



## The Bay Lights

“A milestone in public art.”

— Christo

“I predict that people including myself will want this to be ongoing.”

— SF Mayor Ed Lee

“Public art at its best—temporal, contemporary and indescribably beautiful.”

— Mary Tompkins Lewis  
*Wall Street Journal*

“A true gift to our city.”

— Allison McCarthy  
*7x7 Magazine*

Contact  
Tami Kelly  
tami@brazercommunications.com  
(925) 640-9997

[thebaylights.org](http://thebaylights.org)

# Facts About The Bay Lights

.....  
A MONUMENTAL LIGHT SCULPTURE BY LEO VILLAREAL  
.....



Photo by James Ewing

View dusk 'til dawn live streaming and more at [thebaylights.org](http://thebaylights.org)

## Who?

.....

### THE ARTIST

Leo Villareal, creator of **THE BAY LIGHTS**, is a pioneer in the use of LED lights 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 Museum of Modern Art in New York, Naoshima Contemporary Art Museum in Kagawa, Japan and the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.

Villareal has earned prestigious international commissions and solo exhibitions worldwide, including **BUCKYBALL** in New York City's Madison Square Park. 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.

### THE CATALYST

**THE BAY LIGHTS** is the brainchild of Ben Davis, Chair of Illuminate the Arts, a San Francisco-based nonprofit organization founded to produce **THE BAY LIGHTS**. Davis discovered and was inspired by Villareal's retrospective at the San Jose Museum of Art during the 2010 ZERO1 Biennial. Illuminate the Arts' 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.

### THE PRODUCER

Amy Critchett is the Executive Producer of **THE BAY LIGHTS** and the Executive Director of Illuminate the Arts. One of the first employees of both **WIRED** magazine and Oxygen Media, former co-director of ZERO1 and campaign manager for Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey, Critchett is an eclectic and creative producer of culturally significant projects and events.

### THE SUPPORTERS

**THE BAY LIGHTS** is a privately funded, public work of art supported by individual patrons, pro bono counsel Morrison & Foerster and corporate sponsors Commune Hotels & Resorts, Illuminode, Charles Schwab, Bloomberg, Sotheby's and Gucci.



## The Bay Lights

“The Bay Bridge to the Golden Gate Bridge: Game on!”

— Today Show

“In a city that prides itself on bright ideas, this one stands out.”

— NBC Nightly News

“Bold, breathtaking...the biggest Turn On of 2013.”

— Greg Archer,  
*Huffington Post*

“The Light Fantastic...it’s as if the wires there are also alive.”

— CBS News

Contact  
Tami Kelly  
tami@brazercommunications.com  
(925) 640-9997

thebaylights.org

## Technology

**THE BAY LIGHTS** is a monumental light sculpture inspired by the 75th anniversary of the Bay Bridge. Artist Leo Villareal has networked 25,000 individually programmable, white LED lights made by [Philips Color Kinetics](#) to create complex algorithms and patterns across the western span. This contemporary art piece is the world’s largest LED light sculpture.

The energy-efficient lights are mounted in single strands on the bridge’s vertical cables. Together, the lights use 150 to 175 kilowatt hours (kWh) of energy while operating for approximately seven hours each night.

It will cost approximately \$11,000 per year in energy to light the piece, which translates to \$30 per day at \$4.25 per hour. Dedicated solar panels installed in Davis, Calif. by [CleanPath](#) will offset all energy used by **THE BAY LIGHTS**.

## 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, 2014:** First Anniversary Celebration
- **MARCH 2015:** current end date of installation
- The artwork will be installed for a minimum of two years

Installation of the LED light 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](#).

**THE BAY LIGHTS** Grand Lighting took place on March 5, 2013 and the artwork will be on display nightly from dusk until dawn through March 2015. The installation can be viewed from San Francisco and points north, but not by drivers crossing the bridge.

## 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 project to make **THE BAY LIGHTS** a reality
- **50 MILLION:** estimated number of people dazzled by **THE BAY LIGHTS** during its two-year presence
- **\$97 MILLION:** conservative estimate of dollars the project will add to the local economy

See **THE BAY LIGHTS** streamed live each night, watch archived videos, interviews and viewer-sourced images, find current patron and partner information and learn how to support the project at [thebaylights.org](http://thebaylights.org).