

FP-021

DART FAIR PARK STATION

During the first seven decades that the State Fair of Texas was in existence, trolleys transported people from all over Dallas to Fair Park's Parry Avenue Entrance Gates. Beginning in 2009, Dallas Area Rapid Transit revived that tradition when it opened its Fair Park light-rail station, at the very spot where the trolleys once disembarked their passengers.

In creating their vision for a modern transportation station, artists Brad and Diana Goldberg paid respect to the rich history of the area. For example, most DART stations sport barrel-vault or gull-wing canopies. For this station, however, the Goldbergs designed horizontal canopies whose crisp, clean look mirrored the Art Deco styling of Fair Park.

Other elements of the station contribute to the seamless design. Fluted limestone columns pay homage to the limestone found on the Hall of State within Fair Park. And the station's curvilinear seating echoes the rounded shapes evident in the Fair Park Band Shell and the concrete benches located throughout the park.

Meanwhile, the way the station is artistically lit at night pays tribute to how dramatic lighting would transform Fair Park at night during the Texas Centennial Exposition of 1936. Board a DART light-rail car here and it will take you to such locations as the Martin Luther King, Junior Center, Baylor University Medical Center, Deep Ellum, Downtown Dallas, Victory Park and Love Field.

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