

Escondido Library Mural Attracts Attention

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By KATI COWAN
(Continued)

technology, programs, resources and librarian assistance. They believe that the library stimulates the economy, enriches lives, and invigorates the future.

The library serves the community through programs for children and teens by supporting Interactive reading, art and music programs, offering free computers and Wi-Fi, promoting book and chess clubs, giving homework help, tutoring and more. For adults they provide free tutoring, literacy services, Saturday concerts, research centers and assist job seekers. For business owners the library has a business research database, information on starting and running a business, links to local business associations and for teachers and class visits.

The Foundation helped the library establish a business center, paid for the murals in the children's section of the library and is now funding the mural on the outside of the building.

Starting May 25, a poster in the library has invited the public to comment on two proposed images for the wall. A QR code will allow the public to express their opinion electronically through their mobile phones or find the survey on the library's website at www.Escondidolibrary.org.

"We want to know what the people think, said Anderson. "We are asking the community, what is your

perspective? What do you like about it? In what way would you like the artist to modify the painting all the while retaining the main themes?"

After taking all remarks into consideration, the Foundation will make its final decision and then the work will begin.

Both images depict the first local library built in 1895. One image shows a reference to our agricultural history with a young woman expanding her horizons through reading.

In the other image we see a connection to nature and wide-open spaces with the nearness of Safari Park with its wild animals. A mother and child share a book sitting on a bench in front of the library.

The mural will have a big impact with the peak reaching 38 to 40 feet in height and from north to south it will be 140 feet wide.

"Many do not know that is the library. We are hoping that it will represent something attractive, something that the library and community cherish: our beautiful valley, our history and agriculture and young people learning," said Anderson.

When the mural is completed there will be a dedication.

After the mural is done, to help make the library campus more attractive, the city will be removing rubble from an old building's foundation, putting in landscaping and adding an outdoor fitness center. Bradds hopes that with the mural and these improvements, it will bring attention to the building with books, programs and a business center. With time, Bradds hopes to renovate the first floor of the library to create more of an open concept and to have more meeting spaces.

For now, the mural is taking center stage. The public is invited to watch the progress. The area will be cordoned off for safety, but people can visit the site and follow along throughout the summer as Anthony completes her work, filling the canvas with messages that speak to the heart and elevate spirits.