



Perris Press Release

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Perris History Mural Hits the Road

A mural tracing the history of the City of Perris, created by hundreds of artists during a 2011 Centennial celebration, is set to become a traveling exhibit at community schools, public events and gatherings.

Six canvas panels, each four feet high by 10-feet long, currently are on display at the Perris Public Library on San Jacinto Avenue and one recently was unveiled during a City Council meeting.

The panels were created over nine days in October during the annual Southern California Fair at the Lake Perris Fairgrounds. School children, City officials and members of the public took turns painting the murals as part of Perris' 100th year of incorporation.

Perris artist Rob Padilla traced the outlines for the figures and sites on each panel and the public completed the artwork in acrylic paint.



Perris artist Rob Padilla stands in front of one of the mural panels on display at the Perris Public Library. The murals are a "perfect way to see what the City has to offer."



The panels each are 10-feet long by 4-feet high and depict images from the City's past and present.

Members of the City Council were depicted along with noteworthy locations in Perris, including the City Hall Campus, Rock House and Perris Theatre. Images from the City's agricultural, industrial and recreational heritage also are depicted.

One panel includes the names and signatures of the hundreds of people who took part in the painting. Padilla said the mural panels are set to begin touring at Perris Elementary School campuses in the coming months.

They could also be set up at events like the upcoming chili cook-off at American Legion Post 595, the National Night Out this summer or the second annual Tour de Perris bicycle ride slated for October.

"They are a good starting point for citizens of Perris to be aware of their heritage and to take pride in their community," Padilla said.

"They are a perfect way to see what the City of Perris has to offer. A City without an obvious art scene needs to have grass-roots input from the public to find natural, undiscovered talent."

Thomas Vose, librarian at the Perris library, said he has received many comments from the public in the weeks the murals have been on display.

"We are the community's library," Vose said. "We should be showcasing the best of what this community offers."

Perris Mayor Daryl Busch thanked Padilla at the March 27 City Council meeting, saying the "you did an excellent job" while expressing support for rotating the mural panels among elementary schools. City Councilwoman Rita Rogers said the murals "reached out to the whole community." City Councilman Al Landers said the project was "most appropriate" during the Centennial.

Perris City Councilman Mark Yarbrough painted some of the murals at the fair last year. He said the people he talked to at the fairgrounds enjoyed picking up paint brushes while learning about their community's history, culture and landmarks.

"It was educational in that it memorialized our history in a fun way," he said. "It captured the essence of what Perris is all about."