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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Release

Foothill Gold Line Receives Diverse Nominees to Be Featured in Future Pomona Station Artwork, Nomination Deadline Approaching

Submit an inspirational Pomona hero to be permanently featured in public artwork at the future Pomona Gold Line station by March 31; and view the stories of those already submitted today

MONROVIA, Calif. – Today, the Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority (Construction Authority) announced that it has received nearly 50 submissions following the start of a public Call for Nominations for inspirational Pomona residents to be permanently featured in the artwork of the future Pomona Gold Line Station. The future Pomona station is part of the 9.1-mile, four-station Foothill Gold Line light rail extension from Glendora to Pomona. The campaign - developed by the city-selected station artist, Stephen Farley - will highlight Pomona residents, past and present, who served as inspirations in the community. To date, a diverse range of nominations have been received for individuals from all walks of life and across ages, ethnicities, backgrounds, races, occupations and generations. The deadline for nominations is March 31, 2021, and the Construction Authority is seeking additional nominations.

“The stories of the individuals submitted so far are profoundly moving and attest to the power of people to make a difference,” stated Stephen Farley, the city-selected Pomona Station Artist. “Johnny Hwang tells the story of his son whose life was tragically cut short in 2017. Deon Edwards shares how Farrell Chiles inspired him to believe he could write a book and serve his community. Maria Elena Gonzalez introduces us to Mireya Escobar, who dedicates her life to helping new immigrants succeed.”

Farley, who grew up in the Pomona Valley, was selected by the city of Pomona’s Station Design and Art Review (SDAR) Committee in 2005 to be the station artist for the future Pomona Gold Line Station. Over the past decade, Stephen has worked closely with the SDAR Committee and Pomona community to refine his station artwork plan before having it approved. Farley’s upbringing in the Pomona Valley helped shape his station artwork plan.

“As I grew older, I discovered that the power of Pomona was the people,” commented Farley. “The more Pomonans I met, from all walks of life and backgrounds, the more I understood that it was their commitment to community that made Pomona magical. The submissions received so far have proven that the power is still very much present in the city, and I look forward to receiving more submissions in the final weeks of our call for nominees.”

About 60 individuals will be chosen to be permanently part of the station artwork, with their portraits and power statements (e.g., “Norma showed me the power of love.”). They will be included in a series of 24-inch tile panels incorporated onto the railings and other elements around the future station. To date, nearly 50 submissions have been received, and the Construction Authority is seeking additional submissions to ensure the art plan can be fully realized.

To submit nominations or learn more about the station artwork for the Pomona Gold Line Station, go to www.pomonapeoplepower.com. While there, browse some of the nominations and read their inspirational stories on the Hall of Gratitude page. The submission deadline for submitting a Pomona hero to be part of the future station artwork is March 31, 2021. Details on how to submit a nominee is on the website at www.pomonapeoplepower.com.

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About the Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority – The Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority is an independent transportation planning and construction agency created in 1998 by the California State Legislature to plan, design and build the Metro Gold Line (currently referred to as the L Line) light rail system from Union Station to Montclair. The agency completed the first segment from Union Station to Pasadena in 2003 and the Pasadena to Azusa segment in 2015; both on time and under budget. The agency began work on the Glendora to Montclair segment in 2003. The Glendora to Montclair segment was environmentally cleared in March 2013 under CEQA and again in 2019 to allow the potential for phased construction. The project completed advanced conceptual engineering in 2016. When completed, the extension will add new light rail stations in the cities of Glendora, San Dimas, La Verne, Pomona, Claremont and Montclair. The project may be built in phases, due to funding constraints. Major construction on the project segment from Glendora to Pomona began in July and is anticipated to be completed in 2025. If additional funding is secured by October 2021, the entire segment from Glendora to Montclair will be completed altogether by 2028.

The project is being built in Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties. The Los Angeles County portion is funded mostly by Measure M, with residual funds from Measure R not used to complete the Pasadena to Azusa segment. San Bernardino County is responsible to fund their portion of the project to Montclair (in San Bernardino County). The State of California has provided \$300 million in funding through a TIRCP grant awarded in 2018.

About Stephen Farley – A native of Pomona Valley, Stephen Farley is an accomplished artist based in Tucson, Arizona. He has an extensive resume of community-based public art projects across the U.S. His current work includes creating varied art features at the two main light-rail stations in Downtown Phoenix. He invented a new process for translating photographs to ceramic tile called tilography, which he has used for two four-story murals at the One University Government Center in Broward County, Florida, and 18 large vertical murals at the Gardner Community Center in San Jose, California.

Stephen graduated from Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts with a B.A. in political science. He studied abroad his junior year at the American University in Cairo, Egypt.