



TEL 206.296.7580
V/TTY 206.296.8574
FAX 206.296.8629

101 PREFONTAINE PL S
SEATTLE WA 98104

WWW.4CULTURE.ORG

WAYNE TUNNEL MURAL FAQs

What is this project?

Seattle-based artist, Kristen Ramirez will be making the experience of navigating the Wayne Tunnel on the Burke-Gilman Trail (under 96th Avenue NE) in Bothell, Washington more enjoyable and safer for the over 2 million people that travel through it each year. 4Culture, in partnership with King County Parks, is overseeing the process as she explores the trail's history and experience, engages with area residents, and develops a site responsive mural that activates the 250 ft. long concrete passageway.

Who is Kristen Ramirez?

Ramirez is a Seattle-based printmaker, painter, and public artist who makes work about place and our everyday experience. She earned a BA from UC Santa Cruz, a MA in Education and California Teaching Credential from San Francisco State University, and a MFA in Printmaking from the University of Washington. She has exhibited her studio work extensively and is an active public artist, working predominantly in murals.

In addition to her work at Pratt Fine Art Center and Edmonds Community College, Ramirez worked at Cornish College of the Arts teaching Visual Art Foundations and managing the Cornish pre-college summer program.

To learn more about the artist and her work visit: www.kristenramirez.com

How was she selected for this opportunity?

Ramirez was selected for this opportunity through a competitive process open to artists residing in Washington and Oregon. A panel of community stakeholders reviewed 52 applications and interviewed 4 finalists before awarding her the commission.

Why commission art for the Regional Trails System?

King County Parks' Regional Trails System (RTS) is an extraordinary public resource that extends over 175 miles from Bothell to Auburn and Seattle to the Cascades, providing opportunities for recreation, non-motorized mobility, and commuting.

The RTS Arts Master Plan, commissioned by 4Culture, outlines a comprehensive vision for the creation of public art and integrated design features that will make the network more distinctive, attractive, unique

and user-friendly. Art and design enhancements can improve the trail experience and expand its use, as well as better connect King County's trail developments to local trail-side communities.

One of the recommendations in the RTS Arts Master Plan is to support projects that create a sense of arrival at gateways, trailheads, and trail portals or define the trail corridor as a passageway. The Wayne Tunnel is an important site as a passageway and trail portal. This is one of the first projects to be implemented from the RTS Arts Master Plan recommendations.

How does this project benefit the public?

Over the course of two weeks in July 2014, Ramirez will engage community volunteers to help paint and transform the concrete surfaces of the Wayne Tunnel. Her design along with upgraded lighting will help introduce a sense of openness and expanse, enhancing visibility and public safety and discouraging graffiti.

How can I get involved?

Ramirez wants to work with the community to create this artwork! Volunteers interested in participating in the creation of the mural should contact Laurie Clinton, Volunteer Program Coordinator by email at Laurie.Clinton@kingcounty.gov or by telephone at (206) 296-4452.

How is this project being funded?

This project is funded through King County's 1% for Art program which is managed by 4Culture. King County adopted the 1% for Art legislation in 1973 to commission public art that visually enhances County property and creates a sense of ownership and community. Funding for public artwork comes from capital construction budgets which cannot be used for other county programs or services like Parks maintenance or operations. Funding for public art does not affect the county's general fund.

Why spend money on art in tough economic times?

Just as we need an integrated approach to our economic issues, we need an integrated approach to building healthy communities. Art is an important part of encouraging and sustaining a healthy community. Public art sends the message that art is not the exclusive privilege of certain groups of people, but for everyone.

In developments like the Regional Trails System, art and design play a valuable role in increasing recreational activity for all ages as well as community "walkability," which can lead to greater mobility and individual fitness and a reduction in air pollution caused by motorized vehicles.

Public art has been used successfully in transit shelters and other high use County facilities to discourage graffiti and other kinds of damage.

Even during hard times, quality of life still matters, countywide.

Additional Questions?

4Culture: Jordan Howland, Project Manager, 206.296.4137