A Tranquil Environment
Viola Delgado, Rowlett Station Artist.

“I want the citizens of Rowlett to walk away with a sense of pride, knowledge, and belonging to their community,” says Downtown Rowlett Station artist Viola Delgado. Her vision: a tranquil environment that reflects Rowlett’s beautiful landscapes, countryside and folklife.

Besides the decorative windscapes featured along the rail platform, the station, designed by KAI architects, also includes a walkway with a 4’ x 10’ paneled walls depicting the art, flowers, birds, trees and history of Rowlett. The walls will form an undulating circle at the end of the landscaped walkway in a way that recalls cascading water. The platforms will include a glass mosaic of the pastoral scene found at the nearby corner of Chiesa and Miller roads.

“I want the citizens of Rowlett to enjoy the images and vivid colors of each panel, and for the children to be educated about their town,” Delgado says.

Delgado, who grew up in Garland and Rowlett, has 20 years experience as a professional artist and muralist. She designed artwork for DART’s Lake June Station and DFW International Airport, and she has taught mural design at a number of local school districts. Her work has been featured in numerous art exhibits throughout Texas.

Q & A with Laurieann Dygowski
Rowlett citizen shares her thoughts on the Blue Line

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Q: What is your professional background?
A: I’m a graphic designer, illustrator and marketing consultant. I also had the privilege of serving on the DART Art & Design committee that developed the criteria and selected the artist for the art design of the Downtown Rowlett Station.

Q: How long have you lived in Rowlett?
A: I’ve lived in Rowlett since 1981, and I’m pleased to say I voted back in the 1980s for Rowlett to join the DART system.

Q: How do you and your family and friends intend to use the Blue Line when it’s completed in 2012?
A: I already use the rail whenever I can—traveling to other cities in the system; going to events and attractions like the zoo, the DMA, and Fair Park; restaurants and medical appointments, just to name a few. It will be a nice convenience having DART Rail so much closer to my home in Rowlett in a couple of years.

Q: How will the Blue Line Extension impact Rowlett?
A: It will bring many people to the city to enjoy our lakes and parks – and provide an economic boom to our downtown and surrounding areas. Rowlett will become a city that people in surrounding communities will want to get to know and visit. Our citizens will be able to ride to and from work throughout the Metroplex and save gas and parking fees. It will also help eliminate vehicles on the road and reduce air pollution.

Becoming a Destination
Hugo J. Martinez

Hugo J. Martinez, Assistant Principal of Garland’s Jackson Technology Center, was a member of the DART Art & Design team charged with developing the Downtown Rowlett Station art guidelines. The team knows from experience that station aesthetics contribute significantly to economic development that follows.

“When the Blue Line is completed in 2012, the economic impact on Rowlett will be significant. There will be new businesses coming to town, an increased tax base, more jobs, and a lot more vitality in the city,” Martinez said.

Because of the new light rail line, Martinez and other team members are receiving word that developers, builders, restaurants, retailers and others are already discussing their plans for coming to Rowlett with city leaders.

“Rowlett will become a destination!” Martinez says. “It will be, literally, the ‘end of the line’; the city will be transformed, and there’s even discussion about building a cultural center near the rail station.”

When asked to envision the Rowlett of 2020, Martinez said, “Rowlett will have five star hotels, high-end restaurants, concerts and theatre productions by the lake, bike and hiking trails, sculptures and many more exciting attractions. Rowlett will become a destination of choice for people throughout North Texas.”

Rowlett’s Community Station Art team:

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The committee members were: Debby Bobbitt, Gregory Craig, Donna Davis, Laurieann Dygowski, Michael Gallops, Betty Gibson, Joan Leonard, Mike McCallum, Ron Miller, Hugo Martinez, Miry Schade, Kerry Stanford and Steve Muggiorto (ad hoc member).

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Be Safe!

Be Safe! Be aware of your surroundings around the Blue Line extension project, just as you would near any construction site. Here are a few safety tips. Share them with your friends and family.

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- Walk only in designated areas
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- To avoid distraction, do not use cell phones in construction zones
Building Strong Ties
DART and Austin Support Back-to-School Events

DART and Austin Bridge & Road, design-builder for the Blue Line extension from downtown Garland to downtown Rowlett, are building not only tracks and rails, but also strong ties to the local community. Shortly before the start of school this year, the two joined forces with the Garland ISD and the Garland Urban League to provide pens, pencils, crayons, glue sticks, safety stickers – and, of course, bus and rail schedules – to new teachers, administrators and families in Garland and Rowlett.

DART Rail Safety Flyer

To keep the message of safety close and front-of-mind for area citizens, DART and Austin Bridge & Road created a safety flyer and sticker that will be distributed throughout the community. For tips or information about safety, contact DART Community Affairs at 214.749.2543 or Austin Bridge & Road at 972.651.0414.

Keeping It All Together
Todd Schwarz


As project controls coordinator, Todd coordinates the many local subcontractors who are designing and constructing the $360 million Blue Line Extension. He implements quality-control procedures for the materials used, tracks changes in specifications and job duties over the course of the project, and makes sure subcontractors are paid appropriately and timely. Todd also maintains open communications with the subcontractors to make sure everything flows smoothly.

Attention to detail, communication skills and organization are key to the role Todd plays, and he brings all of these attributes to the table in spades. On a mega-project like the Blue Line Extension, it takes a team of committed, hard-working professionals to keep the employees working efficiently – and Todd is the chief cat-herder at Austin Bridge & Road.

Station Background

In 1983, the City of Rowlett became one of the 13 member cities of DART. These are a few of the milestones DART and Rowlett have reached over the years:

- **September 1984**
  - Non-stop bus service between downtown Dallas and the City of Rowlett

- **August 1989**
  - Rowlett voters approved referendum to remain in DART system

- **August 1996**
  - Rowlett voters approved another referendum to remain in the DART system

- **May 2000**
  - DART opens the Rowlett Park & Ride facility

- **April 2009**
  - DART begins construction of the Blue Line extension to Rowlett

"Hundreds of teachers gladly accepted these much needed school supplies, especially during these tough economic times," said Alan Smith, Garland ISD Risk Manager. "Our principals also felt the construction safety brochures and DART education tour schedules were very helpful."

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"Looking east at the new LRT Rowlett Creek Bridge under construction."

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The Garland Urban League’s back-to-school event took place August 13, 2010, at the Garland Carver Center, and drew more than 250 attendees.

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Project Update

The Blue Line Extension linking downtown Garland and Rowlett is well under way.

- KCS Bridge – Utility work is complete, and work under way includes grading, pipe work, completing the drill shafts and building new columns.
- State Highway 66 Bridge – The bridge will be complete by the end of December 2010.
- Centerville Road – Utility work will be finished by the end of December 2010.
- Rainbow Estates – Dirt is now flying, with drill shafts being constructed and more work to follow.

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