

STAFF REPORT

DATE: May 11, 2012
TO: Honorable Members of the Visual Arts Committee
FROM: Jennifer Lovvorn
RE: Central Subway Chinatown Station: Cross Cut Cavern Wall Artwork Project

CENTRAL SUBWAY CHINATOWN STATION: CROSS CUT CAVERN WALL DETAILED PUBLIC ART PROJECT OUTLINE



ART OPPORTUNITIES

There is an opportunity for integrated two-dimensional artwork for a curved wall at the concourse level of the Central Subway Chinatown Station. Visibility of an artwork at this location is ideal for transit users as they ascend and descend the escalators. The view of this artwork from the fare gates would be somewhat obscured by the elevator. Once transit users have passed the elevators, the view of this wall is unobstructed. The cross cut cavern wall has dimensions of approximately 36' wide by 18' high and 480 square feet. This wall will be prepared to receive artwork imagery translated into a permanent durable material, such as mosaic or tile. In order for this artwork to have a distinct identity from the other two projects at this station, the artwork would not be in glass or cut metal.

PROJECT BUDGET ALLOCATIONS

The artwork budget for this project is \$360,000 allocated as follows: Artist contract amount will be up to \$325,000, which will cover all artwork costs including artist fees, insurance, design consultants, materials, fabrication, and transportation of artwork. The remaining \$35,000 will cover site preparation and installation of artwork which will be procured outside of the artist's contract.

BACKGROUND: CENTRAL SUBWAY ARTS MASTER PLAN

The Arts Commission worked with cultural agencies along the Central Subway corridor, local communities and the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) to complete a comprehensive Central Subway Arts Master Plan, approved by the Arts Commission on November 3, 2008 (Resolution 1103-08-262). Commissioning an artwork for station walls is consistent with the types of artwork locations detailed in the master plan. It is also in line with master plan's goals: To create a unique visual identity for each station, architecturally and culturally, by commissioning artworks that dramatically enliven the station interiors and reflect the diverse history and vitality of surrounding neighborhoods; and to enhance the quality of transit riders' experience through a range of high quality, signature public artworks by both local and national artists. The Central Subway Arts Master Plan is available on-line at <http://www.sfartscommission.org/pubartcollection/pubart-projects/2008/09/04/central-subway/attachment/csamp-final-6-9-2/> and will be made available at the Visual Arts Committee meeting.

ARTIST SELECTION PROCESS FOR CROSS CUT CAVERN WALL ARTWORK

Arts Commission staff will advertise a new national Request for Qualification. Professional, practicing artists residing in the United States will be eligible to apply. Per the Public Art Program Policies and Guidelines, Arts Commission staff will prescreen the applicants to establish a list of qualified candidates with experience creating two-dimensional artwork appropriate for the project site.

Arts Commission staff will present the portfolios and resumes of the qualified candidates to the selection panel.

The artist selection panel will be comprised as follows: Arts Commissioner; SFMTA Central Subway Project Director; Transportation Authority representative, community representative, Project Architect, and three arts professionals (of which, at least one arts professional will be from an arts organization in Chinatown). A list of potential arts professional panelists will be presented to the Arts Commission for approval at next month's Visual Arts Committee meeting.

After considering the artists' qualifications, the selection panel will identify three to five finalists for the project opportunity for recommendation to the Arts Commission for approval. The finalists will be invited to develop conceptual proposals after attending an orientation session with the project team and key stakeholders. Each finalist will be paid an honorarium of \$2,000 for development of a conceptual design proposal.

The artist selection panel will reconvene to consider the finalists' proposals in an interview format and will select one artist and an alternate for the project for recommendation to the Art Commission.

TIMELINE (Subject to change)

Project Outline Approval	May 16, 2012
RFQ Posted/Advertised	Early June 2012
RFQ Deadline	Late July 2012
Selection Panel Meeting #1 (Select Finalists)	Late August 2012
VAC Approval of Finalists	September 19, 2012
Finalist Orientation/Stakeholder Meeting	early October 2012
Proposal Deadline	November 19, 2012
Proposal Display	December 3 – 17, 2012
Selection Panel Meeting #2 (Review Proposals)	Early to mid-January 2013

VAC Approval of Project Artists/Proposals
Artists under contract

January 2013
February 2013

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL

At the May 16, 2012 Visual Arts Committee meeting, staff will request the following:

Motion to approve the project description, budget allocation, selection approach and timeline as described in the *Detailed Project Outline for Central Subway Chinatown Station: Crosscut Cavern Wall*.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact Jennifer Lovvorn, Public Art Project Manager at (415)252-4637 or by email at jennifer.lovvorn@sfgov.org.