VALLEY METRO ART 2016
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Overview

Valley Metro relies on a solid partnership with the community to help fully integrate transit into each neighborhood. The Valley Metro Rail public art program is an example of how collaboration between artists and the community from its earliest phases, has a major influence on the overall product. Neighborhood participation shapes the progress and design of light rail from route location to the station design aesthetics.

Artists selected to design and produce artwork spend time researching local history and working with local stakeholders to understand points of cultural interest. Many of these artists spend numerous hours getting to know the local neighborhood as a way to share and express individual and community stories. All of it translates into artwork that depicts something unique about the neighborhood experience.

Engagement with the public and guidance of the art program begins with the Regional Rail Arts Committee, a local group of artists, art professionals, designers and community representatives nominated by Valley Metro Rail’s member agencies. In conjunction with individual Station Art Review Committees, whose members represent the
neighborhoods near the stations or power substations, artists are selected and their project proposals are critiqued and guided from concept to finished designs. During the design phase of the extension, the artists attend neighborhood meetings to present their concepts.

With the first 20 miles of rail that opened in 2008, artist design teams were gathered to join the architectural teams to participate in the initial light rail station design.

In central Mesa, which opened four new stations in summer 2015, six artists combined their efforts to develop the theme *Old Roots, New Growth* capturing the potential of Mesa’s downtown area. The variety of resulting artworks expresses this concept in a dramatic and colorful approach.

Traveling north on 19th Avenue to Dunlap Avenue where three stations opened in spring 2016, art at stations, power substations and the park-and-ride is focused on community and the beauty of the natural world. Artists considered shade and an appreciation for the area’s plant and animal life in vibrant, rich color palettes. Education and civic space were also important themes. The artwork on the Northwest Extension is diverse and vibrant, similar to the community it serves.

The distinctive public art on the entire 26 miles of Valley Metro Rail is a testament to the engagement and partnership with the communities. The artwork will long serve as an icon of the process, sharing moments of history and culture with riders who are there to simply enjoy or are passing by on the way to their destination.

**MB Finnerty**

*Public Art Administrator, Valley Metro*
Valley Metro Rail

WEST

Transit Center
Park-and-Ride location
Colorful metal panels feature three architectural designs created for Phoenix during the past century. Although they were never built, this art showcases them in another form for the community to enjoy. The imagery represents what could have been and illustrates the beauty aesthetics provides in a public environment.
19th Ave/Dunlap Park-and-Ride

Matthew & Maria Salenger
CoLAB Studio
Tempe, AZ

Dunlap Venue

Located near a dozen schools, this art showcases education. Nine cones feature laser-cut steel images based on the drawings of area students who were asked to re-imagine their schools. The cones catch various angles of sunlight during the day creating shadows of the images on the plaza floor. The 3,600 square foot open-air canopy also provides shade to riders and supports the area as a community gathering space.
The intricately patterned, cut-steel sculpture stands atop a concrete base towering more than 11 feet and flanked by two smaller sculptures, each with additional organic designs. The smaller pieces are lit from within providing a foil for the dynamically lit centerpiece.

Diaz’s tile mural design of the Tree of Life, hand-painted and assembled by Tucson artist Carly Quinn, expresses a universal symbol for many things including growth, wisdom, strength, healing, beauty and interconnection.
As a pathway for pollination and migratory birds, this art showcases Phoenix as a nectar corridor. Bats, birds, bees and moths are celebrated in cut metal screens. The art serves as a reminder that traveling to a destination is as essential for nature as it is for humans. A honking horn is balanced by a floating moth, a majestic Saguaro cactus and the smell of a blooming flower. The colorful metal screens and terrazzo carpets arranged around woodgrain imprinted concrete also create intimate room-like spaces.
Inspired by the abundance of bougainvillea in the beautiful gardens and landscaping in the neighborhoods, the artist chose polished terrazzo panels to play up the vivid colors in her depiction of the bright fuchsia plant. The panels stretch out over 30 feet and are set into a niche in the traction power substation wall.
 Inspired by the origins of the name Arizona, the art is a spin-off of the Basque settler term “aritz ona” or “the good oak tree.” The series of organically shaped canopies are purposefully staged and reminiscent of a nature walk. The five trees are adorned with metal sequin leaves, which catch the light while the tree-like canopies provide shade from the Valley sun.
Lawrence Traction Power Substation

Nina Solomon & Heidi Dauphin
Phoenix, AZ

City Flow

Just as light rail moves people across cities, the art illustrates the movement within the neighborhood. The abstract neighborhood skyline includes individual tiles in an array of colors and textures. Architectural and domestic references are impressed into the tile surfaces, suggesting individual personalities within different neighborhoods. To incorporate local flavor, artists invited local residents to donate textured items that provided the tile imprint.
19th Ave/Montebello

Robert Adams

19th Ave/Camelback

Josh Garber
7th Ave/Camelback
Nubia Owens

Central Ave/Camelback
Ilan Averbuch
Campbell/ Central Ave
Al Price

Indian School/ Central Ave
Mary Lucking
Osborn/Central Ave
Thomas Sayre

Thomas/Central Ave
Brian Goldbloom
Encanto/Central Ave
Jamex & Einar De La Torre

McDowell/Central Ave
Michael Maglich
Roosevelt/ Central Ave
Peter Richards

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Washington/Central Ave
Jefferson/1st Ave
Stephen Farley

3rd St/Washington
3rd St/Jefferson
Cliff Garten
12th St/Washington
12th St/Jefferson
Victor Mario Zaballa

24th St/Washington
24th St/Jefferson
Kevin Berry
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Stuart Keeler & Michael Machnic

44th St/Washington
Mona Higuchi
Mill Ave/3rd St
Catherine Widgery

Veterans Way/College Ave
Tad Savinar
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Dorsey/Apache Blvd
Christine Bourdette, Dan Corson, Benson Shaw & Suikang Zhao
McClintock/ Apache Blvd
Christine Bourdette, Dan Corson, Benson Shaw & Suikang Zhao

Smith-Martin/ Apache Blvd
Christine Bourdette, Dan Corson, Benson Shaw & Suikang Zhao
Price–101 Fwy/
Apache Blvd
Christine Bourdette, Dan Corson,
Benson Shaw & Suikang Zhao

Sycamore/Main St
Brad Konick
Emergence

The artist designed a series of cut metal screens whose patterns are both organic and scientific. It serves the community by reflecting desert and farming communities of the past and celebrating the technical emergence of the nearby East Valley Institute of Technology. View the entryway screen tree imagery to experience a mimic of the “Voronoi Fractal,” as seen in the center of saguaro cacti and other desert plants.

The kinetic, wind-driven, metal pinwheel located high in the center screen is surrounded by colored glass inserts that provide a dynamic focus for the piece. Emergence is one that hopes to embrace a historic past and an emergent, thriving community.
Country Club/Main St

Ed Carpenter
Portland, OR

Mesaflora

Seen by many as the entry point into the historic downtown, the art is in response to the city’s request for a special gateway piece. Mesaflora was created as a 30-foot steel and glass structure that depicts a blooming desert plant. The metaphor is revealed with the ongoing development and flowering of downtown. The dichroic glass elements create a dazzling rainbow display of colored lights that constantly change and shift as the day evolves. At night the art is illuminated, creating an added dramatic effect.
In her dynamic artwork, this local artist chose pecan trees as the subject matter to screen the traction power substation at Morris Plaza. Pecan orchards were once located adjacent to Main Street, originally serving as crop trees and later as shade trees in the neighborhoods. The pecan trees are a fixture of her childhood memories growing up in Mesa.
Center/Main St

Ralph Helmick
Newton, MA

Drawing Room

Located where the city’s civic, arts, education and business institutions meet; this art showcases the combination of urban icon, outdoor room and collective portrait of community. Standing beneath the 50-foot steel sculpture, the viewer can see through the profiles to the sky above. Viewed from afar, the station art serves as the metaphorical front door to City Hall and the Mesa Arts Center. Dramatic programmable lights will change color as it relates to community events.
A tile mosaic in the shape of a yellow Palo Verde is fashioned to adorn the wall surrounding the signal house at the corner of Hibbert and Main Street. The tree is native to the Sonoran Desert and was cultivated by native residents of the area. The silkscreened photo and painted tiles feature images of Mesa’s local culture history.
Sixteen Stories of One Home Town

Stories of Mesa’s history are told through the eyes of its youngest residents. These stories have been translated into illustrations and featured on sixteen porcelain panels as storybook pages. Two 21-foot steel panels bookend the center section of the station depicting a mother and father who represent the gift of storytelling from one generation to the next.

The station includes vine-covered, trellised entryways that extend the natural elements of Pioneer Park to the north and the park-like grounds of the Temple located to the south.
Acknowledgments

Valley Metro Rail features works of art that incorporate the rich history and culture of the neighborhoods it serves. Thanks to the considerable effort by Phoenix, Tempe and Mesa city staff, Valley Metro staff and design and engineering consultants and fabricators, the artists’ visions have come to life. It is also imperative to acknowledge and thank the Regional Rail Arts Committee, Station Arts Review Committees, Phoenix Arts and Culture Commission Tempe Municipal Arts Commission and the City of Mesa Museum and Cultural Advisory Board for volunteering their time and offering their guidance throughout this process. In addition, much gratitude is extended to the talented artists whose creativity and passion make traveling Valley Metro Rail a unique and enjoyable experience.