

## **MBTA Red Line | Wollaston Station Improvements**

### **1. Integral Art Information Session | Summary Minutes**

### **2. Responses to RFQ Questions and Answers (August 20, 2015 deadline)**

Location of Meeting: 100 Summer Street, Boston, MA

Date and time of meeting: July 29, 2015, 6pm – 7pm

### **1. Integral Art Information Session | Summary Minutes**

MBTA

Marggie Lackner, Joe Cheever, Allison Sweeney

CONSULTANT: Urban Culture Institute

Christina Lanzl with support from Thu Ngan Han and Hilary Buskirk

Meeting facilitators, Marggie Lackner and Christina Lanzl, welcomed the group of artists and MBTA project team members. All meeting participants introduced themselves.

#### **PURPOSE**

Marggie Lackner gave an overview of the MBTA Integral Art Program, which was also available as a handout and can be downloaded at [www.mbta.com/about\\_the\\_mbta/art](http://www.mbta.com/about_the_mbta/art). The MBTA art program dedicates ½ percent of station construction cost for public art. The artist information session was held for artists who are interested in applying to the selection process for integral art at the MBTA Red Line's Wollaston Station that will be fabricated and installed by the contractor as part of station construction.

#### **PRESENTATION**

The MBTA will identify opportunities for a program of integral art that leverages the value of built elements. Possibilities will include only enhancements to elements required for the construction of the facility. The art component for the station must be integrated into the design. The goals are to enhance station elements, to create a warm and welcoming environment, improve the travel experience, and to strengthen the connection between the station and the community. This is envisioned as happening through artistic treatment of fences, screen walls, railings, porcelain enamel panels, site elements, retaining walls, glazing, ceilings, tile wall surfaces or other features. Except for porcelain enamel work, artists may be invited to bid to fabricate work.

Christina Lanzl presented several examples of integral public art environments including a pedestrian bridge, fences and examples of mosaic and glass tile murals in public transit. She explained that the artist would join the design team at the 60% design completion benchmark due in December 2015. This will allow opportunity for creative collaboration with the design team. The artist will be invited to bid on the fabrication of

the integral art. It is anticipated that one artist will be selected to enhance elements for this station. Due to the integral nature of the artwork, an artist will work directly with the contracted Wollaston Station architect of Kleinfelder Inc. in order to have the greatest influence on the overall design of the station and incorporation of artwork. The quality of the past artwork submitted is the most important criteria for the Wollaston Station artist to be selected.

Joe Cheever, MBTA project manager for Wollaston Station, provided the architectural context and gave an overview of the 30% design developed by Kleinfelder. Materials have not been finalized. The current improvements project will make the station fully accessible and improve neighborhood connectivity. Wollaston is a rapid transit station on the MBTA Red Line, located at the intersection of Beale Street and Newport Avenue in Quincy, Massachusetts. The station, located on a high grade, is one of a small number of elevated rapid transit stations remaining in the MBTA system. Ms. Lackner and Mr. Cheever pointed out potential public art opportunities on the exterior and inside the station, which might include walls, glazing or railings, among other features.

The art enrichment budget for the integral art program defines that 0.5% of the construction budget is allocated for integral art, including artist fees and expenses. The anticipated budget of approximately \$125,000 for the station serves in addition to the estimated base cost of the line item listed on the project budget. It is anticipated that the selected artist will receive a design fee of \$25,000.

Ms. Lanzl shared the composition of the 5-member selection committee, and laid out the online application and review process. The members' names are confidential to avoid lobbying and outside influences. The composition is as follows:

- Quincy community member
- Station design architect
- 2 public art professionals from greater Boston
- MBTA representative

The jury will choose a small group of semi-finalist artists who will be presented to the community at a community forum by the MBTA team. Feedback obtained from the public will be shared with the panel at the second, final review, which will lead to the selection of the artist.

Developing the online entry interface has been the responsibility of Allison Sweeney. Applications need to be uploaded to [submittable.com](https://mbta-art.submittable.com/submit/45198) at <https://mbta-art.submittable.com/submit/45198>. For the 10 required images, artists should consider uploading a cohesive body of work, because the jury will be looking for consistent quality. It was emphasized that applicants need to ensure to click on the "submit" button at the very end of the online entry form following the References section. The firm deadline is **Monday, August 31 at 11:59 PM**. Entries cannot be accepted or processed by the site afterwards.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Q:** What's available online now?

**A:** The Artist Information Session presentation will be uploaded online to supplement the RFQ and information already available online.

**Q:** Can you explain the Wollaston Station plan available online, particularly the solution for the new entrance?

**A:** The exterior brick wall along Newport Avenue will stay. Canopies will shelter the station entrances both from the Newport Avenue and from the parking lot.

**Q:** Will there be a list of materials used in building?

**A:** Construction materials will be determined as the design is being further developed.

**Q:** Which system will the bid for fabrication be through?

**A:** Any MBTA bids will be posted on the MBTA website. General information on all MBTA construction projects can be found on the Projects page at [http://www.mbta.com/about\\_the\\_mbta/t\\_projects](http://www.mbta.com/about_the_mbta/t_projects).

The specific Wollaston Station project background is available at

[http://www.mbta.com/about\\_the\\_mbta/t\\_projects/?id=6442452974](http://www.mbta.com/about_the_mbta/t_projects/?id=6442452974).

Any information specific to Integral Art is posted on the MBTA Art page at [www.mbta.com/about\\_the\\_mbta/art](http://www.mbta.com/about_the_mbta/art).

**Q:** A number of preferred MBTA public art opportunities and materials are listed on the Call for Artists. Are these the types of works expected in the artwork submitted for consideration?

**A:** The examples listed have been used in previous projects and are found to be durable and low maintenance. However, other materials can be used as well as long as they have those qualities, and are agreed on with the architect.

**Q:** How does the Question and Answer process work? We noted an August 20 deadline prior to the entry deadline.

**A:** To ensure fairness and a level playing field all questions and answers related to the RFQ will be made available to all artists. Christina Lanzl will collect questions from artists sent to her via email. Within a few days following the August 20 deadline, the questions and their answers will be posted on the MBTA's online Wollaston Submittable [page](https://mbta-art.submittable.com/submit/45198) at <https://mbta-art.submittable.com/submit/45198>.

**Q:** For submittal images, can we provide installation shots that contain multiple works?

**A:** Yes, it is up to the artist. It depends on how the artists want to represent themselves and if the work is shown clearly.

**Q:** For clarification, can you have a detail shot and a zoomed in shot of the same work and still be considered as one image?

**A:** Yes, as long as it is representative of artist's body of work. We're looking for artists to work with architects.

## 2. Responses to RFQ Questions and Answers (August 20, 2015 deadline)

**Q:** From the perspective of someone judging, would mockups or renditions of ideas for this project aid a successful application?

**A:** As outlined in the Call for Artists, the selection committee will judge solely previously completed work. Do not submit proposals at this point.

**Q:** Would you be able to provide the MBTA Integral Art Program handout available at the meeting in PDF-format?

**A:** The MBTA Integral Art Policy can be downloaded from the MBTA Art webpage at [http://www.mbta.com/about\\_the\\_mbta/art/](http://www.mbta.com/about_the_mbta/art/).

**Q:** The currently open MBTA calls for artists list a preference for regional artists. Do all MBTA projects have a regional artist preference?

**A:** All calls are open to all artists, and selection I made on the basis of quality. Because the artist must work closely with the MBTA and the architect, it is most practical to work with regional artists.

**Q:** Are the community meetings a mandatory part of the process? Should I refrain from applying if I could not go to the meetings if selected?

**A:** The community forum to present semi-finalists will be organized and facilitated by the MBTA project team. The artists' presence is not required.

**Q:** What is the scope of the art project: the interior raised platform, or also the building exterior? Which surfaces will be renovated? Are other major structural changes envisioned? Will the fencing that separates the parking area from the tracks be reconstructed?

**A:** As outlined in the Call for Artists, the selection committee will judge solely based on previously completed work. Do not submit proposals at this point. Specific locations for the artwork are to be determined by the MBTA after the 60% design submittal has been made in December. General information on the MBTA Wollaston Station Improvements can be found at [http://www.mbta.com/about\\_the\\_mbta/t\\_projects/?id=6442452974](http://www.mbta.com/about_the_mbta/t_projects/?id=6442452974).

**Q:** Is there a preferred image size for the submissions to this call?

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

**Q:** Is the committee considering tile treatment that would be integrated into these surfaces? And if so do I submit my rough concept drawings with the RFQ due at the end of the month?

**A:** As outlined in the Call for Artists, the selection committee will judge solely based on previously completed work. Do not submit proposals at this point. Specific locations for the artwork are to be determined by the MBTA after the 60% design submittal has been made in December.

**Q:** I have checked the link for RFQ and would like to know if there are other drawings of the station I might need to review before I apply.

**A:** General information on the MBTA Wollaston Station Improvements can be found at [http://www.mbta.com/about\\_the\\_mbta/t\\_projects/?id=6442452974](http://www.mbta.com/about_the_mbta/t_projects/?id=6442452974).

**Q:** Does the committee prefer commercially made tile or durable handmade tile?

**A:** All artwork will be fabricated and installed by the contractor, as all work must be competitively bid. The contractor may solicit a bid from the artist, but this cannot be guaranteed.

**Q:** I see from the RFQ that The Integral Art Budget is \$125,000 and the artist design fee is \$25,000. Is the design fee part of the integral budget or is it in addition?

**A:** The total budget is approximately \$125,000, and the artist stipend is part of the enhancement budget. These are budget numbers at this time, and are subject to change.