



**SFMTA**  
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Agency

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*September 12, 2017*

**\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\***

**SFMTA and San Francisco Beautiful Announce Winners for Muni Art 2018**

*Final five have until Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> to submit work themed “The Art of Poetry in San Francisco”*

**San Francisco**—The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) and San Francisco Beautiful (SFB) today announced the five winners of the 2018 Muni Art Project. This year’s theme is “The Art of Poetry in San Francisco”. The five winning artists will have their newly created work presented along with five poems selected by the Poetry Society of America, all by local poets, displayed on 100 Muni buses that will be transformed into rolling art galleries throughout San Francisco beginning in January 2018.

Ten artists were chosen to compete for the final five slots by a jury comprised of individuals of the arts community and decisions were based upon quality of concept, expression of theme, diversity and the likelihood of the artist to be able to deliver the completed work by the November 6<sup>th</sup> deadline. The 10 finalists were then voted on by the public via a link from the San Francisco Beautiful web site to Neighborland.com that tabulated the winning votes and the five fortunate winners.

The 2018 Muni artists are:

Donavon Brutus

Mara Hernandez

Tsungwei Moo

Randi Pace

Janet Rumsey

The theme this year, “The art of poetry in San Francisco” is a collaboration with The Poetry Society of America (sponsors of Poetry in Motion®) who pre-selected five poems that each Muni artist will creatively interpret. The five poets and poems are:

Juan Felipe Herrera – “Thich Nhat Hanh I Step With You”

Diane di Prima – “To a Student”

Kay Ryan – “Relief”

Brynn Saito – “Traffic”

Charif Shanahan – “LOVE POEM THREE AUTUMNS LATER”

"This unique concept builds on San Francisco Beautiful's thrilling legacy of showcasing local artists in public transit. Riders will be simultaneously experiencing poetry and art, providing them with an exhilarating occasion to reflect upon the relationship between the two in five distinct gallery environments, each a special pairing between a local artist and a local poet."

Each artist also has three panels to freely use that reflect the 2018 theme for a total of eight original works that will line both interior display sides of the buses. Readings by the poets at local libraries are scheduled for Spring 2018.

"I can't wait to see how the five artists interpret the five poems," said Darcy Brown, Executive Director of San Francisco Beautiful. "This project is such an important addition to the San Francisco arts scene because it highlights five local artists, and now local poets, and gets their work in front of over 700,000 Muni riders every day for four months. What artist doesn't dream of an opportunity like that?"

"The SFMTA is committed to improving the customer experience and this successful program can help give riders an even more pleasant ride," said Ed Reiskin, SFMTA Director of Transportation. "From new vehicles and rapid routes, to poetry and art, we're doing everything we can to make it easier to enjoy the ride."

In addition to each artist having 20 Muni buses to use as a canvas, each artist will be awarded \$1,250 at a press conference held on the steps of City Hall in January. The winners now have until November 6th to create and submit completed work that will be printed to conform to the specifications of Muni display space.

This year, the Muni Art project is funded by members of San Francisco Beautiful, AT&T and the Union Square BID. For details on sponsorship opportunities, please contact Darcy Brown at [darcy@sfbeautiful.org](mailto:darcy@sfbeautiful.org), 415-421-2608.

For more details on the final five winners of the Muni Art Project, please visit [www.sfbeautiful.org/muniart](http://www.sfbeautiful.org/muniart). Examples of each artists' work can be found at the SFMTA Muni Art webpage [sfmta.com/muniart](http://sfmta.com/muniart). Follow #sfmuniart for additional updates.

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## **SFMTA**

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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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## **San Francisco Beautiful**

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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](http://www.sfbeautiful.org)*

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