

# TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION REPORT NO.

**MEETING DATE:** August 19, 2014

**SUBJECT:** GLENCAIRN STATION SKYLIGHT REPLACEMENT  
PUBLIC ART CONCEPT

## **ACTION ITEM**

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board approve the public art concept for the new Glencairn Station skylight, as described in this report.

### **FUNDING**

The recommendation of this report does not have any funding implications. The cost of the design of this art concept was included in 3.9 Skylights Replacement Project as noted on pages 625 to 627 in the 2014-2023 Capital Budget as approved by City of Toronto Council on January 29/30, 2014.

### **BACKGROUND**

The existing skylight system at Glencairn Station is more than 35 years old and over the years has had issues with leakage. Due to its age, condition, and persistent leakage problems, the entire skylight system is proposed to be replaced with a point supported glazing system. This system has proven stability, safety, and reliability and has been successfully used on many transit buildings throughout North America and Europe.

TTC Corporate Policy 3.1.3, Art in Public Transit Facilities allocates at least 1% of the public space project budget to integrated art.

When the station was built, artwork was included into the skylight system. With the Glencairn Station's current skylight replacement project, a proposal to reinterpret the original artwork will restore the station's artwork integrating it into the new skylight system.

Under a separate contract entitled "Reinterpret Original Artwork at Glencairn Station" with the TTC, staff has commissioned the original artist, Rita Letendre, who is now 86 years old, to reinterpret the original artwork and integrate it into the skylight using new digital technologies and glazing techniques to ensure longevity of the artwork. Rita Letendre worked with the TTC public art consultant and staff to reproduce the design concept in a format that will allow for digital production of the work.

Rita Letendre has received the highest honors for an artist in Canada including the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Medal in 2012, the Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts in 2010 and Officer of the Order of Canada in 2005. Her work is in the collections of the best private and public institutions in Canada including the National Gallery of Canada, Art Gallery of Ontario, and Montreal's Musee d'Art Contemporain.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Site Overview**

The site for the artwork is the skylight that extends north-south through the centre of the full length of Glencairn Station on the Spadina subway line from Glencairn Avenue to Viewmount Avenue. The skylight and the artwork will be visible from the entrances on Glencairn Avenue and Viewmount Avenue. The artwork, particularly on the sloped section of the roof, will also be visible from the Allen Road Expressway.

### **Art Concept**

Rita Letendre's artwork, titled "Joy", builds on the artist's work as part of the Automatistes in 1940s and 1950s as well as her work as an important Abstract Expressionist painter in the 1960s and 1970s. The colours and shapes come from her work from this latter period. The artwork is comprised of 6 colours in hardline geometrics: bright yellows, oranges and blues with a khaki green background cut through by an indigo black arrow-like shape.

The artwork imparts a feeling of movement throughout the station for people in the station and for those on the subways passing through the station. The title "Joy" refers to the feeling of fiesta and happiness the artist wants to impart to passengers when they enter and leave the station. The artwork will brighten up the station through all seasons and weather.

### **Schedule**

Upon Board approval of the public art concept, the integrated art will be incorporated into the design of the Glencairn Station Skylight Replacement project, which is scheduled for tender in 2015, with construction completed in 2017.

### **Maintenance**

The artwork will be integrated into the new skylight glazing panels, which will be maintained by the TTC. A specially formulated coating will be used on the glazing panels to reduce the need for cleaning.

**JUSTIFICATION**

This artwork for the new Glencairn Station skylight will provide an enhanced station environment for passengers using the station, passing motorists, and the local community.

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**Attachments:**

- Exhibit 1 – Public Art Concept – “Joy”. View looking south from Glencairn Avenue.
- Exhibit 2 – Public Art Concept – “Joy”. Typical view from station platform.
- Exhibit 3 – Photo of original artwork on skylight (circa 1978).

**Exhibit 1**  
Public Art Concept – “Joy”  
View looking south from Glenclair Avenue





**Exhibit 2**  
Public Art Concept – “Joy”  
Typical view from station platform





**Exhibit 3**  
Photo of original artwork on skylight (circa 1978)

