

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
Board Action/Information Summary

☒ Action ☐ Information

MEAD Number:
201866

Resolution:
☒ Yes ☐ No

TITLE:

Loan of Artwork at Grosvenor-Strathmore Station

PRESENTATION SUMMARY:

Staff is providing information about a proposed loan by Strathmore Hall Foundation (Strathmore), through Fivesquares, LLC (Fivesquares), of an artwork (sculpture) by artist Jeff Chyatte for installation at the Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro Station.

PURPOSE:

In compliance with Board policy, staff is seeking approval of a loan of artwork for the Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro Station.

DESCRIPTION:

Strathmore Hall Foundation (Strathmore), through Fivesquares LLC (Fivesquares), has offered to loan to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) a sculpture by artist Jeff Chyatte, titled "Sonata," for installation at the bus loop grassy area between the entrance of the Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro Station and the adjacent commuter parking lot. This project is part of an effort to develop a relationship between WMATA, Fivesquares, and Strathmore in order to provide high-quality arts experiences for transit customers and the public at large at the Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro Station.

Once it is approved by the Board, Art in Transit (AIT) will work with Fivesquares and Strathmore to install the sculpture for display at the Grosvenor-Strathmore Station with the understanding that the sculpture will be relocated to Fivesquares property when the Joint Development project has been completed.

Key Highlights:

The loan of the proposed artwork would enhance the station's grounds and provide WMATA customers with a unique opportunity to benefit from the exhibit of a new public artwork by a local artist on WMATA property. This will strengthen WMATA's connection to the surrounding community and vibrant art scene.

Background and History:

In conjunction with the activation of the upcoming pop-up pilot associated with the joint development agreement between WMATA and Fivesquare (see Board Resolution # 2017-04), Fivesquares and Strathmore approached AIT with the offer to loan a piece of artwork for installation at Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro station bus loop to create a visual anchor to the project.

The proposed public artwork is intended to create a visual gateway between the entrance of the Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro Station and the adjacent WMATA bus loop and commuter parking site of the future Fivesquare development. Additionally, due to its musical inspiration, the artwork will connect the station with the nearby Strathmore music venue.

AIT has assessed the proposed artwork based on the following criteria: a) quality of design; b) suitability and appropriateness to installation to site; c) durability. AIT now recommends its installation at the Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro Station site. AIT will ensure that the artwork meets WMATA standards for safety as well as material and structural adequacy.

Discussion:

Per the Board-approved Art in Transit (AIT) program guidelines, AIT must present projects recommended by the program to the WMATA Board of Directors for approval. AIT seeks to obtain the Board's approval to install an artwork loaned by Strathmore through Fivesquares at the Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro station.

Fivesquares, LLC will fully fund the installation, maintenance (including insurance) and the removal of the artwork at the end of the loan term, and will fund the restoration of the site to its original condition.

FUNDING IMPACT:

Define current or potential funding impact, including source of reimbursable funds.	
Project Manager:	Laurent Odde
Project Department/Office:	DECO/ENGA

The project is to be fully funded by Fivesquares, LLC.

TIMELINE:

Previous Actions	December 2016 - Fivesquares approaches AIT to discuss introduction of visual and performing arts to the WMATA-Fivesquares joint development site at the Grosvenor-Strathmore Metrorail Station
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	January 2017 - Discussions between AIT, Fivesquares and Strathmore to introduce art as part of pilot pop-up program linked to JDA at Grosvenor-Strathmore Station February 2017 – WMATA Board of Directors authorizes staff to negotiate and enter into a binding JDA with Fivesquares for the development of the Grosvenor-Strathmore Development site (see Resolution #2017-04)
Anticipated actions after presentation	May-July 2017 - Activation of pilot pop-up program at Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro station that will include both visual and performing arts.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the loan of the artwork to WMATA and the installation of the artwork at the Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro Station, provided that it does not compromise safety and security, and provided that there is no cost to WMATA.

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF LOAN OF ART WORK FOR INSTALLATION AT THE GROSVENOR-STRATHMORE METRO STATION

RESOLUTION
OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors recognizes that the goal of the Authority is to provide the National Capital area with safe, reliable and attractive public transportation; and

WHEREAS, In Resolution 2000-67, the Board of Directors established a process to facilitate the display of the widest variety of artwork in the Metro system by reserving for itself the decision on whether to accept loaned artworks; and

WHEREAS, In Resolution 2017-04, the Board of Directors approved the commercial use of WMATA-owned land at the Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro Station (Pop-up Program) during the pre-development period of a joint development, including some combination of art and music; and

WHEREAS, The developer, Fivesquares, LLC (Fivesquares), and Strathmore Hall Foundation (Strathmore) have been working with Art in Transit (AIT) to introduce art at the Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro Station as part of the activation of the Pop-up Program; and

WHEREAS, Strathmore, through Fivesquares, has offered to loan to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) a sculpture by artist Jeff Chyatte, titled "Sonata," attached as Exhibit A, from Strathmore's collection, for display on the grassy area near the parking lot at the Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro Station, see Exhibit B, attached, with the understanding that the sculpture will be relocated to Fivesquares property upon completion of the joint development project; and

WHEREAS, The proposed artwork would create a visual gateway between the entrance of the Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro Station and the adjacent WMATA bus loop and commuter parking site of the future development, and due to its musical inspiration, would also connect the station with the nearby Strathmore music venue; and

WHEREAS, Fivesquares will fully fund, at no cost to WMATA, all costs associated with the installation, maintenance, and removal of the artwork; and

WHEREAS, AIT will verify that allowing the display of the artwork at the Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro Station will not impact WMATA's safety, operations and security standards; and

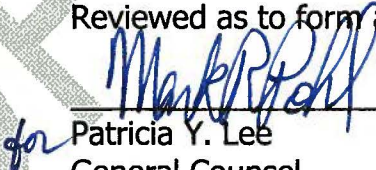
WHEREAS, AIT recommends that the Board of Directors approve this artwork loan for the Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro Station; and

WHEREAS, Upon Board of Directors approval, the General Manager/Chief Executive Officer will enter into an agreement with the parties, to establish all parties' responsibilities for the artwork loan; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors approves the loan by Strathmore, through Fivesquares, of the artwork by artist Jeff Chyatte, titled "Sonata," attached as Exhibit A, and the installation of Sonata at the Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro Station, starting in May 2017, provided that it does not compromise safety and security and provided that there is no cost to WMATA; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That this Resolution shall be effective immediately after adoption in accordance with § 8(b) of the WMATA Compact so the art installation at the Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro Station coincides with the launch of the Pop-up Program, scheduled for May 17, 2017.

Reviewed as to form and legal sufficiency,



for Patricia Y. Lee
General Counsel

WMATA File Structure No.:
12.1.1 Art in Transit