



City of Twentynine Palms  
6136 Adobe Road  
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277  
760-367-6799 – FAX 760-367-4890  
[www.ci.twentynine-palms.ca.us](http://www.ci.twentynine-palms.ca.us)

## **NEWS RELEASE – AUGUST 31, 2009**

### **MBTA “CALL FOR ARTISTS” DEADLINE EXTENDED TO SEPTEMBER 16**

The Morongo Basin Transit Authority (MBTA) has extended its recent “Call for Artists” deadline to September 16 for submitting applications to create a public art installation for the Twentynine Palms Transit Center, which is due to begin construction this fall. The new open-air bus loading and transfer station at the corner of Adobe Road and Cactus Avenue will feature desert landscaping, shade trees, bus shelters, and walkways, and will have a prominent area for an outdoor public art installation at the corner.

Morongo Basin artists are encouraged to submit an application and proposal for this art project. MBTA is open to any inventive ideas including fencing, landscaping, tile work, lighting, sculpture, painting, and other elements.

According to MBTA General Manager Joe Meer, “The art project to be purchased with state funding acquired by the agency has a budget of approximately \$20,000.” This procurement budget includes costs of materials, labor, tools, equipment, transportation and installation of the art piece(s), and artist’s compensation. MBTA will provide any necessary foundation, pedestal, electricity, water, planting, or irrigation for the art piece(s).

“MBTA’s intent is to procure a piece of outdoor public art that is evocative of transportation and movement and is consistent with the aesthetics of our desert community,” said Meer.

After applications are processed, selected artists will be invited to present formal proposals to a panel, consisting of members of the MBTA board and the City of Twentynine Palms Public Arts Advisory Committee, and will receive an honorarium of \$500 to cover expenses related to their proposal development.

More information and an artists’ application package are available online at [www.mbtabus.com](http://www.mbtabus.com). For questions, contact Joe Meer at MBTA (760)366-2986 or Project Coordinator Danny Chow at (949)367-2850.

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