



Board Report

File #: 2020-0427, **File Type:** Motion / Motion Response

Agenda Number: 36.

**EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
JUNE 18, 2020**

Motion by:

DIRECTORS BUTTS, SOLIS, GARCETTI, AND HAHN

Uplifting The Human Spirit Through Metro Art

On Saturday June 6th the L. A. Times published in its Saturday Section (F) 14 different artworks from different artists under the title “California Artists Express the Pain of Injustice.”

I’ve been periodically reminded by my staff that Metro has a long history in the forefront as a leader in integrating public art into transit construction projects. Our Metro Rail stations are famous for their artworks. We even have people taking tours of the station artworks.

As I mentioned in my State of the Agency remarks, we are currently faced with two concurrent tragedies and the artwork published in the Times spoke to the moment of the outpouring of grief and anger across our county and nation.

Mayor Garcetti spoke of re-imagining LA County transportation and I would propose that we consider ways in which the arts might play a role in that transformation that goes beyond transit infrastructure.

The Arts are a powerful means of bringing people together across borders of all kinds. Much of the inspiring news coverage/media attention at present is often about how the artists are expressing and conveying the longstanding pain of injustice.

As we are undertaking strategies to encourage people to return and use public transportation wisely and more often, I would like to see us explore ways to formally incorporate arts programming into areas beyond construction. As people ride busses and trains in this troublesome era, we should balance Metro safety messaging with welcoming creative artworks that mitigate anxieties and add a touch of humanity. Let us use this tragedy to help uplift the human spirit through art.

SUBJECT: UPLIFTING THE HUMAN SPIRIT THROUGH METRO ART

RECOMMENDATION

APPROVE Motion by Directors Butts, Solis, Garcetti, and Hahn that the Board direct the CEO to return in the August Board cycle with a Report back on how Metro can:

- Integrate Metro Art programs into our trains, busses;
- Champion artistic experimentation including provocative works that are responsive to the issues and concerns of our time; and
- Think about how artists might be included in the Reimagining of transportation



Board Report

File #: 2020-0566, **File Type:** Motion / Motion Response

Agenda Number: 45.1.

**EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
AUGUST 20, 2020
REVISED**

Amending Motion by:

DIRECTORS BUTTS, GARCETTI, AND GARCIA

Related to Item 45: Report on Motion to “Uplift the Human Spirit Through Metro Art”

Metro staff has returned to the Board with an excellent response to the above Motion in so far as identifying immediate initiatives that can be implemented in the next six months including:

1. Champion artistic expression of local visual artists through posters within Metro’s allocation of advertising spaces, including on buses and trains, when/where space is available
2. Partner with community based cultural organizations to interpret and document this pivotal moment
3. Curate cultural programming to foster connections with the public, and
4. Commission local artists to creatively convey ‘new manners’, safety messaging and mobility.

While the report is very good as far as it goes, the Item before us is presented for information only with no financial funding being recommended.

We cannot accomplish the initiatives described above and create an inclusionary synergy with Metro’s Customer Experience “Surprise and Delight” program, including such aspects as Performance Art, without providing funding.

SUBJECT: AMENDMENT TO REPORT ON MOTION TO "UPLIFT THE HUMAN SPIRIT THROUGH METRO ART"

RECOMMENDATION

APPROVE Amending Motion by Directors Butts, Garcetti, and Garcia that the Board direct the CEO to initiate the following policy directives:

1. Instruct staff to return to this Board in September with a specific set-aside percentage of interior space on both rail and busses to accommodate the placement of Metro Art posters, with preference for local artists, as we have done in the past; and
2. Include in the FY 21 Budget \$400,000 dollars to accomplish the goals outlined above. Staff will reprioritize available resources and work cross-departmentally to identify internal and external funding opportunities to support the projects.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A - RBM Item 45.1 (Before Revision)