



**Sacramento
Metropolitan
Arts Commission**

PRESS RELEASE

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**SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN ARTS COMMISSION ANNOUNCES NEW
AIRPORT ART PROJECT—LARGEST IN PROGRAM HISTORY**

Sacramento, CA—The Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission (SMAC) announces the launch of the largest public art project in the history of the Commission. With the construction of Sacramento County Airport System (County Airport System) Terminal Modernization Program (TMP), the County Board of Supervisors approved an 8 million dollar allocation for art. The funding comes from a law which allows a percentage of construction dollars for County facilities to be set aside for art. The Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission's Art in Public Places (APP) will administer the public art project.

An innovative component of this \$8 million budget is the inclusion of \$2 million for an endowment to produce an ongoing public art exhibition program, to commission new works of public art art, and for ongoing conservation and maintenance of public art at the International Airport in perpetuity. SMAC Commissioners are enthusiastic about this historic initiative, "The Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission's precedent-setting endowment for its public art program will be heralded nationwide as a bold and courageous move to provide for, maintain and expand public art that will be enjoyed for generations of viewers," comments Arts Commissioner Kim Curry-Evans.

The process to determine the TMP public art budget was inclusive and thorough. The County Airport System and SMAC staff developed the budget together and sought input from SMAC's Art in Public Places (APP) Committee volunteers and SMAC Commissioners.

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“The budget determination process was quite rigorous and achieved the Commission's recommendation with the final decision made by the Board of Supervisors.” SMAC Commission Chair, Linda Merksamer.

SMAC staff is responsible for administering the public art programs for all County eligible construction projects. In doing so, they receive input from the community including Commissioners and APP Committee members. As the TMP project evolves, SMAC staff will work closely with the Airport System staff, the Commission, Committee, and other community members to select artists and oversee the design, fabrication and installation of the public art projects.

“The emphasis will be placed on providing opportunities for local and regional artists throughout the art selection process, while also including a representation of work by artists living outside of our community,” Shelly Willis, Art in Public Places Administrator.

Public artwork has been created for the airport for years under the percentage for art program. “The Airport is a living museum, if you will, for public art. I’m very pleased that we were able to actually increase the amount of the final budget by several million dollars above the original proposed number as well as to provide a way to support public art at the airport in perpetuity. We are looking forward to this new and very exciting phase in public art history in Sacramento.” Rhyena Halpern, SMAC Executive Director.

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AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW:

Kim Curry-Evans, SMAC Commissioner: (916) 732-4672

Director, 40-Acres Art Gallery, Governor Appointee to the Board of the African-American Museum

Linda Merksamer, SMAC Commissioner Chair: (916) 320-6995

Rhyena Halpern, SMAC Executive Director: (916) 566-3992

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