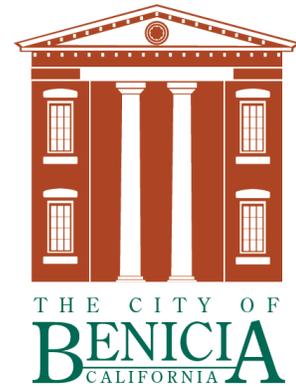


PRESS RELEASE
CITY OF BENICIA
Benicia Public Library
150 East L Street
Benicia, California 94510



Contact: David Dodd
Director of Library and Cultural Services
707.746.4343
ddodd@ci.benicia.ca.us

BENICIA STUDENT-DESIGNED MURALS ON DISPLAY FOR MOTORISTS

Benicia, CA (July 30, 2020) –The latest Benicia Unified School District student-created public art mural panels are completed and are now on view from Military West near Mary Farmar Drive.

This is the third year of this successful public art collaboration between the Benicia Unified School District (BUSD) and the City of Benicia Arts and Culture Commission's Public Art Committee.

Emery Lee, one of the student muralists notes, "I am so grateful for this opportunity to be able to bring a smile to someone's face through my art in these uncertain times."

Student Spenser Owen created the additional two mural panels.

The City of Benicia Director of Library and Cultural Services, David Dodd, said "These student-created works of art are an important part of the City's public art program, showcasing the work of up-and-coming young artists in our community."

Leslie Beatson, BUSD Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services coordinated the effort on behalf of BUSD, and Alfredo Romero, head of maintenance and his team did the installation work. Practicing safety first, the panels were installed in early July.

According to Beatson, "Benicia Unified School District is proud of our students and the artwork they create. We are happy to partner with the Public Art Committee to show off the amazing talent of our students. We are grateful for this opportunity."

The program is designed to provide students with the opportunity to create public art which will remain for the upcoming school year. Each year the public art murals are replaced by new artwork by any current BUSD student from any grade.

The long-term vision is to have additional art sites at all BUSD schools, promoting artwork to enhance the landscape of Benicia.

Funding for this public art installation comes from a donation by Valero Benicia Refinery to the Friends of Public Art—Benicia, and support from the BUSD staff.

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Attachment: photo.