Public art helps invigorate communities along project corridor

Public art invigorates communities, helps create a sense of place and adds to the quality of life for our citizens. To this end, TriMet has made public art an essential component of our regional transit system and created an award-winning public art program.

TriMet and its project partners are once again investing in public art on the Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Project (PMLR), working in collaboration with the Regional Arts and Culture Council (RACC), the Clackamas County Arts Alliance and the communities along the alignment.

Approximately $3 million is allocated for art commissions, based on TriMet’s policy of allocating 1.5 percent of the project’s civil construction budget towards public art.

The goals of the PMLR Public Art Program are to express the uniqueness of the individual station areas and to inspire civil discourse. Additionally, artwork along the alignment should encourage connectivity, stewardship and sustainability.

To achieve these goals, community engagement is critical. The PMLR Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) plays an essential role in public involvement by guiding the PMLR Public Art Program. The PAAC is comprised of volunteers from the community whose purpose is to act as liaisons with the larger community, select artists, review concept proposals for artwork and approve artwork final designs. To date, the PAAC has selected most of the artists for the program commissions.

PMLR project staff also engage the community through regular updates to community members at project Citizens Advisory Committee meetings, stakeholder forums and neighborhood open houses. Community members are a valuable resource, providing information about their communities to help educate project artists and inform the art program.

Light rail bridge artists

In October 2009, Bay Area artists Anna Valentina Murch and Douglas Hollis were selected to collaborate with the architect on public art elements for the new light rail bridge over the Willamette River. Among other concepts, the
artists have proposed an aesthetic lighting scheme accenting the bridge’s cable-stayed form.

Corridor artists
Early in the project design phase, nationally known Buster Simpson was selected by short list to envision a system-wide art treatment for the new alignment.

A Request for Qualifications was issued in July 2010 inviting artists to apply to participate in the project. Out of 276 applications, nine artists were selected to create art works for the station areas and the bridge over Kellogg Creek.

- **South Waterfront and OMSI/Opera:** Jim Blashfield
- **Clinton Street:** Rebar/Matthew Passmore
- **Powell Boulevard Overpass:** Horatio Law
- **17th Avenue Corridor (Rhine and Holgate stations):** Bill Will
- **Bybee Boulevard:** Dana Lynn Louis
- **Tacoma Street:** Thomas Sayre
- **Downtown Milwaukie/SE 21st Avenue:** Brian Goldbloom
- **Kellogg Creek Bridge:** Andre Caradec and Thom Faulders
- **Park Avenue:** Seyed Alavi

Project timeline
Final Design .............................................. 2011–12

Construction, including art fabrication and installation ............... 2011-2014

Service begins .............................................. 2015

Public Art Advisory Committee
The Public Art Advisory Committee is comprised of 10 dedicated community members who volunteer their time to support the art program.

- **Mark Annen** – Architect/Artist (Brooklyn)
- **Christine Bourdette** – Artist (South Portland Neighborhood Association)
- **Kristin Calhoun** – Public Art Manager, Regional Arts and Culture Council
- **Jef Gunn** – Artist/PNCA Instructor (Brooklyn)
- **Alicia Hamilton** – Arts Advocate (Milwaukie)
- **Bob Hastings** – TriMet Agency Architect (South Waterfront)
- **Eleanore Hunter** – Oak Lodge Community Council Chair (Oak Grove)
- **Matt Menely** – Owner, inner SE small business (Milwaukie)
- **Gary Michael** – Architect/Artist (Milwaukie)
- **Cheryl Snow** (Chair) – Executive Director, Clackamas County Arts Alliance

For more information regarding the public art program and artists visit trimet.org/pm.

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Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Project is a partnership among: