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Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS)-Boston Moves Public Art Project Forward Call to Experienced Artists and Designers Underway

The Boston Chapter of the Women Transportation Seminar (WTS) is seeking experienced artists and designers to participate in a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the development of public art work to be located within the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority's (MBTA) South Station transportation hub.

A joint venture amongst the WTS-Boston Charitable Fund, Inc., the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), and the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA), the project theme – *Women in Movement* - focuses on understanding women's role in transportation through public art. The Request for Qualifications is posted at <u>www.WTSBostonPublicArt.com</u>. The application process will occur on-line with all material submitted in digital format through the CaFÉ website (<u>www.callforentry.org</u>). There is no application fee.

Excited with the project's progress, WTS-Boston President Alison Plant Lima commented on the significance of artist selection. "Our next step is to identify an artist capable of showcasing women's contributions to the transportation industry. We want to recognize and celebrate the history of women's accomplishments and their role in enhancing the transportation infrastructure; as well as inspire future accomplishments. We also want to recognize the history of women reaching back and supporting the next generation in their careers in the transportation industry. Art is the perfect instrument to share our message."

The MBTA has a long history of enhancing the commuter experience through public art and is home to the nation's first art in transit collection and formalized art program. The collection has grown to over ninety pieces on six transit lines.

Supporting WTS' mission of "Advancing Women in Transportation", MassDOT Transportation Secretary Richard A. Davey praised the organization's commitment to sharing the contributions of women through art. "This project is a perfect fit with the MBTA where showcasing art to engage and educate the public remains part of the system's fabric," said Transportation Secretary Davey. "Women's various roles in transportation continue to grow and this art project is ideal to showcase their accomplishments."

Sharing her affiliation with WTS, MBTA General Manager Dr. Beverly Scott said, "As a member of WTS for decades, I am so proud of WTS-Boston's efforts to keep this project moving forward for all women who have chosen a career in transportation. Acknowledging their contributions through public art will not only share their accomplishments, but also, engage more women to consider a career in transportation."

WTS is an international organization with more than 5,000 members and 48 chapters dedicated to building the future of transportation through the global advancement of women. WTS-Boston, founded in 1981, is one of the oldest and largest chapters whose mission is advancing women in transportation by promoting the education of professionals employed in the transportation industry. With over 300 participating members in the chapter, WTS-Boston continues to provide high-caliber professional development, mentoring, and networking opportunities to its members.

For further project information contact WTS Art Project Lead - Lisa Brothers at <u>lbrothers@nitscheng.com</u> 617-338-0063.

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