

# Anchorage artist's work is on a roll

## Award-winning bus design helps beautify Anchorage streets

By ASTA CORLEY

Daily News reporter

Local artist Karen Gore attended the recent public unveiling of her winning design painted on a People Mover bus as part of the City of Lights and Flowers Bus Design contest. The event was held July 24 at City Hall.

"I was excited to be a part of it," said Gore. "If there were contests like this all the time, I'd probably enter them."

Her design was chosen from more than 70 entries submitted to the contest sponsored by People Mover, the Mayor's Beautification Task Force and Tesoro Alaska.

Gore was awarded 75 gallons of Tesoro gasoline and a check for \$250 from People Mover. She also received other promotional items including a People Mover shirt, mug and cap, and a fanny pack from the mayor's beautification program.

Her design will be commissioned for about two years and reinforces the project's theme, "Take Pride, Take Part."

"I thought we had a very unique opportunity to help promote the City of Lights and Flowers because our buses drive all over town and are seen by thousands of people every day," said public transportation director Bob Kniefel.

Gore captured the essence of Anchorage, then translat-



Karen Gore

ed it into something everyone could relate to visually, said Kathy Kingston, director of Anchorage Beautification.

"It reflects a lot of color and excitement and enthusiasm and support of the community," Kingston said.

The design depicts a summer scene with red, purple and yellow flowers against a background of green with a blue sky. It begins on the passenger side of the bus, and continues onto the back. The design on the driver's side includes a winter scene with a purple-and-blue sky, a large moon and silhouettes of trees with white mini-lights.

The dots on the trees that were supposed to signify lights would have been tedious to install, said Kniefel, so a highly reflective vinyl material with white dots was used instead. They

will be lit year-round along with a loop of lights placed around the words, "City of Lights."

"The design certainly portrayed the mayor's image of City of Lights and Flowers and the quality-of-life issue he's been pushing since he's been in office," said Gary Taylor, superintendent of operations and maintenance for People Mover. "We were delighted that he was receptive to doing this."

Kingston refers to the bus as a "vehicle" for showcasing Gore's talent.

Gore saw the colorful bus in motion for the first time along Muldoon Road Wednesday afternoon.

"I was just excited," she said. "It was just really neat to see it go by, kind of a like a rolling canvas."

Gore has been an Alaska resident for about 25 years and credits her high-school art teacher, Dave Moore of West High School, as a major inspiration. She graduated from the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale in Florida in 1988 and now works as visual merchandising manager for J.C. Penney.

Her creative instincts have made Anchorage a little more colorful.

"I think (the project) is definitely an enhancement to the appearance of the city," she said. "I think (my design) is just a small part of it, but one I'm proud of. I hope other people will enjoy it."