

## Monthly Update February 2023 Station Art Enhancement, Stakeholder Working Group, and Utility Relocations Updates

Greetings,

We have been very excited to introduce the community to the artists selected to enhance the new light rail stations planned for Story Road and Eastridge. Through a rigorous process of artist outreach and selection, Amir Fallah, and the team of Laura Haddad and Tom Drugan, have been commissioned. These artists are all experienced public artists. Their work extends beyond their studios and responds to site and community. They also have track records for sizable, successfully maintainable, permanent public artworks.

The Station Art Enhancement Community Meetings held on January 9 and January 11 (facilitated in Spanish) were the “kick-off” for the artists’ design process, in advance of them doing any design work. The purpose of the meetings was for the community to become acquainted with the artists, and to get a sense of their visual vocabulary and their approach to public art. Each artists presented examples of previous public art installations, and their approach to the designs and mediums use. These meetings were also meant to provide foundational inspiration for the artists’ work, here, in San Jose.

Through an on-line activity, participants responded to four questions:

1. Which neighborhood are you connected to? What is important for us to know about it?
2. Think about a place that is special to you in San Jose. Describe the spot and why you chose it?
3. Please provide three words describing what is important to you personally, or which symbolize your community?
4. What is one of your favorite public artworks in San Jose (or anywhere)? Why?

The meetings provided an opportunity for the artists to learn about the community. Participants represented a wide variety of East San Jose neighborhoods. When asked about a place that is special in San Jose, we heard about the foothills, the greenery, the views, and about the Mexican Heritage Plaza, Alum Rock Park, Eastridge Mall, Marks Hotdogs, Emma Prusch Farm, just to name a few.

Public response provided the artists with a good sense of the community, articulating the richness and diversity of East San Jose.

In case you missed it, the meetings were recorded. Due to a technical glitch, the meeting on January 9 had to be re-recorded. Instead of watching the activity, we share how it went. The meeting on January 11 went off without any glitches and the recording, in Spanish, has the same artists presentation, and you can watch how the activity was facilitated. Links to the recorded meetings are available on YouTube:

[EBRC Station Art Enhancement 1-9-2023](#)

[EBRC Majora artistica la estacion 1-11-2023](#)



Links to the slides available in **English** here: [January 9, 2023, presentation and script](#)

Links to the slides available in **Spanish** here: [January 11, 2023, presentation and script](#)

We are still accepting comments to the above questions via email: [community.outreach@vta.org](mailto:community.outreach@vta.org), and we will pass that along to the art team.

Later this spring, we will host the next meeting to update and share the concepts each of the artists' have for the new stations!

#### Stakeholder Working Group

The Eastridge to BART Regional Connector Stakeholder Working Group meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 23, 2023, has been cancelled. The project does not have major updates to funding or the construction schedule at this time. Currently, we plan to resume our normal schedule in May 2023. The [EBRC-Policy Advisory Board](#) will meet on March 15.

#### Utility Relocation Activities

Crews relocating underground utilities are progressing along Capitol Expressway and Story Road. There will be additional activities resuming around Capitol Avenue and Capitol Expressway, mainly behind the Crossroads Shopping area. There will be intermittent lane and shoulder closures as needed keep the community and work crews safe. Traffic control includes personnel to assist drivers/pedestrians/bikes, through work areas and with driveway access to businesses. Staff is working closely with the businesses to coordinate and ensure access to them is always available.