

MBTA | Blue Hill Avenue Station

Integral Art Information Session | Summary Minutes

Location of Meeting: 100 Summer Street, Boston, MA

Date and time of meeting: July 23, 2015, 6pm – 7pm

MBTA

Marggie Lackner, MBTA Director of Design & Architecture

Katherine Knowlton, Manager of Graphics and Wayfinding

Allison Sweeney, Project Coordinator

Blue Hill Avenue Project Team

Mark Thompson, Jacobs Engineering

Etty Padmodipoetro, Urban Idea Lab,

Marggie Lackner and Etty Padmodipoetro, welcomed the group of artists and project team members. All meeting participants introduced themselves.

PURPOSE

The information session was held for artists who are interested in applying to the selection process for integral art at the Blue Hill Avenue Station Integral Art Program. This station is part of the Fairmount Line connecting downtown Boston to Readville.

The Arts budget is one half of 1 percent (0.05%) of the construction budget which will be allocated for artistic enhancement of station components to:

- enhance the rider experience;
- complement the wayfinding signage at entrances and at platforms;
- complement the station architecture as a permanent feature;
- stimulate local communities;
- build local cultural assets.

Up to 4 artists will be hired as sub-consultants to Jacobs Engineering, the design consultant, to create designs in full color for up to twelve - 4' x 4' porcelain enamel (PE) panels, which will be grouped in twos to form 4' high x 8' wide installations.

PRESENTATION:

Marggie Lackner, MBTA Director of Design & Architecture opened the meeting, and spoke about the overall MBTA integrated arts program and the integral arts opportunities at the Blue Hill Avenue Station. The budget has been allocated in line with the integral art program policy, which defines that 0.5% of the construction budget is allocated for integral art. It is anticipated that each of up to four selected artists would

receive a design fee of \$17,500. Copies of the Integral Art Policy/Program were available. Copies of the Integral Art Policy/Program were available to attendees and are available on the MBTA Art Program page at www.mbta.com/about_the_mbta/art.

MBTA Integral Arts Program/Policy

MBTA identifies opportunities for integral art that leverages the value of built elements. Including *only* enhancements to elements required for the construction of the facility. Artists will use the materials of the system, such as porcelain enamel, ceramic tile, bronze, steel, glass and concrete.

Designs will meet the same quality, craftsmanship and maintenance standards as the underlying element. Safety, accessibility, durability and maintenance requirements are the same as required elements. Impact on the public will be optimized, and the product must enhance a positive and welcoming environment to the public.

The Blue Hill Avenue Station Integral Art Project

The Blue Hill Avenue Station Integral Art Project opportunities consist of twelve porcelain enamel panels. The Panels will be fabricated and installed by the contractor. The artist works with the design team and contractor.

The Selection Committee may choose a single artist or multiple artists, they might also choose to select either a single artist or multiple artists and to require that multiple artists work on a common theme

Total art enrichment budget: 0.5% of station cost (\$14,000,000). Up to four artists will be selected. Each of four artists would receive a stipend of up to \$17,500

Porcelain Enamel Panels

Katherine Knowlton, MBTA Manager of Graphics & Wayfinding, spoke about the porcelain enamel panels, the medium for the artwork. Porcelain enamel samples were passed around to show the quality of the color and the imagery that the porcelain can capture and come very close to the original artwork being reproduced. The porcelain enamels panels are very durable and can last much longer than the older commuter rail panels that were done in fiberglass. The artists can submit the images as a vector-based program or a raster-based program.

There will be 12 total art panels located within the overall layout of the station maps and metal windscreen panels. All of the proposed porcelain enamel panels will be located on the center platform. Examples can be viewed on the Power Point presentation.

The Blue Hill Avenue Station

Mark Thompson-Project Manager for the Blue Hill Ave. Commuter Rail Station gave a brief summary of the project:

The Blue Hill Avenue Station is located between the Blue Hill Avenue and Cummins Highway overpasses in Mattapan. It is part of the Fairmount Line that extends from South Station to Readville. This station will have greater visibility than the other stations on the Fairmount Corridor. This station is a brand new station; it is designed with a center platform. In an effort to address one of the concerns of the abutting resident, the design of this station will be unique in that it will consist of a single 768 foot long high-level center-island platform in order to facilitate direct platform-to-coach boarding.

The platform will include detectable warning strips, new canopies, benches/windcreens, wayfinding signage, historic interpretive porcelain enamel panels, and variable message signs. The station will also be equipped with closed circuit television (CCTV) video surveillance cameras, police emergency call box systems. Currently all of the finishes in the station are hot dipped galvanized and painted black. This was in response to community input.

The topography of the station site is relatively flat in a depressed cut below street level. The track structure is on a tangent section of the line. The street level platform access points will be constructed from both the Cummins Highway and Blue Hill Avenue overpasses. New concrete ramps and sloped walkways will provide full accessible access to the center-island platform for all passengers. The overall site is constrained and narrow; the goal is to provide a clear and easy access for all of the transit users. The Station is in compliance with the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act).

The Blue Hill Avenue Station is on an aggressive schedule, it will go out to bid in March/April 2016.

Blue Hill Avenue Station Integral Art Project Schedule

Etty Padmodipoetro reviewed the schedule for the Blue Hill Integral Art Project.

Submissions must be received using the online platform at: <https://mbta-art.submittable.com/submit/43106> by Monday, August 17th, 2015, 11:59 PM

Submissions received after the deadline and those that are found to be incomplete will not be reviewed. It is the responsibility of the artists to ensure that submissions are complete and properly submitted by the deadline. Extensions to this deadline will not be granted under any circumstances.

Due date for additional questions is on July 31st, 2015. The questions/ answers as well as the presentation and the meeting minutes will be posted on line, the link can be found at the submittable page; <https://mbta-art.submittable.com/submit/43106>

It is anticipated that the finalists will be notified in mid-September, 2015. The project team will present the work of the selected finalists to the community. The selected artist will be notified in October, 2015.

The procurement process will start immediately after the artists are selected. The artists should be able to start work on the porcelain enamel panel design after the contracts are finalized. The current design schedule for the art project is November, 2015 through March, 2016.

RFQ release date		Friday, July 10th, 2015
Information session - 100 Summer Street - second floor		Thursday, July 23rd, 2015 at 6:00 PM
Due date for questions on the RFQ		Friday, July 31st, 2015
Application deadline		Monday, August 17 th at 11:59 PM
Finalists notified		September, 2015
Community dialogues/neighborhood forums		September - October 2015
Selected artists are notified		October, 2015
Artists engagement and design process		November – March 2016
Fabrication and installation		TBD

Questions & Answers:

Q: Is Community Engagement a requirement to be selected.

A: No, it is not absolutely necessary. The quality of the work as well as the ability to collaborate is important.

Q: The link to the RFQ had an issue on the MBTA site

A: The problem has been fixed and link to RFQ is correct. Also noted: please make sure to clear your browsing history to make sure you are viewing the latest RFQ. Please follow this link for the RFQ - <https://mbta-art.submittable.com/submit/43106>

Q: When is the Wollaston Station Art Program going to begin?

A: The Wollaston Art Program is pending. Please stay tuned for updates.

Q: How do I choose the images to be submitted?

A: Artists should choose their best and most appropriate work. Work should show consistent level of quality and representative of the Artist.

ADDITIONAL Questions and Answers – Via Email

Q: I missed the information session meeting on July 23, 2015. Is there any way I can be brought up to date on what was discussed and the materials that were disseminated at the meeting?

A: You can find the information necessary posted online. The meeting minutes and Q/A is also posted online. Please follow this link:

<https://mbta-art.submittable.com/submit/43106>

Q: The RFQ link on the MBTA site wasn't working a couple of weeks ago. Please provide the correct link to submit an application for this RFQ.

A: <https://mbta-art.submittable.com/submit/43106>

Q: Is this call for artists for the Blue Hill Ave Station solely for artists who have previous experience with public art?

A: Experience with public art is not absolutely necessary. The quality of the work as well as the ability to collaborate is important.

Q: Could you please explain the fabrication of the art panels?

A: Artists are hired to work with the station architects on developing the design of the art panels. They will not be responsible for the fabrication. The contractor's fabricator will produce the art panels. The contractor will install the art panels by as part of station construction.

Q: Are there any specifications on enamel panel material and potential color restrictions?

A: Virtually any color and 2D medium such as painting, photography or typography can be reproduced on enamel panels. They are highly durable and need little maintenance. Colors can be brilliant and generally resistant to UV light.

Q: Could you name good examples of existing MBTA enamel panel artwork?

A: Arlington Station on the Green Line features a good example with a reference to nearby Boston Garden and its Swan Boats. Davis Square Station on the Red Line showcases a project undertaken in partnership with Tufts University and the City of Somerville to develop a series of enamel art panels inside the station.

Q: I have just submitted for the Chelsea Project. Should I submit a separate application for the Blue Hill Avenue Station Project as well or would that be redundant?

A: Artists need to upload separate applications for each MBTA integral art project.

Q: I have a question pertaining to the budget of said project in the subject line. The RFQ reads: "It is anticipated that each of up to four selected artists would receive a design fee of \$17,500". My question is, if just one artist was chosen would the fee then become \$70,000?

A: Yes, this is correct. It will be up to the jury panel to determine the number of artists for the project.

Q: From my reading of the application guidelines, it seems that the 10 images to be submitted by Aug 17th are works done in the past, not potential images for use on this project. Is this correct? Or should the applicant supply 10 images, which are more recent, which he or she feels appropriate for potential final use in this specific project?

A: The 10 images should be examples of the artist's past work.

Q: What is the deadline for the application?

A: The deadline for the submittal is on August 17th at 11:59 pm as stated on the RFQ. Please use this link: <https://mbta-art.submittable.com/submit/43106>

Q: What does it mean that the deadline for the questions on the RFQ is July 31st? Does it mean that the RFQ will provide more questions that we as artists would have to answer, and in turn submit that by the 31st? I would appreciate some clarification on this matter.

A: The deadline for prospective artists to ask questions is July 31st – this is because we have to provide the answers and post it online for all artists to see **before** the submission deadline on August 17th at 11:59PM. This is an opportunity for prospective artists to ask questions and clarifications.

Q: Do I fill out the online application as a first step and are there further instructions upon creating an account?

A: You will find the instructions for the submission online. This is the only step required. Please follow this link: <https://mbta-art.submittable.com/submit/43106>

Q: I am currently working on another MassDOT/MBTA art-integrated project, is it OK to apply for another MBTA commission while working on another one?

A: Yes – you can apply for another MBTA integrated art project.

Q: Who should I use as references? Should I use the same people who have worked with me on an MBTA project, or do you prefer outside references?

A: Please use anyone who you feel knows you best.

Q: Are payments allocated monthly, quarterly, etc.? Does stipend imply that you get it all the end of the job?

A: The payments will be based on milestone deliverables that will be identified in the contract.

Q: Are there any themes or subjects?

A: The selection committee might ask for a particular themes or subjects. This will be decided as part of the selection process.

Q: Do I need to submit photos of my artwork for panel paintings for the application?

A: Yes you need to upload the best examples of your work online. Please follow this link for your submittal: <https://mbta-art.submittable.com/submit/43106>

Q: Do you need to see art samples? How many pieces of artwork do you require for the application for the panel artwork? Is it possible to submit more than 5 images?

A: Yes, please submit examples of your work online as part of the submittal requirements. You are required to submit ten (10) examples of your projects.

Q: For submitting images as part of the application, what are your preferred dimensions?

A: There are no specific dimensions required. Please note, however, that the images should be suitable for printing.

Q: What will be on the other side of the mural boards?

A: This station has a center platform so the panels will be installed on both sides. On the other side of the panel is another panel. Please find the power point presentation on this link: <https://mbta-art.submittable.com/submit/43106>

Q: How big are the panels individually?

A: The porcelain enamel panels measure 4 x 4 feet.