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* * * **PRESS RELEASE** * * *

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New Sixth Street Viaduct Reaches Important Milestones

Bridge work advances as design milestone is met; international contemporary artist with local roots selected for public art component; numerous intersection upgrades planned and community improvements, such as dedicated bike lanes, increased pedestrian space and a soccer field take shape

LOS ANGELES (July 2, 2014) — Councilmember Huizar, the Bureau of Engineering (Engineering) and the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) announced today that the planning and building of the City's one-of-a-kind Sixth Street Viaduct is progressing substantially. Engineering has successfully completed the planning for the viaduct, which will create a unique and iconic addition to L.A.'s skyline and River.

The bridge's art elements are also moving forward with the selection of artist Glenn Kaino to provide art design services as part of the new Sixth Street Viaduct. Kaino was selected from a strong group of local and international candidates, and he has family connections to both Boyle Heights and the Arts District. Kaino's creative process and experience with large-scale projects won over the Artist Selection Committee, along with his local roots and understanding of the surrounding communities' importance to the bridge's identity.

Councilmember Huizar also announced he is committed to identifying funds to pay for a soccer field below the bridge to support his and the community's wishes to make the bridge a destination point.

Some of the new bridge's most important features include improved pedestrian access and 10-foot wide walkways, as well as bike lanes. A recently approved City Council motion, introduced by Councilmember Huizar, calls for connecting the Downtown gap in the L.A. River Bike Path. Huizar wants to incorporate that plan with the bridge's design, as well as an effort to restore the river through the Army Corp of Engineer's Alternative 20 plan.

"Critical design elements associated with creating such a unique structure have been solved, and along with our artist selection, dedicated bike lanes, improved pedestrian access and walkability, as well as our commitment to support funding for a soccer field, tells the public this bridge is going to be special," said Councilmember Huizar.

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“While our first task is to build the bridge, we need to plan ahead on what kind of green, cultural and community spaces we’d like to see later and how it relates to the adjacent communities, bike paths and L.A. River. Community engagement will continue to be key as we begin to realize these plans.”

Engineering worked closely with design team lead HNTB, architect Michael Maltzan, a construction joint venture of Skanska and Stacy and Witbeck, as well as Councilmember Huizar’s office, to refine the design vision of a ribbon of arches across the entire length of the new Viaduct so that it meets the design criteria.

They have achieved that with a design that features arches as high as 60 feet, and as wide as 10 feet throughout the bridge. Two of the arches will have stairs that ascend the arch above the bridge deck, which will provide an unparalleled view of the city.

“With each milestone reached, our city moves closer to realizing one of the most dynamic and beautiful public infrastructure projects ever built in Los Angeles,” said City Engineer Gary Lee Moore. “Our team’s commitment to environmental sustainability, architectural excellence and community impact is what makes this a unique and exceptional project and one that will be greatly enhanced by the incorporation of public artwork, recreation facilities and improved bike and pedestrian access that can be enjoyed by residents throughout Los Angeles.”

ABOUT THE ARTIST SELECTION

Chosen from a strong group of local and international candidates, artist Glenn Kaino works in a range of media, including sculpture, installation, video and performance. His grandparents and great-grandparents were long-time residents of Boyle Heights and he spent more than 15 years living in the Arts District.

Councilmember Huizar earlier worked with DCA to establish a Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) to assist with the development of a vision for the Viaduct’s public art component. Honoring the PAAC’s vision as a framework, an Artist Selection Committee comprised of local arts experts identified a list of candidates to work on the bridge’s art component. Kaino was then selected by the Committee from a group of top five finalists.

“The Artist Selection Committee was focused on identifying an artist who could meet the challenges and constraints of the Viaduct project,” said Felicia Filer, DCA’s Public Art Director. “We strongly believe we have found the perfect fit with Glenn Kaino.”

During his interview and presentation to the Artist Selection Committee, Kaino emphasized the need to engage local communities and honor the bridge’s special significance as an iconic crossing that connects the Downtown Arts District and Boyle Heights.

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He also underscored the importance of the human connection to the Viaduct, presenting material where he chronicled conversations with various people on the bridge who use it on a regular basis.

“I am honored to be chosen by the Committee and excited to create an artwork in a location that I respect dearly, where my family and I have so much history, and where I look forward to using art as the springboard for generating new experiences for future generations,” said Glenn Kaino. His project for the Viaduct will likely explore the role and potential of infrastructure as social context.

The Viaduct’s public art component is funded through the City’s Percent for Art Program, and will be integrated during the new Viaduct’s design and construction phases. In addition, Councilmember Huizar has pledged to work with DCA to identify funding for mural projects by local artists in and around the project site after Viaduct construction is complete.

Other Viaduct features include:

- To mitigate traffic impacts due to the bridge construction, numerous intersections will be upgraded around the bridge to ease traffic flow and increase pedestrian safety.
- Bike/pedestrian ramps from the bridge deck to the area below on the east side of the river, allow for maximum bike/pedestrian connectivity.
- To promote placemaking and healthy living, once the new bridge is built, land on either side of the river will be open space for the public.
- The east side of the river is slated to have a soccer field, as well as other recreational and pedestrian amenities.
- A plaza will be on the west side next to the river access way that will allow for uses, such as community gathering and public performance space.
- The river access way will be used to provide connectivity to the future bike path in the LA River downtown.
- Additionally, the bridge will have stairs to provide access from the ground below to the bridge deck on both sides of the river.
- In preparation for the bridge construction, Councilmember Huizar is working to have impacted streets resurfaced beforehand, making it easier on vehicle traffic.
- The City and Councilmember Huizar will continue to pursue additional funds to enhance the area around the bridge through additional art and community improvements.

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A community briefing will be held as soon as a full and comprehensive set of Viaduct renderings with the latest updates are completed, which Engineering estimates could be as early as August.

In the meantime, please visit sixthstreetviaductreplacement.org to see a small sampling of updated renderings.

SIXTH STREET VIADUCT FACTS

In October of 2012, Councilmember Huizar, former Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, and City Engineer Gary Lee Moore announced that engineering firm HNTB, in collaboration with Michael Maltzan Architecture, was selected to design the new Sixth Street Viaduct. The selection came after an international design competition.

HNTB's cable-supported canted arch design provides an iconic "ribbon of arches" for the whole length of the Viaduct. The design also includes access points for the community at the base of some of the arches and community gathering spaces on either side of the Los Angeles River, as well as direct access to the River from the west side.

The existing Viaduct is being replaced due to serious safety concerns. Elements of the current structure have cracked and deteriorated over the past 80 years due to an internal chemical reaction called Alkali Silica Reaction (ASR).

The \$401 million Sixth Street Viaduct Replacement Project will support almost 5,000 jobs and is the largest of the Bureau of Engineering's \$1billion bridge project portfolio.

The majority of funding for the Sixth Street Bridge project comes from the Federal Highway Bridge Program. The remaining funding is from a combination of State Prop 1B funds and local matching funds through Measure R, Prop C and Prop G.

Construction on road improvements associated with the new Viaduct is expected to begin in 2014, pending approval from Caltrans and the Board of Public Works. The viaduct is expected to be completed at the end of 2018 and opened in 2019.

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ABOUT ARTIST GLENN KAINO

Glenn Kaino (b. 1972) lives and works in Los Angeles. His upcoming and recent exhibitions include Tank, Prospect3, New Orleans, (2014); 12th International Biennial de Lyon, Lyon, France (2013); Bring Me The Hands of Piri Reis, Honor Fraser, Los Angeles (2012); In Every Grain, U.S. Pavilion, 13th International Cairo Biennale, Cairo, Egypt (2012); Glenn Kaino: Safe | Vanish, LA><ART, Los Angeles (2011); The Artists' Museum, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (2010); Honor Among Thieves, Performa09, in collaboration with Creative Time, New York (2010); Transformer: The Work of Glenn Kaino, Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh (2008); Laws Were Made for Rogues, Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego (2006); and Bounce: Glenn Kaino and Mark Bradford, Gallery at REDCAT, Los Angeles (2004); Whitney Biennial 2004, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (2004), California Biennial, Orange County Museum of Art, California (2004). He earned his BA in Studio Art in 1993 from the University of California, Irvine, and his MFA from the University of California, San Diego in 1996.

Kaino has also helped create various experimental venues to support the work of other artists. Working with collaborators Daniel Joseph Martinez, Tracey Shiffman, and Rolo Castillo, Kaino co-founded the seminal artist-run gallery Deep River in Los Angeles in 1997. Throughout its five years of existence, it was a beacon for artists and experimental practices in Los Angeles.

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