

Mason (MAX) Transit
Sound Art Element
APP Artists Robert Tully and Jim Green



Sound is an innovative art form that is being introduced to the MAX project in response to input from Fort Collins residents such as the UniverCity group that requested exciting, new technologies to enhance the rider experience. Although there are other precedents of sound art created by Jim Green, the twelve Fort Collins MAX stations will be the first extensive use of sound art in public transit in the United States.

The sound art component for the Mason (MAX) stations will create a unique experience/environment for riders of the transit system. The sound art is inspired by the world's environment, giving a broad, natural, worldwide view aimed at relaxing yet interesting sounds. High-quality recordings will be delivered through speakers integrated into the artist-built light posts at each station. Some examples of environmental sounds include a forest environment with birds, stream sounds and rustling branches; an ocean recording of surf, gull calls and sea lions; an arctic segment with crackling ice and sea birds. Interspersed with the pure nature recordings are segments created by the artists--Jim Green and Robert Tully--that are inspired by the environment, such as leaves being raked, someone walking down a gravel path, and talking parrots. These additions keep the nature recordings from being predictable and complete the artists overall vision for the sound art. MAX riders and pedestrians will rarely hear the same sound segments, given the length of the repeating digital recordings and timed play.