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ART FOR RAIL TRANSIT

METRO BLUE LINE

COMPTON STATION*

Artist: Eva Cockcroft

Eva Cockcroft's ceramic tile murals for Compton Station examine the history of the City of Compton, past and present, with particular emphasis on the arrival of the various ethnic groups that have contributed to the character of the city. Six prominent pairs of dual-sided panels, mounted above the platform benches, examine the historical and contemporary life of the city:

Panel 1, presents the Indian, Spanish and Mestizo contribution. With a Mayan pyramid in the background, the Spanish soldier Juan Jose Dominguez leaves Mexico for California in 1769. In 1782 he is granted 75,000 acres south of Los Angeles, including the present site of Compton. A Mestiza woman and child stand in front of the Dominguez adobe.

Panel 2, shows contemporary students/future leaders in front of Compton College.

Panel 3, honors the contribution of the Samoan community--the largest such population in Los Angeles--to the life of the city.

Panel 4, alludes to Compton's importance in the economic life of southern California and features the Ambrose & Shepard General Store circa 1890, the common market of the 1920's and Compton Mall of today.

Panel 5, *The Children Are Our Future*, represents a teacher with students in front of the Catherine Street School; the companion panel shows a father playing with his daughter in their backyard.

Panel 6, documents the first African American families who settled in Compton in the 1950's with images inspired by the great African American artist Jacob Lawrence.

Two triangular columns with tile murals emphasize family life and are captioned with thoughts of Compton residents and their hopes for the future. A tile mural at the station entrance, designed by Compton's high school students, represents the musical traditions of each of the major ethnic groups in Compton.

"The history books are filled with the stories of kings, generals and geniuses. My work celebrates the ordinary people ignored by the books, without whose convictions and courage no progress is possible."

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**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
AUTHORITY**

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