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MONUMENTAL SCULPTURE BY RENOWNED CONTEMPORARY ARTIST TIM HAWKINSON TO BE INSTALLED AT THE NEW TRANSBAY TRANSIT CENTER IN DOWNTOWN SAN FRANCISCO

Artist's proposal for a 41-foot figurative sculpture made from the demolished remains of the old Transbay Terminal approved by the Transbay Joint Powers Authority

SAN FRANCISCO, March 10, 2011- Today, the Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA) approved the concept design of a 41-foot sculpture by acclaimed contemporary artist Tim Hawkinson for the new Transbay Transit Center. The sculpture will be located on the corner of Mission and Fremont streets in downtown San Francisco. Described by the artist as a guardian figure marking the intersection or transition of a journey, the large-scale sculpture will be fabricated from recycled materials, including reinforced concrete pillars, jersey barriers and a street light pole, all reclaimed from the old Transbay Terminal building.

“We are extremely pleased that incredible public art will be a crucial part of this transportation project,” said Nathaniel P. Ford Sr., Chairman, TJPA Board of Directors. “Like the forms of transit that will utilize the new Transit Center itself, this public art will connect communities in the Bay Area and California.”

The sculpture is the final piece in the Transbay Transit Center's \$4.75 million, five-piece public art program established in partnership with the San Francisco Arts Commission (SFAC) for Phase 1 of the Transit Center Program. This piece will be Hawkinson's largest work to date and his first public art commission in San Francisco. Hawkinson is one of five artists to be selected by a Steering Committee to create large-scale public art works for the new Transit Center. Other artists include: Jenny Holzer, San Franciscan Ned Kahn, James Carpenter, and San Franciscan Julie Chang.

“We are very excited to have such world class art at the new Transbay Transit Center,” said Maria Ayerdi-Kaplan, Executive Director, TJPA. “The inclusion of the Hawkinson piece, made of recycled concrete and material from the old Terminal, is a further testament to our commitment to sustainability and public art.”

Hawkinson is known for pushing the boundaries of media and for his inventiveness in giving new life to detritus and every day, disposable objects. Some of his critically-acclaimed works include a full-size motorbike made of feathers, a stool assembled from eggshells and a figure of an elderly woman seated at a spinning wheel comprised of plastic grocery bags and water bottles.

“Tim Hawkinson is a virtuoso when it comes to transforming unorthodox materials into works of art of monumental scale and elaborate detail,” said Director of Cultural Affairs for the San Francisco Arts Commission Luis R. Cancel. “His design for the landmark sculpture at the new Transit Center is both awe inspiring and timeless. This commission is a testament to our commitment to furthering San Francisco’s reputation as an international destination for world-class art.”

In 2005, Hawkinson created a 20-foot high, 180-ton sculpture of a bear made from eight uncarved granite boulders for the University of California at San Diego. *Bear* exemplifies the artist’s ability to transform and humanize coarse materials, as well as conceptualize the creation of a large-scale work of art from architectural remains. At the time of its debut, *Bear* was considered a feat of engineering. Hawkinson’s proposal for the landmark sculpture of a standing figure with an outstretched arm gesturing towards the city will be approximately twice the size of *Bear* and partly constructed from the remains of the demolished Transbay Terminal.

Rising from the rubble of the old building, the sculpture pays homage to the past while serving as a beacon to the future. It was inspired by historical markers that signified to travelers that they were on the right path. The artist cites as inspiration Inukshuks, stacked stone forms created by Native Americans for navigational purposes, and Greek Telamon or Caryatids, which are figures of support found on the facades of important buildings from the ancient world. According to the artist, “This journey is underscored by the sculpture’s original incarnation as a bus ramp, reminding us that life is composed largely of transitions. Its contrapposto gesture recalls classical sculpture, but its raw and immediate form speaks of the primitive and archetypal.”

About Jenny Holzer:

Jenny Holzer, a world-renowned artist who is known for her electronic LED signs and projections that incorporate thought provoking statements or truisms, will create a dynamic, scrolling text array on the bus level glazing enclosure and will be visible throughout the Grand Hall and the bus level. Her installation will feature prose from Bay Area writers, as well as historical information about the construction of the Bay Bridge and San Francisco. This will be Jenny Holzer’s first commission for San Francisco.

About Ned Kahn:

Local artist Ned Kahn will create a water sculpture for the roof garden. Ultrasonic sensors embedded in the ceiling of the bus level will activate fountains of water in the park creating a real-time register of the buses moving below.

About James Carpenter:

James Carpenter will create an illuminated pedestrian passageway on Shaw Alley. Parallel light fields will consist of a series of sixty parallel planes of cast acrylic resin with a prismatic rib pattern and integral LED lighting set into Shaw Alley's ribbed ceiling. The floor of Shaw Alley will include sixty illuminated glass pavers set within a larger field of precast concrete pavers and lit benches. The installation forms a dramatic landscape of light that celebrates passage and movement while transforming an ordinary space into a destination that helps link the Transbay Transit Center to the larger city.

About Julie Chang:

Encompassing nearly 23,000 square feet, the Grand Hall will showcase the largest fine art terrazzo installation in the nation to date. The Grand Hall floor by Julie Chang, a local artist and graduate of Stanford's MFA program, evokes a lush sunlit Victorian garden and beautifully references the people, history and ecology of California and the Bay Area. California poppies in shifting hues of vibrant reds and oranges burst into bloom alongside verdant laurels from every corner of the hall, while jewel-toned hummingbirds, highlighted by mirrored glass, sparkle throughout. Geometric designs and symbols from textiles that represent the diverse cultures found in the region are interwoven throughout the design. Visitors will be compelled to linger and explore the myriad symbols and images throughout the work.

For more information about the public art program at the new Transbay Transit Center, visit sfartscommission.org/pubartcollection.

About TJPA:

The Transbay Transit Center/Caltrain Downtown Extension Project is headed by the Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA). The purpose of the TJPA is to design, build, operate and maintain the new Transbay Transit Center and associated facilities in downtown San Francisco, including the extension of the Caltrain commuter rail 1.3 miles into the new Transit Center, and accommodations for future California High Speed Rail.

The TJPA consists of a historic collaboration of Bay Area government and transportation agencies committed to building the new Transbay Transit Center, which will replace the old Transbay Terminal, to improve the transportation needs for the entire Bay Area region and the State. The TJPA is managed by TJPA Staff and is overseen by a six member Board of Directors.

About the San Francisco Arts Commission and the Public Art Program

The San Francisco Arts Commission (SFAC) is the City agency that champions the arts in San Francisco. We believe that a creative cultural environment is essential to the City's well-being. Established by charter in 1932, SFAC programs integrate the arts into all aspects of City life. Programs include: Civic Art Collection, Civic Design Review, Community Arts & Education, Cultural Equity Grants, Public Art, SFAC Gallery, Street Artists Licensing, and the San Francisco Symphony Youth and Family Concert Series. The agency's core values are committed to the principle that all residents have equal access to arts experiences in all disciplines, that programs are provided comprehensively and evenly throughout the City, and that they are innovative and of the highest quality.

The Arts Commission's Public Art Program was established by the City Arts Enrichment Ordinance in 1969, as one of the first of its kind in the country. The Public Art Program seeks to promote a diverse and stimulating cultural environment to enrich the lives of the city's residents, visitors and employees. The Program encourages the creative interaction of artists, designers, City staff, officials and community members during the design of City projects in order to develop public art that is specific to the site and meaningful to the community.