



THE TASMAN WEST LIGHT RAIL PROJECT ART AND AESTHETICS PROGRAM

Background

The Tasman West Light Rail Project Art and Aesthetics Program was instituted in early 1994. The Program's main goals were:

- To encourage creative collaboration among community residents, artists, engineers, architects, and other design professionals in creating the Project's character.
- To mitigate the sense of uniformity and loss of human scale in the Project by integrating unique features within the light rail system.
- To create high quality works of art that are site-specific, respond to and reflect the identities of the communities in which they are located and,
- To contribute to a positive experience for light rail riders.

To accomplish these goals, the Tasman Aesthetics Committee was established to oversee the Art Program. The committee members include arts program commissioners and city and public works staff from each of the communities served by the Tasman West Project cities of San Jose, Sunnyvale, and Mountain View.

The Tasman Aesthetics Committee was responsible for selecting artists for individual projects along the light rail line and for reviewing the art project and enhancement proposals for the line. In developing proposals, the Committee relied on input from the arts commissions in each city to develop projects that reflect the identity of the community or neighborhood where they are located.

A total of ten artwork projects were created for stations in the three alignment cities of San Jose, Sunnyvale and Mountain View. In addition to these projects, each city selected a unique three-color palette for various structures within their stations as part of the Art Program. Each city was allocated a budget of \$60,000 for artwork projects. In many cases, as noted in the following descriptions, cities or corporations also provided funding for the art projects.

SAN JOSE ART PROJECTS

To ensure adequate design funds, the City of San Jose contributed \$30,000 to the art program to fund artist design efforts for the San Jose segment. Cisco Systems, whose multi-building campus surrounds the Champion Station, also generously contributed \$30,000 to that Station's art budget.

The City of San Jose selected North Bay artist Ned Kahn and San Jose artists Diana Pumpelly Bates and Deborah Kennedy to create the following artworks for two San Jose stations.

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Digital Wind by Ned Kahn
Baypointe Station

Ned Kahn created Digital Wind from 14,000 tiny metal flaps held by hinges at the top. The flaps are set into an aluminum grillwork that fits into the station roof. The flaps respond to the slightest wind by gentle shimmering, reflecting colors from the sky and the station structure .

Ecotech by Deborah Kennedy
Champion Station

Deborah Kennedy's sculpture at the station entry consists of one 6-ton boulder cut into four one-foot thick slabs. The densely patterned slabs are mounted on either side of the entry walkways. Ecotech's text, symbolic images, and stone inlays related to its theme of the relationship between technology and nature.

Shelter Canopy Glass by Deborah Kennedy
Champion Station

Deborah Kennedy used similar images to those found in Ecotech on the curved pieces of glass at the ends of each shelter canopy. The etched designs are based on solar symbols and other symbols from various cultures.

Railing Enhancements and Pilaster Designs by Diana Pumpelly Bates
Champion Station

Diana Pumpelly Bates designed rail segments to replace some sections of the station's standard railing. The images for the railing segments are based on computer networking product icons. In her design, a bracket image faces upward, embracing the sky. She used stainless steel for this railing because it can be burnished to provide depth on a flat surface, it reflects light, and it is also easy to maintain. She also designed four additional railing segments in painted steel, which also reflect her bracket icon design.

The artist also used stainless steel networking icons to attach to the station's pilasters. These designs are visible to pedestrians and motorists along Tasman Drive.

SUNNYVALE ART PROJECTS

The City of Sunnyvale also contributed funding to develop artwork concepts. Sunnyvale chose San Francisco artist Anita Margrill to create projects for two stations.

Divided Arch by Anita Margrill
Reamwood Station

Anita Margrill's artwork for this station consists of two metal arches installed on the westbound and eastbound platforms. As trains approach the station, the arch appears to completely span the tracks. The arches extend from the top of light fixtures, and are constructed of laser-cut steel leaves welded to steel rods, to give the effect of a garden bower of leafy vines twined together.

Satellite Palm by Anita Margrill
Lockheed Martin Station

Installed approximately 25 feet in the air, extending above a center pole in Lockheed Martin Station, Satellite Palm unites Lockheed Martin's space age technology with a symbol of nature. Activated by a

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linkage system connected to a linear actuator, the palm fronds open at dusk, like the arms of a satellite. As the palm opens, a light appears. At dawn, the light is extinguished and the palm closes. Lockheed Martin Missiles and Space Corporation generously contributed \$45,000 for design and fabrication of this art project.

MOUNTAIN VIEW ART PROJECTS

The City of Mountain View contributed \$15,000 towards artist design costs for artwork projects. Mountain View selected Walnut Creek artist Dan Dykes to create their light rail art projects. South Bay artist Linda Yamane also created an art project for a Mountain View station.

Ohlone Marker by Linda Yamane **Bayshore/NASA Station**

This project was created to commemorate a nearby Ohlone Indian archeological site that was home to Lope Inigo, a prominent Ohlone Indian. The Ohlone Marker is a metal sculpture whose image draws upon Ohlone baskets. The basket stands in the planter at the station entry. Fabricated from aluminum with laser cut openings, it is painted to replicate the weave of a basket. On both sides of the basket, stainless steel panels are etched with the likeness of Lope Inigo and images that reflect Ohlone culture. Artist Linda Yamane was well suited to this project because she is an Ohlone Indian and basket weaver.

Entry Portal by Dan Dykes **Downtown Mountain View Station**

Dan Dyke's metal sculpture stands at the station entrance, directing passengers to the trains. The top of the stainless steel sculpture is an arrow-like form that is similar to urban design features along adjacent downtown sidewalks. The portal is lit at night, creating a very visible and distinctive image for both pedestrians and motorists.

Metal Screen by Dan Dykes **Downtown Mountain View Station**

At the other end of the station, Dan Dykes created a triangular metal screen atop a short wall that also directs passengers toward the station. It's lacy plantlike images were designed to reflect Mountain View's agricultural past.