



ILLUMINATE

Facts About The Bay Lights January 2016

ARTIST

Leo Villareal, creator of The Bay Lights, is a pioneer in the use of light-emitting diodes (LEDs) and computer-driven imagery. He is known for his light sculptures and architectural, site-specific works. Villareal's art is part of the permanent collections of major museums, including the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY; the Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; Naoshima Contemporary Art Museum, Kagawa, Japan; and the National Gallery of Art, Washington DC.

Villareal has earned prestigious international commissions and solo exhibitions worldwide, including a presentation of Cylinder II at the Hayward Gallery in London, which is currently traveling to Auckland, New Zealand; Sydney, Australia, and Sharjah, UAE. A survey show organized by the San Jose Museum of Art in California continues to tour museums in the United States. He is represented by Gering & López Gallery, NYC and CONNERSMITH, Washington D.C.

CATALYST AND PRESENTING ORGANIZATION

The idea of illuminating the Bay Bridge started with Ben Davis, Founder and Chief Visionary Officer of ILLUMINATE (aka Illuminate The Arts), a San Francisco-based nonprofit organization founded to produce The Bay Lights, as well as other large-scale public art projects. ILLUMINATE's mission is to produce and promote innovative contemporary art with civic impact, social activation and global reach to stimulate a culture of generosity, community, collaboration and love worldwide. Amy Critchett was brought on board as Executive Producer of The Bay Lights, helping drive the project's success.

SUPPORTERS

The Bay Lights is a privately funded work of public art supported by individual patrons. The project has received extraordinary pro bono counsel Morrison & Foerster.

The grand relighting event is sponsored by Heineken (Legacy Partner), LUMINA, Epic Steak, First Republic Bank, Hotel Vitale - San Francisco, LUMINA, Mozilla, Philips, Salesforce/Heroku, San Francisco Travel, Super Bowl 50 Host Committee, and WaterBar.

TECHNOLOGY

The Bay Lights is a monumental light sculpture inspired by the 75th anniversary of the Bay Bridge, now called the Willie L. Brown, Jr. Bridge. Artist Leo Villareal networked 25,000 individually programmable, white LEDs made by Philips to create complex algorithms and patterns across the western span of the bridge. This contemporary art piece is the world's largest LED light sculpture.

Installation of the LED system took place at night to minimize impact on motorists. A crew of 8-10 electricians from Bleyco Construction worked Monday through Friday, 8:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m., to install the piece. Saeed Shahmirzai of Zoon Engineering led the construction effort, which included technical design by Parsons-Brinckerhoff.

Grand Re-Lighting

The Bay Lights was removed from the bridge in March 2015 (per the original permit) to allow Caltrans to perform maintenance on the cables. ILLUMINATE raised \$4 million to ensure The Bay Lights re-installation, in time to shine for Super Bowl 50 in February 2016. The final raise was made possible by Bay Area philanthropist Tad Taube, whose \$2 million challenge grant inspired other donors to give the remaining amount needed to re-install the sculpture.

The grand re-lighting is scheduled for January 30, 2016 at 7:25pm sharp, with Macy's fireworks to follow.

The re-installed sculpture uses all new, robust LEDs designed to withstand harsh environmental conditions over time.

Once The Bay Lights is re-lit, the artwork will be gifted to the State of California for ongoing stewardship. Following the precedent of the necklace lights that were added to the suspension cables in 1986 and became a fixture of the Bay Bridge in 1989, The Bay Lights will become a permanent part of the western span, maintained by Caltrans.

TIMELINE

- August 2012: permits awarded by Caltrans
- September 2012: six-month installation process begun
- March 5, 2013: The Bay Lights unveiled at Grand Lighting ceremony
- March 5, 2015: last night of illumination for the two-year installation
- March 6, 2015: initiate removal of The Bay Lights to allow for bridge maintenance
- Fall 2015: re-installation begins (if \$4 million is raised by December 31, 2014)
- January 30, 2016: re-installation completed and The Bay Lights is re-lit and gifted to the State of California
- February 2016: The Bay Lights shine for Super Bowl 50 and the foreseeable future

THE BAY LIGHTS BY THE NUMBERS

- 1.8 MILES: length of The Bay Lights from end to end (approximately 26.4 football fields)
- 12 INCHES: space between individual LED lights in strand mounted on each cable
- 500 FEET: height of the installation to the tallest point
- 300: number of vertical cables on the bridge that fitted with LED lights
- 240 FEET: length of the longest bridge cable
- 2 FEET: length of the shortest bridge cable
- 728: number of power and data boxes used in the light sculpture system
- 100,000 FEET: linear feet of cable for power, fiber and Cat 5 wires in the system
- \$8 MILLION: total cost of the initial project to make The Bay Lights a reality
- 50 MILLION: estimated number of people dazzled by The Bay Lights during its initial two-year presence
- \$1 BILLION: estimate of dollars The Bay Lights will add to the local economy over 10 years after re-installation