

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
Board Action/Information Summary

☒ Action ☐ Information

MEAD Number:
201850

Resolution:
☒ Yes ☐ No

TITLE:

L'Enfant Plaza Temporary Art Installation

PRESENTATION SUMMARY:

Staff is providing information about a proposed temporary art installation by the Yayoi Kusama design studio at the L'Enfant Plaza Metrorail Station.

PURPOSE:

In compliance with Board policy staff is seeking approval of a temporary environmental artwork for the North pavillion of the L'Enfant Plaza Metrorail Station.

DESCRIPTION:

In conjunction with the upcoming exhibition of Japanese artist, Yayoi Kusama, at the Hirshhorn Museum which will run from February 23 through May 14, 2017, AIT is working with the Southwest Business Improvement District (SWBID) to create a temporary (two months) environmental art installation at the 7th Street and Maryland Avenue entrance of the L'Enfant Plaza Metrorail Station for the duration of the exhibition at the Hirshhorn Museum. This project is part of an effort to develop a relationship between WMATA, SWBID and art institutions in Southwest DC in order to provide high-quality arts experiences for transit customers and the public at large.

Key Highlights:

The WMATA component of this environmental installation is designed as a colorful temporary enhancement to the station entrance, presenting a unique opportunity for WMATA customers to benefit from this exhibit and for WMATA to strengthen its connection to the surrounding community.

Background and History:

This project developed with AIT presents a unique opportunity to bring the work of one of the world's most popular, contemporary artists to the streets of

Southwest DC for all to enjoy. Working closely with the Hirshhorn Museum and Yayoi Kusama's design studio, the Southwest Business Improvement District is orchestrating a series of outdoor installations along the 7th Street SW corridor to coincide with the "Yayoi Kusama: Infinity Mirrors" exhibit running from February 23 through May 14, 2017. The project is designed to visually bridge the outdoor installations at the L'Enfant Metrorail Station and the Hirshhorn Museum, serving as a wayfinding tool in addition to public art. Following are the selected locations for art installations:

- FAA building
- L'Enfant Plaza (Boston Properties)
- WMATA L'Enfant Plaza Metro Station

Discussion:

- Per the Board-approved Art in Transit (AIT) program guidelines, AIT must present projects considered by the program to the WMATA Board of Directors for approval. AIT seeks to obtain the Board's approval to move forward with the installation of a temporary art installation on the public-facing side of the parapet of the L'Enfant Plaza Metrorail Station North pavillion from February 23 through May 14, 2017.

The SWBID will fully fund the fabrication and installation of the temporary art exhibit as well as its removal at the closure of the museum exhibit on May 14, 2017.

FUNDING IMPACT:

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

The project is to be fully funded by SWBID

TIMELINE:

Previous Actions	January 2017- Discussion with SWBID regarding WMATA and AIT participation in a series of outdoor installations along 7th Street SW corridor to coincide with the "Yayoi Kusama: Infinity Mirrors" exhibit at the Hirshhorn Museum
Anticipated actions after presentation	February-May 2017: Installation and display of temporary artwork at the L'Enfant Plaza Metrorail Station for the length of the Yayoi Kusama exhibit

RECOMMENDATION:

- Approve the installation of the temporary art installation at the L'Enfant Plaza Metrorail Station for the duration of the Hirshhorn Museum exhibit.

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF TEMPORARY ART INSTALLATION AT L'ENFANT PLAZA METRORAIL 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 Metrorail system by reserving for itself the decision on whether to accept temporary artworks; and

WHEREAS, Southwest Business Improvement District (SWBID) has been working closely with the Hirshhorn Museum and Yayoi Kusama's design studio to orchestrate a series of outdoor, environmental art installations (vinyl decal) along 7th Street SW corridor to coincide with the "Yayoi Kusama: Infinity Mirrors" exhibit running February 23 – May 14, 2017 (Attachment A); and

WHEREAS, SWBID has proposed that the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) participate in the event by allowing a temporary art installation at the public-facing side of the parapet of the L'Enfant Plaza Metrorail Station North Pavilion for the duration of the exhibit; and

WHEREAS, The installation provides WMATA with a unique opportunity to benefit from this exhibit and strengthen its connection to the surrounding community; and

WHEREAS, SWBID will fully fund, at no cost to WMATA, the fabrication, installation, and removal of the art installation; and

WHEREAS, Staff has verified that allowing the temporary installation will not impact WMATA's safety, operations and security standards; and

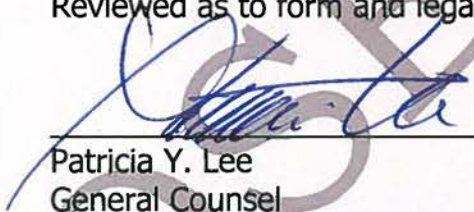
WHEREAS, Staff recommends that the Board of Directors approve this temporary art installation project at the public-facing side of the parapet of the L'Enfant Plaza Metrorail Station North Pavilion; and

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 this temporary project; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors approves the temporary art installation on the public-facing side of the L'Enfant Plaza Metrorail Station North Pavilion parapet, from February 23 – May 14, 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 in order for the temporary art installation to coincide with the duration of the Yayoi Kusama exhibit at the Hirshhorn Museum, this Resolution shall be effective immediately.

Reviewed as to form and legal sufficiency,



Patricia Y. Lee
General Counsel

WMATA File Structure No.:
12.1.1 Arts in Transit

Attachment A



Design



Yayoi Kusama Temporary Environmental Installation - February 23 – May 14, 2017
L'Enfant Station Entrance at 7th St. SW and Maryland Ave. SW



Design: Overview of Temporary Outdoor Installations along 7th Street



FAA Building



PANTONE 185 C



L'Enfant Plaza (Boston Properties)

