The City of Chicago is known around the world for the vibrancy of its arts. As Mayor, I’ve made it a personal goal to bring this creative spirit and community energy farther into neighborhoods across the city and provide more opportunities to experience the best of what Chicago has to offer right in their own backyards while also supporting local artists.

In neighborhoods across the city, we are surrounded by world-class art in varying forms ranging from architecture to the elegant design of a bike rack. Throughout Chicago, beautiful, thought-provoking works of art can be found – sometimes in the most unlikely of places.

The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) is home to an impressive collection of public art, which over the last few years has nearly doubled in size and includes works of art created by nationally and internationally acclaimed artists, a number of whom are from Chicago.

Having artwork at CTA train stations not only helps showcase our city’s great and diverse artistic talents to the very communities that inspired the works, it also provides a more personal understanding of Chicago’s culturally rich neighborhoods to the hundreds of millions who travel the system annually.

I invite you to take a ride on a CTA train to see and experience stories of Chicago’s past, present and future, which are chronicled through art on display across the rail system.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel, City of Chicago

The price of a single ride on CTA’s ‘L’ system can get you to a lot of places throughout Chicago: a game at Wrigley Field, U.S. Cellular Field or Soldier Field. Delicious meals at restaurants serving cuisine from around the world. World-renowned cultural institutions. Some of the most daunting, award-winning theater and side-splitting comedy you’ll find anywhere.

But did you know that your train fare also automatically gives you an all-access pass to dozens of stunning, one-of-a-kind public works of art created by nationally and internationally acclaimed artists – many of whom are from Chicago? Every year, millions of people from near and far travel through our stations, each of which serves as a gateway to the surrounding neighborhood. The addition of public art serves as both a reminder and an enhancement of the travel experience for our riders, it also provides a glimpse into the window of each of these communities.

Currently there are 60 works of art at more than 50 rail stations, which can be the subject of many story of the year and at almost any hour of the day. And that number is growing.

The next time you pass through the turnstile at a station, take a moment to look around. You’ll not only see beautiful pieces of art, but a reflection of the surrounding community’s story.

Terry Peterson
Chairman, Chicago Transit Board
Dorval R. Carter, Jr.
President, Chicago Transit Authority
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Currently there are 60 works of art at more than 30 CTA stations, with 20 new works to be added each year. And that number is growing.

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Terry Peterson
Chairman, Chicago Transit Board

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Dear Riders:

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# Table of Contents

**Information**
- Overview ........................................... 2
- Art Projects Under Way 3-5
- Artist Index ................................. 82-84
- Acknowledgements ..... 85

**Brown Line**
- Kimball ............................................ 6
- Kedzie ............................................. 7
- Francisco ......................................... 8
- Rockwell .......................................... 9
- Western .......................................... 10
- Damen ............................................ 11
- Montrose ......................................... 12-13
- Irving Park ..................................... 14
- Addison ......................................... 15
- Paulina ........................................ 16-17
- Southport ....................................... 18
- Belmont ......................................... 19-21
- Wellington ................................... 22
- Fullerton* .................................. 23-25
- Armitage ......................................... 26
- Sedgwick ......................................... 27
- Chicago .......................................... 28
- Merchandise Mart ......................... 29
- Howard .......................................... 30-32

**Purple Line**
- Belmont ......................................... 19-21
- Wellington ................................... 22
- Fullerton* .................................. 23-25
- Armitage ......................................... 26
- Sedgwick ......................................... 27
- Chicago .......................................... 28
- Merchandise Mart ......................... 29
- Howard .......................................... 30-32

**Red Line**
- Howard .......................................... 30-32
- Jarvis* ........................................ 33
- Morse* ........................................ 34
- Granville* ..................................... 35
- Thornsdale* ..................................... 36
- Berwyn* ......................................... 37
- Argyle* ........................................ 38-39
- Lawrence* ..................................... 40
- Addison ......................................... 41
- Belmont ......................................... 19-21
- Fullerton* .................................. 23-25
- Roosevelt ...................................... 42
- Cermak-McCormick Place* ........... 43
- Sox-35th* .................................. 44-45
- 47th* .......................................... 46-47
- Garfield* ..................................... 48-49
- 63rd* .......................................... 50-51
- 69th* .......................................... 52-53
- 79th* .......................................... 54-55
- 87th* .......................................... 56-57

**Pink Line**
- 54th/Cermak .................................. 58-59
- Kostner ......................................... 60-61
- Pulaski .......................................... 62
- Central Park ..................................... 63
- Kedzie ............................................. 64
- California ........................................ 65
- Western .......................................... 66-67
- Damen ............................................ 68
- 18th ............................................. 69

**Blue Line**
- Cumberland ..................................... 70
- Harlem ............................................ 71
- California* .................................... 72-73
- Jackson* ....................................... 74

**Orange Line**
- Roosevelt ...................................... 42
- Pulaski .......................................... 75

**Green Line**
- Cermak-McCormick Place* ........... 76-77
- Roosevelt ...................................... 42
- Morgan* ....................................... 78
- Conservatory ................................... 79

**Other CTA Facilities**
- CTA headquarters ................................ 80-81

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*Indicates locations featuring new art installations since 2010.

Front cover photo credit: Tom Van Eynde.
Since 2011, under the leadership of Mayor Rahm Emanuel, the CTA’s collection of public art has undergone its largest expansion ever – now proudly boasting more than 60 pieces of art exhibited at over 50 stations, including mosaics, sculptures and paintings by nationally and internationally acclaimed artists. The newest works of art added to this collection are the result of recently completed major project work to either rehabilitate an existing rail station or build a new station.

The CTA plans to add more works of art to its growing collection at the following locations over the next few years:

**Blue Line**
- Cumberland
- Jefferson Park
- Montrose
- Irving Park
- Addison
- Western*
- Damen*
- UIC-Halsted
- Illinois Medical District

**Brown Line**
- Diversey

**Green Line**
- Kedzie
- Clinton

**Loop Elevated**
- Washington/Wabash (new station)

**Pink Line**
- Polk

**Red Line**
- Wilson*
- Clark/Division
- 95th*

**Other**
- Chicago/Austin bus terminal
- Union Station Transit Center

*Indicates an art installation project already underway with a commissioned artist/artist team.

Many of the pieces featured in CTA’s public art collection are a result of the Arts in Transit Program – funded by the Federal Transit Administration and coordinated locally through the CTA, the City of Chicago Public Art Program, and the Chicago Department of Transportation. A number of other pieces were created through the CTA’s Adopt-A-Station program and through partnerships with local artists and organizations, including Gallery 37, Chicago Public Art Group and Marwen.
Upon completion of a $280 million reconstruction project, which is expected in 2018, the 95th Street Terminal will be the showcase station of the entire CTA system—and a premier multimodal transportation terminal in the region. The crowning jewel to this momentous project will be the largest public art project in the agency’s history—a $1.3 million endeavor by internationally acclaimed Chicago artist Theaster Gates. More than just artwork, Gates’ project fosters community engagement, job creation and provides a student apprentice program. The artwork imagined for this station is an integrated feature in the terminal building and a stand-alone work of art.
Wilson
Red Line
Cecil Balmond, Artist

As part of the historic Wilson Station Reconstruction Project, the CTA has commissioned internationally acclaimed artist, designer and engineer Cecil Balmond to create new artwork for permanent display in the new main stationhouse. The Wilson station serves as a gateway to the burgeoning Uptown neighborhood, which boasts a popular and historic entertainment district, the Little Vietnam neighborhood, Truman College, Montrose Harbor, the Lincoln Park lakefront park and more. The new artwork will be installed in the main stationhouse following the completion of project work, which is expected in late 2017.

Washington/Wabash
Loop Elevated

Construction of the new Washington/Wabash Loop Elevated station is under way and is expected to be complete in 2017. The $75 million project will combine the nearby century-old stations on Wabash at Randolph and at Madison with a new modern and fully accessible station. Plans for commissioning new, one-of-a-kind artwork are already under way, with the Call for Artist qualifications issued in late 2015. Additional details regarding the artist and artwork will be announced in 2016.
Damen Blue Line
Benjamin Ball and Gaston Nogues, Artists

The artist team of Benjamin Ball and Gaston Nogues of Ball-Nogues Studio was selected to commission new artwork for the historic Damen Blue Line station, which in 2014 underwent a $13.6 million rehabilitation as part of the $492 million *Your New Blue* project. The new exterior artwork, which will be installed in 2016, is expected to be interactive and engaging the station and the surrounding neighborhood.

Western (O’Hare Branch) Blue Line
Edra Soto and Dan Sullivan, Artists

New public artwork created by Chicago artists Edra Soto and Dan Sullivan will enhance the Western station, which received minor upgrades as part of the $492 million *Your New Blue* modernization project. Selected from more than 100 applicants, the new artwork by Soto and Sullivan is expected to be a large-scale sculptural embellishment for the stationhouse exterior.
Hope and Renewal
Josh Garber
Powder-coated aluminum
2007, Arts in Transit

Resembling architectural columns this pair of sculptures depicts the lotus blossom, a universal symbol of hope and rebirth. Metaphorically, the flower-forms symbolize the aspirations of the Albany Park community, which is among the most diverse in Chicago. Artist Josh Garber hand-crafted these sculptures of thousands of aluminum bars and molded each petal of the lotus blossom to function as seating.
Round and Round
Anne Marie Karlsen

Art glass
2007, Arts in Transit

Round and Round celebrates the historic and ongoing connection between the Kedzie station and the community. Anne Marie Karlsen achieved the kaleidoscopic motif by layering graphic imagery with color via photomontage. From a distance, the pattern of circles and semi-circles suggests the motion of train wheels, but a close look reveals images from historic photographs of train cars, the Kedzie station and the surrounding neighborhood.
Artist Ellen Harvey's mosaic transforms an ordinary pathway into the image of an Oriental carpet, a symbol of artistic and cultural exchange befitting the culturally diverse community surrounding the Francisco station. Just as a welcome mat serves as the transition between outdoors and indoors, the mosaic carpet symbolically links the station with the residential community, marking the transition between public and private spaces utilized by CTA riders.
Hidden Movers

Thomas Skomski

*Mixed media*
2007, *Arts in Transit*

This composition of industrial and natural materials symbolizes the delicate relationship between nature and humankind. Photographs of swiftly-flowing water reference the nearby Chicago River, and are suspended within glass and a structure of charred wood symbolizing the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. As the luminous images appear in perpetual motion and the burned wood speaks of disaster, we are reminded of the impermanence of nature, while the steel framework and bolt system indicate man’s ability to rebuild that which has been destroyed. The artist was inspired by the efforts of Friends of the Chicago River, an organization dedicated to restoring the fragile eco-system of the Chicago River.
Ellen Rothenberg’s artwork was inspired by the commuters who use the Western station and the way in which they influence the station’s ever-changing appearance. Throughout the day, as travelers pass by the windows they are highlighted by the shifting natural light. The artist’s camouflage pattern creates varying levels of opacity, producing shadows of figures and a dynamic, cinematic setting.
American Tourister
Ron Baron

Bronze
2008, Arts in Transit

The components of Ron Baron’s whimsical sculptures contain a history accumulated through years of use. Assembled from bronze castings of assorted vintage briefcases, suitcases and chairs culled from thrift stores and yard sales, the sculptures appear from a distance to be furniture or stacked luggage, but closer inspection rewards viewers with the discovery of embedded dioramas of travel scenes.
Montrose 4400N 1800W

MONT/ROSE: AREA

Jason Pickleman

*Cast aluminum, vinyl decals*

2007, *Arts in Transit*

Comprising 318 complete and partial letterforms of anodized aluminum, Jason Pickleman’s mural celebrates neighboring streets around the Montrose Brown Line station using the graphic language of wayfinding and commercial signage. Set in Neue Helvetica font, the street names are broken at odd lengths, stacked and repeated to create new word combinations that are both familiar and irregular.
Commonplaces
Juan Carlos Macias

Venetian hand-cut glass mosaic
2008, Arts in Transit

Inspired by the CTA Brown Line, the Irving Park station and the community they serve, artist Juan Carlos Macias’ murals contemplate the brief convergence of individuals in the course of their separate journeys. Like a microcosm of Chicago, the train is a space that remains familiar while faces and other details change from day to day. The station itself is a point of destination, intersection and departure for a heterogeneous mixture of people in which all are equal—a common place.
The Encrypted Inning
Gregory Gómez
Sand-cast bronze and patina
2007, Arts in Transit

The Encrypted Inning, Gregory Gómez’s relief sculpture installation, celebrates both the Chicago Cubs and the human capacity to communicate complex information via two-dimensional symbols. Using the traditional method of baseball score-keeping, the sculpture describes the top half of the sixth inning and the bottom half of the ninth inning of the May 14, 1969 baseball game between the Chicago Cubs and the San Diego Padres. Among the colorful roster of Cubs players were both Ernie Banks and Ron Santo, who helped the home team come from behind to win the game with a score of 3 to 2.

The box score symbols, re-created here in bronze, are derived from samples of Cubs broadcaster Ron Santo’s own writing. The Padres’ sixth inning is represented on the interior façades of the elevator towers, facing the passenger platform, and the Cubs’ ninth inning is represented on the exterior façade of the east elevator tower.

Cubs management was instrumental in procuring writing samples, and granted the artist permission to duplicate Mr. Santo’s writing.
Transitions
Barbara Cooper

Mosaic: Hand-cut glass
Sculpture: Riveted brass and stainless-steel sheeting
2009, Arts in Transit

Transitions comprises a suspended sculpture and a mosaic, which form an artistic dialogue.

“Transitions is intended to mirror the fluid, ephemeral, high-energy cellular neighborhoods of the city and the connections and intersections between them, which public transportation facilitates...[it] references not only passage to different physical places, but also to other states of being and points in time.” —Barbara Cooper
Green (North Wall) & Yellow (South Wall)

Elizabeth Fraiberg
Transfer-printed glazed ceramic tile
2008, Arts in Transit

The abstract imagery of these murals is derived from the artist's own photographs of the neighborhood surrounding the Southport station, which she layered and transformed through digital collage. The yellow mural is meant to energize and inspire patrons on their commute into the Loop, while the green mural is intended to impart feelings of coolness and serenity as they return home.
Jerald Jacquard’s sculpture, *Space Junction of Energy*, is a paradox; an abstract sculpture that describes the specific event of mass passing through space. The artist’s intention is to energize the viewer’s mind through perception of the ever-shifting composition of geometric forms. Formal yet animated, the sculpture is an arrangement of hollow geometric shapes constructed of cut and welded sheet steel. A visual blanket of orange paint unifies the variable components and emphasizes the internal balance and harmony of this dynamic composition.
Mosaics by David Lee Csicsko embellish the Belmont station in celebration of the diversity and liveliness of the Lakeview community. CTA customers are greeted by nine spirited portraits along Belmont Avenue. Inside the stationhouse colossal pairs of eyes keep watch and reflect friendly faces while a Victorian-era train car pays homage to the history of the neighborhood. The joyous portraits of its passengers, young and old, reflect the diversity of Chicago’s population.
Transience
Martin Donlin

Architectural glass: ceramic enamels fired into tempered glass
2009, Arts in Transit

The larger-than-life-size, abstracted human silhouettes in Martin Donlin’s art glass windows form a rhythmic composition that represents the community passing through the Wellington station. A band of smaller figures, resembling passengers awaiting a train, spans the width of the glass station front. With repeated viewing, passengers will discover subtle elements within the design that are not apparent at first glance.
Abstract, dynamic and impeccably detailed, Landslide, like all of Derick Malkemus’ work, is a three-dimensional drawing—as significant for its lines as for its forms. Employing a unique visual vocabulary, the artist intends his work to be an expression through form, without narrative, to be appreciated without need for a verbal explanation.
Doors Open Everywhere at Fullerton

Michael Dinges

Venetian glass, marble and stone mosaic
2009, Arts in Transit

The distant horizon of Michael Dinges’ abstracted prairie landscape beckons commuters entering the station, drawing their eyes up the stairway to the mezzanine. A broad expanse of gold and green, and the luminous, diffused colors of the overarching sky evoke a feeling of boundlessness to match the sense of possibilities one may feel when setting out for a new destination.
Hayes Healy Gymnasium

Mike Grucza

*Installation of Bas-relief, limestone panels*

*2015, CTA Art Collection*

Six carved limestone panels depicting athletic activities are original bas-reliefs of the McCormick Theological Seminary Gymnasium Building. Designed by Dwight G. Wallace and completed in 1929, the Collegiate Gothic Revival style structure became the Hayes Healy Gymnasium of DePaul University in 1976.

The City of Chicago commissioned artist Mike Grucza to design a contemporary display for the repurposed historic panels and in 2015 donated this artwork to the CTA’s collection of public art.
Chicago El Stories
Jon Gitelson

Glass photographic tiles
2008, Arts in Transit

Jon Gitelson’s mural for the Armitage Brown Line station showcases shared and personal histories of Chicago as related to the artist by Chicagoans and Brown Line passengers. Central to the glass mural is a collection of 45 photographic images determined by the artist’s own research, which function as dual portraits of the city and of the memories of its residents.

Mr. Gitelson conducted a series of interviews at the Armitage Brown Line station in which he asked individual passengers to share memories of places or experiences within the City of Chicago that are of personal significance. Each interview was captured by the artist in an audio recording. The artist then visited and photographed the scene of each event, free of people, creating a unique portrait of each individual’s memory while also allowing viewers of the artwork to vicariously visit each location. Below each photograph is an excerpt of the related interview. Surrounding the central grouping of images, and referencing the geographic starting point for the artist’s interviews, is a black and white border depicting a street map of the community surrounding the Armitage station.
Time is the Enemy (Revisited)
Carlos “Dzine” Rolon
Venetian glass, marble and stone mosaic
2009, Arts in Transit

Infused with a spirit of playful escapism, this mural offers a breath of otherworldly dimensions in a familiar setting. The texture of hand-cut Venetian glass, assembled in a traditional, painstaking process, contrasts with the animation and energy of the composition. Mirrored glass adds movement to this rhythmic and flowing work befitting Old Town’s history as an artistic and countercultural enclave.
Reflections Expressions Transformations
B.J. Krivanek and Joel Breaux
Aluminum, powder-coated aluminum
2009, Arts in Transit

Each panel of this kinetic art installation pivots independently, allowing the artwork to constantly shift and change, like the surrounding streetscape, in response to wind currents and the vibrations of passing trains. The highly polished aluminum reflects and fragments light and shadow from surrounding buildings, objects and people.

“Located within Chicago’s art gallery district, this public artwork symbolizes the process of creativity—where observations and experiences are transformed into expressions that are placed into a public arena.” —B.J. Krivanek

“Located within Chicago’s art gallery district, this public artwork symbolizes the process of creativity—where observations and experiences are transformed into expressions that are placed into a public arena.” —B.J. Krivanek
In Transit Gallery
Columbia College Photography Department

Photo montage
2001, Adopt-A-Station

Bringing art to the City of Chicago in the form of a photo montage, the Columbia College Photography department displays photography by Columbia College students. Located throughout the bridge that connects the north- and southbound platforms, the students’ photos have turned the station into a transit gallery.
Titled 24/7, the sculpture suspended overhead celebrates the dynamic activity that occurs day and night in the Howard station. Circular stainless steel plates, polished to a mirror finish, are draped together using fasteners custom-designed by the artists. A pattern of laser-cut holes scatters across the surface of the plates, creating secondary circular patterns. As one moves through the space of the sculpture, the perception of circles reflected within circles is intensified.
Destination: Points Unknown
Amy Cheng

*Hand-painted ceramic tile*
2009, *Arts in Transit*

Composed of hand-painted ceramic tile, this mural is intended to momentarily transport the viewer on an imaginative journey. Rich colors and decorative patterns create circular forms reminiscent of images of the cosmos. These floating forms suggest motion and depth in space, serving as a visual metaphor for the Howard station, which is a place of passage en route to limitless destinations.
A Neighborhood Piazza
Tom Denlinger
Digital image transfer to glass
2014, Arts in Transit

Paying tribute to the beauty of the built and natural environments of the Jarvis station community, artist Tom Denlinger focused his view from the small plaza (piazza in Italian) next to the station. Layered images of winter and summer scenes were transferred to glass using screen-printing techniques, described here by the artist: “Starting at the intersection of Jarvis and Greenview and moving outward, I photographed the spaces between homes and residential buildings. I then composed these images into a grid to create a lacework of alleys and intersections. The images simultaneously reveal the space of difference in order to celebrate the vibrant diversity of Rogers Park.”
Towards the nature of light
Harold Mendez
Mixed media art glass
2015, Arts in Transit

Towards the nature of light, celebrates the transitions of the day. The interplay of light and shadow, warmth and welcoming environment serve as an entry point for Rogers Park commuters to experience the neighborhood, its tree lined streets, vibrant music scene and Lake Michigan. The photographic image was taken with a pinhole camera to capture a moment in the day and is a metaphor for welcoming the transitions in life. Towards the nature of light utilizes vibrantly colored transparent glass to reflect a warm mood and an inviting place as we wait for the hours to arrive.
Granville Avenue Buildings
Kyungmi Shin, Shin Gray Studio

*Mixed media mosaic*

*2014, Arts in Transit*

Inspired by Chicago’s rich architectural heritage, artist Kyungmi Shin assembles a collage of buildings and homes situated along Granville Avenue, celebrating the history and diversity of Edgewater’s built environment. This group portrait features structures both significant and quaint and includes the iconic Sovereign Building and Berger Park Mansion. The sweeping paths of color behind the buildings are symbolic of Chicago’s legendary “wind” and the fast growing dynamics of the surrounding community.
Thorndale

**Thrive**

Jim Bachor

*Glass mosaic, ceramic*

2014, Arts in Transit

The lively and picturesque glass mosaics adorning the colonnade incorporates themes of history, recreation and education using iconic images representative of the Edgewater neighborhood. At the base of each column is a water-band symbolizing Lake Michigan. Stalks of wild rice, indigenous to the area and once harvested by Native Americans, represent the natural attributes of the surrounding area. Sprouting from the rice stalks are charming images of Edgewater's man-made symbols, such as vintage trains, the historic Edgewater Beach Hotel and Senn High School.
Chicago-based artist Dorothy Hughes shares her interpretation of the natural and built environments surrounding the Berwyn Red Line station through her handcrafted artwork, featuring a grid of images painted onto hand-shaped ceramic tiles.

“The artwork brings together abstraction with some realism. The foliage, trees and lake will bring the environment in and the architectural elements will reflect the neighborhood. Overall this combination will leave space for the viewer’s imagination to factor in.” – Dorothy Hughes
Cornucopia
Lynn Basa

Byzantine glass mosaic and hand-painted ceramic
2014, Arts in Transit

Reflective of the Argyle neighborhood where cultures mix in a melting pot of cuisines, art, music and color, this Byzantine glass and hand-painted mosaic by Chicago-based artist Lynn Basa is about joyful abundance and harmony. Each of the flower forms are symbolic of the unique individuals, each with their own distinctive personalities, who move through the Argyle station on their way to someplace else.

Also pictured on front cover.
Parallel Frames of Reference
DeeDee Morrison

Aluminum, powdercoating
2014, Arts in Transit

The history and architectural vocabulary of the Uptown Theater District is illuminated by artist DeeDee Morrison in 17 multi-colored panels placed in the station lobby and stairway. Inspired by the Moorish and Mediterranean Revival styles of nearby landmarks, Morrison re-interprets the magnificent façades and ornamental features, paying homage to Uptown’s legendary Aragon Ballroom, Uptown and Riviera theaters.
Cubs Legends
Steve Musgrave

Oil canvas
1998, Adopt-A-Station

Artist and lifelong Cubs fan Steve Musgrave pays tribute to the Chicago Cubs with his creation of four large, heroic, circus banner-type oil canvases of his favorite players. Cubs legends Billy Williams, Ferguson Jenkins, Ryne Sandberg and Mr. Cub - Ernie Banks - are depicted executing different aspects of the game: hitting, pitching, fielding and base-running. The murals greet customers as they enter and exit the station adjacent to Wrigley Field. Two of the murals are located on the west wall and two are suspended over the stairwells.
Hopes and Dreams
Juan Angel Chávez and Corinne Peterson

Glass ceramic mosaic
2002, Chicago Public Art Group

This mosaic is largely made up of tiles created by adults and children during weekend workshops at the Field Museum in the summer of 1999. Participants were asked to carve images related to the themes of Project Millennium - Origins, Transitions, New Directions, Discovery and Technology. The artists then glazed, fired and assembled the “people tiles” into readable designs that formed a scenic collage of contemplative images from nature including clouds, plants, trees, forests, oceans, animals, birds, sunsets, earth and space.
Overlapping Connections
Indira Freitas Johnson

*Hand-made ceramic tile*
*2015, Arts in Transit*

Located in the heart of the city’s largest Chinese community, the Cermak station serves as a gateway for local and international visitors traveling to and from Chinatown and nearby Pilsen. Artist Indira Freitas Johnson's two-part ceramic mural honors Chinese custom and incorporates universal patterns and symbols, notably the colors and textures found in Chinese and Mexican paper-cut craft traditions. The centerpiece of the upper panel features Fook (Fú in Mandarin), the symbol of good fortune or happiness. According to custom, the symbol is placed upside down and against a diamond-shaped background. Within the context of the stairway Fook (Fú) may be translated as “good fortune arrives.” Together the upper and lower panels communicate a lively dialogue through the repetition of geometric shapes, organic forms and bold colors.
Magic Numbers
Cody Hudson

*Art glass, anodized aluminum*
2006, *Arts in Transit*

*Magic Numbers*, an artwork in three components, celebrates the mysticism and fanaticism associated with the Chicago White Sox baseball team. The stairway panels indicate significant calendar years, the total number of players, and retired jersey numbers during the 104 years of White Sox history (1902 – 2005).

Enveloping the station elevator is a pattern of multi-colored stripes referencing team trivia including uniform colors and win/loss statistics by year. Certain stripes include a code of picture symbols representing more obscure trivial facts. This language of symbols is an invention of artist Cody Hudson, who believes CTA riders and White Sox fans will eventually break the code.
Game Changer
Paula Henderson
Art glass
2014, Arts in Transit

Artist Paula Henderson celebrates the legacy of professional baseball in a mirrored composition of White Sox legends and Negro League greats—who played their East-West All Star games at the former Comiskey Park.

In the lower panels, Jackie Robinson’s arm extends into the upper panels representing his ‘breaking of the color line’- ending segregation in the major leagues.

The upper panels reflect change over decades in its patterning of the diversity of White Sox ‘greats’.
The 47th station is located between the two historic and culturally rich communities of Bronzeville and Back of the Yards. Chicago artist Andrew Hall visually unites and commemorates these communities by layering hand-drawn images of iconic architecture and portraits of residents both celebrated and unknown.

CTA commissioned Hall through Project Onward, a nonprofit program in support of professional artists with mental and developmental disabilities.
Canopy Lights
Jo Hormuth
Laser-cut Acrylite, aluminum
2007, Arts in Transit

Inspired by the sensation of walking down a tree-lined street, Jo Hormuth’s artwork lends color and shade to the platform, simulating the feeling of blossoming trees overhead. Acrylic panels in twelve colors were laser-cut into a repetitive pattern hand-drawn by Ms. Hormuth and then installed within the existing canopy. Panels in varying hues of red anchor the north and south ends of the platform, signifying the CTA Red Line.
Nexus Orbs

Bernard Williams

*Hydro-cut anodized aluminum*

2007, Arts in Transit

Inspired by patterns and imagery found in nature, ancient cultures and tribal art, Bernard Williams developed a vocabulary of symbols to create a suspended sculpture and series of medallions affixed to the stationhouse windows.

Each circular in shape, the symbols serve as a metaphor for the rhythm of the daily commute in which one begins and ends in the same place.
Presenting the Pictures You Wanted to See
Cecil McDonald, Jr.

*Mixed media art glass*
2015, *Arts in Transit*

Artist Cecil McDonald Jr. uses photography, video and text to explore the intersections of masculinity, familial relations and the artistic and intellectual pursuits of black culture.

Four photographs capture scenes of everyday life and are inscribed with a message of encouragement: Be Big, Be Proud, Be Well, Be You. Translated into glass, the images appear transparent and in reverse color, disguising the identity of the artist’s sitters while details about the location of each portrait are revealed. McDonald strives to present the ordinary rhythms of life as truly extraordinary. These are images of individuals inhabiting their spaces, living out their lives. And if only for a moment, these are in essence, the pictures of our lives.
Growing Englewood…
Emmanuel Pratt & Olalekan Jeyifous
Anodized aluminum, vinyl
2015, Arts in Transit

Growing Englewood… celebrates the rebirth and renaissance of the Englewood community, which is benefitting from a number of new initiatives, including community and economic developments (i.e. Green Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative and Food Plan of Chicago). Created by artist team Emmanuel Pratt and Olalekan Jeyifous, the murals are intended to provide a framework for an ongoing conversation about positive actions within and beyond the neighborhood and to open up opportunities for dialogue about the future.
A Red Line and a Cloud

Sabina Ott

Art glass
2007, Arts in Transit

As the 63rd Street stationhouse seems to float above the expressway, Sabina Ott’s artwork appears to interact with the landscape of Chicago, momentarily suspending the viewer in the painted clouds. A Red Line and a Cloud is based on maps that turn and swirl, mimicking the view north from the stationhouse. The path of the CTA Red Line route anchors the center of this landscape of floating clouds and color.
A Need to Remember

Preston Jackson

*Bronze, stainless steel*
*2007, Arts in Transit*

This sculpture, in the shape of a two-sided screen, juxtaposes contemporary and historic imagery of African-American culture and daily life. A master of portraiture and storytelling, artist Preston Jackson intends this artwork to be a history lesson and inspiration for the present and future. The sculpture juxtaposes streetscapes and images of days past with tender scenes of hair-braiding and imagery from nature.
Sanctuary
Doug Fogelson

*Mixed media art glass*
*2015, Arts in Transit*

Looking to create a timeless work of art to visually soften the space of the stationhouse, Chicago artist Doug Fogelson drew inspiration from the nearby Chicago River and Lake Michigan. The soothing natural elements of ripples, waves and light reflecting through water create a place of sanctuary within the transit environment, which sits between the lanes of the bustling expressway. For the artist, the artwork also serves a metaphor for residents and the impact they can have on their community. “Just as many drops make up a river or a lake, many people make up a community.” – Doug Fogelson
Seventyninth: Street: Shuffle

McArthur Binion

*Mixed media art glass*

2015, *Arts in Transit*

Layered within these colorful grid patterns is information originally published in the Chatham Citizen newspaper on June 16, 1965, and reproduced by the artist to symbolize all members of this community, past and present. The text includes local marriage announcements, names and addresses of citizens elected to the Chatham-Avalon Park Community Council and a feature article about Mrs. Mahalia Jackson, the celebrated gospel singer, who lived at 8358 S. Indiana Avenue.

Chicago artist McArthur Binion was born in Mississippi and began work in the cotton fields at age four. In 1973 he was distinguished as the first African American to earn a Master of Fine Arts degree from the prestigious Cranbrook Academy of Art in Michigan.
South Side Weave
Stephen Marc
Art glass, aluminum
2007, Arts in Transit

Stephen Marc created these murals by combining historic photographs of the nearby community with his own images of the South Side, photographed during the year 2006. The photo-montages feature old and new images superimposed of landmarks including the Auburn Park Lagoon and the Mt. Herman Missionary Baptist Church. The landscape of Chicago provides the descriptive background while portraits and scenes of daily life animate these spaces. The theme of hair is featured prominently, with images of braids creating a patterned framework for each mural.
Images of a man and woman appear to float within schools of fish in Jeff Zimmerman’s contemporary stained-glass windows. Inspired by the theme of migration, the artist relates the daily activity of riding the train to the life-cycle of fish. Although fish swim constantly in migration, they eventually return to their birthplace. Floating amongst the fish, the man and woman reach out to each other, as if bridging the gap between strangers in their daily journey.
Time Traveler 1; Time Traveler 2
Thomas Lucas

Stainless steel, image transfer glass and ceramic tile
2015, Arts in Transit

Home to nationally recognized African-American owned businesses such as Johnson Products and Seaway Bank and Trust, the Chatham neighborhood’s energy and rich business history served as inspiration to Chicago artist Tom Lucas.

A variety of images taken from the surrounding area are juxtaposed with bright colors, bold text and patterns symbolic of the past, present and future of this vibrant South Side community.

The artist also drew inspiration from lyrics in the hip-hop song “Time Travelin” on the critically acclaimed album Like Water for Chocolate (2000), written and performed by Common – an award-winning recording artist, actor, and poet who was born and raised in Chicago’s South Side.
54th/Cermak Station
Nicole Gordon

Paint on porcelain tile
2004, Arts in Transit

This painting on ceramic tile depicts a tapestry in which Cicero’s rich cultural history and diversity unfolds. Cicero is a town that is historically noted as a working class community composed primarily of immigrants that have strived to establish themselves and realize the American dream. A township map of Cicero serves as a foundation of the piece, as well as decorative references to the cultures that comprise the community. Some of the town’s most important streets and landmarks provide a structural element upon which the narrative unfolds.
Birth of Heroes:  
A Mandala for Harmony  
Ivan Watkins  
*Digital transfer on tile*  
2004, *Arts in Transit*

Inspired by the Mandala, a precise yet universal symbol of unity, harmony and the cyclical nature of life, this mural incorporates not only aspects of spirituality but also the reflection of great African American contributors of the past and present. Also incorporated in this digitally transferred mural is imagery of the Lawndale neighborhood. A lasting concept of this mural is to evoke education.
Seeds of the Future are Planted Today

Béatrice Coron

Water jet cut stainless steel, four panels
2004, Arts in Transit

This project aims to plant seeds of thought. Icons of growth and transformation take root in the past to transform our future. In the center panel, young children are watering the city, representing hope for the future. The side panels reflect the importance of education and literacy as the open books at the bottom the pages sprout with plants, symbolizing human growth.
Pulaski Station
Adam Brooks

Mixed media mosaic with water jet cut glass in three panels
2004, Arts in Transit

Adam Brooks uses quotes by individuals linked to Chicago to represent broad ideas about what it means to be human. The words of these contemporary figures create meaning within the site. The quotes in this artwork were chosen to reflect a wide-range approach to human thought and understanding. Each of the three individuals whose quotes are used – Muhammad Ali, James Cone and Haki Madhubuti – was a pioneer in his field. Muhammad Ali is the original archetype for the modern poet; James Cone is a minister, writer and a professor at the Union Theological Seminary in New York; Haki Madhubuti is a Chicago-based poet and publisher who founded the Third World Press.
Cannas & Corn: A Community Garden

Olivia Gude

*Mixed media mosaic*

2004, *Arts in Transit*

This mosaic commemorates the ephemeral public art form of the community garden. North Lawndale has an active tradition of dedicated people who transform abandoned urban spaces into neighborhood amenities. They describe their work as “blight into sight.” The mosaic was fabricated in a community mosaic workshop to “plant the seeds” of mosaic making skills in the community so that locally made public art can become part of the garden making process.
Coast of Chicago
John Himmelfarb

Custom-shaped painted tiles
2004, Arts in Transit

The neighborhood surrounding the Kedzie station is full of bustling activity. The ceramic tiles of this artwork reflect the strength of community as a whole, but also the uniqueness of its individual parts. Many of the design elements are drawn from architectural details of homes, schools and commercial buildings, as well as structural details associated with the CTA. These sources reflect the current community and give reference to the history of the neighborhood. Combined with this imagery are design elements inspired by connections of heritage to Mayan, Aztec and African cultures.
Amor

Christopher Tavares Silva

Mixed media mosaic
2004, Arts in Transit

The circular flight of birds from heart to heart suggests the passing of love from person to person and place to place, as well as the coming and going of passengers. The migration of birds from clear to rainy skies symbolically endorses the virtues of promoting love through times of both happiness and hardship.
At the center of this mosaic is a large heart with several buildings featuring the neighborhood’s unique architectural characteristics and facades. Surrounding the heart are the Willis Tower and John Hancock Center, signifying the neighborhood’s place in the city. Monarch butterflies are the predominant theme throughout the mural; like many people who pass through this station daily, monarchs are migrants. Every year the monarch travels thousands of miles from Mexico to the Midwest. The butterflies emerge in the mural as a wave of energy, a reflection of magical realism that has marked Latin American literature.
Vida Simple
Juan Angel Chávez

*Mixed media mosaic*
*2004, Arts in Transit*

Inspired by the neighborhood of Pilsen, this multi-media mosaic focuses on the individuality of the people that created the heritage and cultural identity of the community. The design itself is a collage of imagery taken from the neighborhood, including community member portraits, local street scenes and industrial wildlife – birds, small animals and plants that reside and grow in the industrial landscape.
Untitled
Francisco Mendoza; Gallery 37 students and the Mexican Museum of National Art

Painted wall murals
1998, Adopt-A-Station

Covering the steel panels of the station wall, several murals symbolize and tell stories about the neighborhood that the 18th station serves. Each of the colorful murals illustrates a different story of rich Mexican heritage while also depicting many important cultural icons in Mexican history.
Cumberland 8400W 5700N

Rock Bow
Charles Ross
Bronze, granite and liquid-filled acrylic
1983, City of Chicago Public Art Collection

This mesmerizing sculpture is made of liquid-filled acrylic with a granite base and is located at the junction of the rail station and the bus terminal. During the early mornings and late afternoons this sculpture projects large bands of color onto the walls and floor of the station whenever direct sunlight strikes the prism.
Harlem Station, 1984
Alex Katz

*Enamel on aluminum mural
1985, City of Chicago Public Art Collection*

Exhibiting an assortment of over-size, animated portraits, Alex Katz's *Harlem Station, 1984*, is located within glass enclosure for protection and visible from inside and outside the stationhouse. One of the most influential artists of his generation, Alex Katz is associated with the Pop Art movement and celebrated as a preeminent painter of modern life and portraiture. In this group portrait of commuters passing through Harlem station, the artist masterfully presents the diversity and dignity of ordinary, hardworking citizens.
Harmony of the World
Patrick McGee
Resin tile mosaic
2015, Arts in Transit

Derived from the artist's paintings of water lilies in nearby Humboldt Park, this flowerlike form with spreading petals symbolizes the many varied destinations that riders will experience as they enter the station.

The underlying tile pattern, or tiling, was discovered in 1974 by Roger Penrose, an English mathematical physicist and philosopher of science. Penrose tiling is known for the beautiful patterns it can generate and the peculiar mathematical properties it possesses: it has fivefold pentagonal symmetry and is non-periodic, meaning that the pattern does not repeat itself. This Penrose tiling was inspired by the 1619 treatise by German astronomer Johannes Kepler, Harmonice Mundi (Harmony of the World).
#ThisIsMarwen
Adriana Amador, Zac Mascarenas, Amaya Orellano, Emi Stearn, Isaac Tellez

*Digital prints*
*2015, Adopt-A-Station*

Five panels displayed in the Jackson station were created by student artists of Marwen, a program providing free arts education, college and career counseling to disadvantaged Chicago youth since 1990. Placed within the subway tunnel, the artworks communicate a striking and delightful contrast with the Depression-era utilitarian environment of steel, concrete and ceramic tile.

Marwen youth come from 55 of Chicago’s 57 zip codes. The #ThisIsMarwen program aims to call attention to the talent and diversity of these students by displaying their artwork in each of the zip codes where Marwen youth reside. The five artworks at Jackson station represent 60604, the zip code which the station is located.
The painted mural on tile greets customers as they enter the station. The mural depicts a rose with petals made of many different flags that symbolize the many ethnic communities that make Chicago such a vibrant city.
Cermak-McCormick Place

A Year Past Zoom

Hebru Brantley

Vinyl, eco-solvent digital print
2015, Arts in Transit

Artist Hebru Brantley’s signature style merges popular culture influences of comic books, Japanese anime and street art aesthetics. In this series of eight drawings Brantley casts his original comic book-style characters, the Fly Boys & Girls, to celebrate the nearby Motor Row Landmark District. Once the nation’s largest concentration of automobile dealerships, Motor Row was also home to Chess records recording studio and The Chicago Defender newspaper.

Hebru Brantley, a native of Chicago’s Bronzeville community, is a Chicago-based artist.
Unique to the collection of artwork across CTA's system are the artist-designed bicycle racks by Chicago sculptors Joshua Height, Derick Malkemus and Lacey Pipher at the Morgan Station. Fabricated of stainless steel, the lyrical sculptures provide a functional service to the transit station and the Fulton Market District community. The bicycle racks blend seamlessly with the design and aesthetics of the contemporary steel and glass stationhouse, designed by the Chicago firm of Carol Ross Barney Architects.

**Pictured:** artwork by Derick Malkemus
Garfield Park Conservatory Mosaics
Carolyn Elaine 2002 and 2003; Salim Hurtado and Michael Cloud 2001; Nina Smoot-Cain 2004

Mounted on the bases of the elevators and pillars of the CTA tracks and station, these mosaics are made up of a colorful arrangement of cracked ceramic tiles. Designed to highlight local cultural and environmental themes, the mosaics enhance the viewers’ appreciation of the ‘L’ stop, the conservatory and the community.
Everywhere
Lisa Gainor and Chris Coldoff
Appliqué collage
2004, CTA Public Art Collection

Installed by surface appliqué, this graphic collage is located on the second floor of the CTA headquarters, behind the customer service desk. This piece praises the CTA’s past, present and future, depicting iconic Chicago and transit imagery. Some of the images displayed within the collage are a dotted symbol of the Chicago grid, the first subway train inspection commemorative seal, the Chicago Motor Coach #104 – one of the first double-decker buses in Chicago, an abstract of the CTA’s Control Center and iron gates from historic trains.
Suspended from an aluminum channel, this sculpture consists of 22 neon tubes and is located just inside the entrance to the CTA headquarters. When viewed from directly below, this sculpture produces an image of the Chicago train system map and a grid of the major bus routes. From the second floor, two separate images can be seen: looking west, a colorful outline of a train is visible, while looking north, an outline of a bus at a stop takes shape.
artist index

Amador, Adriana
#ThisIsMarwen .................................................. 74
Arocha, Carla
24/7 .......................................................... 30-31
Bachor, Jim
Thrive ............................................................. 36
Bannon, John
Bus, Train and Transit System ..................... 81
Basa, Lynn
Cornucopia ..................................................... 38-39
Baron, Ron
American Tourister ........................................ 11
Binion, McArthur
Seventyninth:Street:Shuffle ......................... 54
Brantley, Hebru
A Year Past Zoom ........................................... 76-77
Brooks, Adam
Pulaski Station ................................................ 62
Breaux, Joel
Reflections ExpressionsTransformations ........ 28
Chávez, Juan Angel
Hopes and Dreams ........................................... 42
Vida Simple ...................................................... 68
Cheng, Amy
Destination: Points Unknown ......................... 32
Cloud, Michael
Garfield Park Conservatory Mosaics ............ 79
Coldoff, Chris
Everywhere ..................................................... 80
Columbia College Photography Department
In Transit Gallery ................................................ 29
Cooper, Barbara
Transitions ...................................................... 16-17
Coron, Béatrice
Seeds of the Future are Planted Today .......... 61
Csicsko, David Lee
We All Ride the Train Together ..................... 20-21
Curie High School Students
Untitled .......................................................... 75
Denlinger, Tom
A Neighborhood Piazza .................................. 33
Dinges, Michael
Doors Open Everywhere at Fullerton ............ 24
Donlin, Martin
Transience ...................................................... 22
Duarte, Hector
Ice Cream Dream ............................................. 66-67
Untitled .......................................................... 75
Elaine, Carolyn
Garfield Park Conservatory Mosaics ............ 79
Fraiberg, Elizabeth
Green & Yellow ............................................... 18
Fogelson, Doug
Sanctuary ....................................................... 53
Gainor, Lisa
Everywhere ..................................................... 80
Gallery 37 students
Untitled .......................................................... 69
Untitled .......................................................... 75
Garber, Josh
Hope and Renewal ......................................... 6
Grucza, Mike
Hayes Healy Gymnasium ............................. 25
Gitelson, Jon
Chicago El Stories ........................................... 26

Gómez, Gregory
The Encrypted Inning ...................................... 15

Gordon, Nicole
54th/Cermak Station ........................................... 58-59

Gude, Olivia
Cannas & Corn: A Community Garden ................. 63

Hall, Andrew
Bronzeville to Back of the Yards ....................... 46

Harvey, Ellen
Carpet .................................................................. 8

Height, Joshua
Bicycle Racks ..................................................... 78

Henderson, Paula
Game Changer ..................................................... 45

Himmelfarb, John
Coast of Chicago ................................................ 64

Hornuth, Jo
Canopy Lights ..................................................... 47

Hudson, Cody
Magic Numbers ..................................................... 44

Hughes, Dorothy
Roots with Diversity ........................................... 37

Hurtado, Salim
Garfield Park Conservatory Mosaics .................. 79

Jackson, Preston
A Need to Remember ........................................... 52

Jacquard, Jerald
Space Junction of Energy .................................... 19

Jeyifous, Olalekan
Growing Englewood ............................................. 50

Johnson, Indira Freitas
Overlapping Connections ...................................... 43

Karlsen, Anne Marie
Round and Round ................................................ 7

Katz, Alex
Harlem Station, 1984............................................. 71

Krivanek, B.J.
Reflections Expressions Transformations ............ 28

Lucas, Thomas
Time Traveler 1; Time Traveler 2 ......................... 57

Macias, Juan Carlos
Commonplaces ..................................................... 14

Malkemus, Derick
Landslide ............................................................. 23
Bicycle Racks ....................................................... 78

Marc, Stephen
South Side Weave ............................................... 55

Mascarenas, Zac
#ThisIsMarwen ................................................... 74

McGee, Patrick
Presenting the Pictures You Wanted to See ........... 49

Harmony of the World .......................................... 72-73

Mendez, Harold
Towards the nature of light ................................... 34

Mendoza, Francisco
Untitled ............................................................... 69

Mexican Museum of National Art
Untitled ............................................................... 69
Morrison, DeeDee
Parallel Frames of Reference

Musgrave, Steve
Cubs Legends

Orellano, Amaya
#ThisIsMarwen

Ott, Sabina
A Red Line and a Cloud

Peterson, Corinne
Hopes and Dreams

Pickleman, Jason
MONT/ROSE: AREA

Pipher, Lacey
Bicycle Racks

Pratt, Emmanuel
Growing Englewood

Rolon, Carlos “Dzine”
Time is the Enemy (Revisited)

Ross, Charles
Rock Bow

Rothenberg, Ellen
Camouflage Screen

Schraenen, Stéphane
24/7

Shin, Kyungmi
Granville Avenue Buildings

Silva, Christopher Tavares
Amor

Skomski, Thomas
Hidden Movers

Smoot-Cain, Nina
Garfield Park Conservatory Mosaics

Stearn, Emi
#ThisIsMarwen

Tellez, Isaac
#ThisIsMarwen

Watkins, Ivan
Birth of Heroes: A Mandala for Harmony

Williams, Bernard
Nexus Orbs

Zimmerman, Jeff
The Shore
The City of Chicago is known around the world for the vibrancy of its arts. As Mayor, I’ve made it a personal goal to bring this creative spirit and community energy further into neighborhoods across the city, and enable more residents to enjoy the best of what Chicago has to offer right in their own backyard while also supporting local artists.

In neighborhoods across the city, we are surrounded by world-class art in varying forms, ranging from the architecture to the elegant design of a bike rack. Throughout Chicago, thoughtful, thought-provoking works of art can be found – sometimes in the most unlikely of places.

The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) is home to an impressive collection of public art, which over the last few years has nearly doubled in size and includes works of art created by nationally and internationally acclaimed artists, a number of whom are from Chicago.

The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) rail stations are a gateway to the surrounding neighborhoods. The addition of public art not only enhances the travel experience of our riders, it also provides a glimpse into the window of each of these communities. Currently there are 60 works of art at more than 50 rail stations, with several others in the testing phase. And this number is growing.

The next time you pass through the turnstile at a station, take a moment to look around. You’ll not only see beautiful pieces of art, but a reflection of the surrounding community’s story.

Terry Peterson
Chairman, Chicago Transit Board

Dorval R. Carter, Jr.
President, Chicago Transit Authority