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SAN FRANCISCO
Beautiful

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****PRESS RELEASE****

SFMTA and San Francisco Beautiful Announce Ten Finalists for Muni Art 2017
Public can choose final five by vote beginning today

San Francisco—The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) and San Francisco Beautiful (SFB) today announced that 10 finalists have been chosen to compete for the top five slots for Muni Art 2017, which promotes local artists by transforming Muni buses into rolling art galleries.

In this second year of the Muni Art program, the SFMTA is doubling the number of buses on which the art will be displayed from 50 to 100.

“We are extremely pleased that the Muni Art program has been so well-received,” said Ed Reiskin, SFMTA Director of Transportation. “These moving galleries will bring additional beauty to the public transit system, while supporting local artists.”

Examples of each artists’ work can be found at the SFMTA Muni Art webpage sfmta.com/muniart. The public is invited to choose the final five lucky artists who will have their work displayed to over 700,000 daily Muni riders beginning this January 2017.

“We are so grateful that SFMTA has, not only agreed to host Muni Art 2017 but has doubled the number of rolling art gallery buses to 100!” said San Francisco Beautiful’s Executive Director, Darcy Brown. “The artists who applied this year are all very talented and I can’t wait to see which five will be chosen this year as our winners.”

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The 10 finalists are:

Marianne Bland
 Counterpoint Studio (Peter Tonningsen and Lisa Levine)
 DrawBridge: An Arts Program for Homeless Children
 Amos Goldbaum
 Ryan Hungerford
 Todd Kurnat
 Luis Pinto
 Lillian Shanahan
 Monica Tiulescu
 Jon Wessel

In addition to having their art displayed on 100 Muni buses, the artist who receives the most public votes will be awarded \$2,000 and each of the remaining four will be awarded \$1,250. The public may cast their votes by visiting the web site, www.neighborland.com/muniart/vote. The voting period ends August 29 at 6 p.m.

The contestants had between May 2 and June 17 to submit applications that reflected their artistic concept of “San Francisco Neighborhoods.” Of the over 60 applications received, ten were chosen by a jury comprised of seven members of the arts community which included a member of the San Francisco Arts Commission, a local art gallery owner, a working artist, community arts programmer and a curator at a public art cultural center. Decisions were based upon quality of concept, expression of theme, diversity and the likelihood that the artist will be able to deliver the completed eight panels of original work by the October 14 deadline.

The Muni Art program is funded in part by the Community Challenge Grant program which facilitates neighborhood beautification projects throughout San Francisco. In an unprecedented arrangement between San Francisco Beautiful and SFMTA, one sponsor will have the opportunity to have single billing for two months on Muni buses prior to the kick-off in January and Muni Art also welcomes additional interested sponsors to visit the website for information on how to sponsor the 2017 program.

For more details on sponsorship opportunities, please visit www.sfbeautiful.org/muniart.

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Established by voter proposition in 1999, the SFMTA, a department of the City and County of San Francisco, oversees the Municipal Railway (Muni), parking and traffic, bicycling, walking and taxis. With five modes of transit, Muni has approximately 700,000 passenger boardings each day. Over 1 million people get around this city each day and rely on the SFMTA to ensure safe and reliable travel by transit, walking, bicycling, taxi and driving.

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About San Francisco Beautiful

Founded in 1947 to save the iconic cable cars, San Francisco Beautiful is the only organization that continues to protect the unique neighborhood character, civic beauty and liveability of San Francisco. www.sfbeautiful.org