces standard features (e.g. wall tiles, flooring, railings, etc) funds

otherwise spent on those features shall be credited to the art budget. Where funding sources allow, funds may be pooled for more equitable distribution.

Art program staff are engaged during early Project planning and are responsible for art program development and communications, as well as artist outreach and commissioning, for all Project delivery methods. Lessons Learned are incorporated into agency policies and procedures to ensure continuous improvement.

In 2020 the Board formalized the role of the arts beyond transportation infrastructure and directed funding be included in the budget to “Uplift the Human Spirit Through Metro Art,” champion the visual and performing arts, with preference for local artists, through temporary programs, on-board posters and cultural programming that enrich the customer experience, advance cultural equity, and respond to Los Angeles County’s vast and evolving cultural landscape.

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