

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT ART IN TRANSIT POLICY

VISION:

The San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) seeks to implement an arts program that will enrich rider experience, strengthen station identity, connect to communities, and support a distinctive sense of place at stations and beyond. BART's art program will build on best practices, lead the field in community participation strategies, engage with arts and cultural organizations and artists, and make riding BART more delightful, vibrant, and welcoming.

GOALS:

- A. **Cohesion.** Create a cohesive and consistent art program.
- B. **Opportunity.** Proactively seek opportunities to implement art across the District, and leverage general capital investments by incorporating art and design elements into public-facing infrastructure.
- C. **Partnerships.** Maximize art in the system by leveraging BART's investments through partnerships with other organizations and agencies, and through grant writing and fundraising.
- D. **Make Transit Work.** Use arts programming to further BART's functional goals and enhance public perception of BART as a transit system that works well for its riders.
- E. **Showcase Art.** Maintain and make BART's art collection accessible through effective asset management and interpretive strategies.
- F. **Integrated Design.** Utilize art to elevate the design of stations and affirm the distinct identity of the surrounding community.
- G. **Transparency.** Establish a transparent and effective process for developing and implementing collaborative projects and programming.
- H. **Engagement.** Engage with communities throughout the BART system to enhance customer relations, support BART's positive impact in communities and create visible expressions of the unique characteristics of neighborhoods around stations and along tracks.

STRATEGIES:

Program Elements:

- 1. **Master Plan.** Create a 15-year systemwide arts master plan, focusing on the art vision for stations and the system as a whole, including the identification and prioritization of arts opportunities. The plan will serve as a valuable tool to guide the allocation of resources as they are available.
- 2. **Implementation Plan.** Create a five-year art program work plan to identify short-term project workload, establish fundraising goals, and create a phasing and implementation plan for building up the program.
- 3. **Permanent Works.** Continue to add permanent works to the BART system, including station art works in the stations as well as murals on BART infrastructure visible in public areas, to add visual appeal and abate graffiti.
- 4. **Integrated Art.** Maximize visual impact of arts funds by identifying opportunities to integrate art and artistic elements into the design of capital improvements.
- 5. **Temporary Art.** Offer temporary art programming opportunities that appropriately activate public spaces and engage BART riders. This may include visual arts, rotating displays, performance, media, music, literature

and poetry, and should provide opportunities for a diverse range of artists.

6. **Interpretation, Conservation.** Develop lively and effective interpretive strategies, including onsite signage, web-based resources and other guides to art throughout the system. This will increase art accessibility to BART riders and reinforce the connection between art and BART's functional priorities.

Process Guidelines and Procedures:

1. **Acquisition.** Establish guidelines to ensure that artworks are acquired and maintained in accordance with recognized standards and best practices in the field of public art.
2. **Engagement.** Design effective programs of ongoing engagement for the arts community and the community at large.
3. **Internal Protocols.** Establish an internal protocol to support BART staff in integrating art opportunities early in capital project development, and create tools to educate staff about the appropriate treatment of artworks in BART facilities.
4. **Internal Review.** Establish an internal BART review process to ensure that all works of art are compliant with BART policies, maintenance, safety and operational needs.
5. **Community Generated Projects.** Establish guidelines for the submittal and review of community-generated projects.
6. **Partnerships.** Establish an ongoing plan for cultivating collaborative partnerships with other public agencies, non-profit groups, and private organizations.
7. **Committee.** Establish an external committee to engage the community, support the development of Program Elements, the work plan and art budget, and review the success of the Art Program.