

PUBLIC ART SURVEY SUMMARY: *GREEN LINE COMMUNITY WORKSHOP, August 25, 2010*

1. Why do you feel public art is important? Can you think of one or more public artworks in Sacramento or other places you've lived, worked or traveled that you remember as unique and interesting? Why?

Artwork can soften the stations and right-of-way visually and can help make riders feel more comfortable. It adds a human aspect to public spaces. It can also add humor to an otherwise humorless setting. It makes spaces more attractive and interactive. Artwork by local artists will help reinforce the unique aspects of the community. Public art is important for community pride and to beautify stations that would otherwise be unattractive. Public art is cool and softens the harsh lines of infrastructure. Art that is tough and easily maintained will work best at the stations. Stations without artwork will be cold and sterile – think of BART, stations in Boston, or those designed in the 1970's that were concrete, sterile, and dangerous. The following artworks were listed as memorable works of public art: artworks at the San Francisco International Airport, the suitcases by Brian Goggin located in Terminal A at the Sacramento International Airport, the artwork at the New York Museum of Natural History subway station in New York City, the Sacramento River Water Intake Plant, and artworks at the Robert Matsui Federal Building. Some participants felt that public art is not important, especially in today's economy and that the architecture should be enough.

2. What makes the landscape, area, place that the Green Line will be sited distinctive from other areas in Sacramento, the county, State, country, and world?

Natomas is a bedroom community for Sacramento. The area consists of giant roads, featureless homes, and has no character. This project is a chance to bring character to a soulless community. Distinct characteristics of the area include shade, color, trees, giant garter snakes, Swainson's hawks, and other critters protect in Natomas Basin HCP. The selected artists should do research to determine what is unique about this area.

3. How should the artists for the Green Line project be selected? Should the selection panels include arts professionals, representatives from RT? The neighborhoods adjacent to particular stations, politicians, others?

Most participants feel input from area residents or the community, arts professionals (especially artists) and RT is important. Additionally, police, business owners, architects, school administrators, high school students and City Council members were sited. A participant felt that community members should be given the first say with input from art professionals and RT later in the process. Another felt that unsophisticated neighborhood volunteers and politicians should not be used in the selection process.

4. What is the purpose, mission, or function of public art on the Green Line?

Public art should have a relationship to the immediate surroundings and reflect the local history or characteristics of the area. It should help make the light rail system more attractive and represent the artistic vision of the community. It should make the community feel more vibrant and be tasteful. It should help relieve boredom and beautify the stations. The artwork should be clean and maintainable, safe and visible.