



California Mural Symposiums

One of the responsibilities of CalPAMS is to assist mural communities in the hosting of the biennial California Mural Symposiums. This California Mural Symposium is the largest mural symposium established to promote the awareness and development of public art in our California communities.

The symposiums are held every two years and are focused on trying to promote public art through tourism in California communities. The symposium provides information and personal experience from successful public art communities, artists and art experts. Subjects include nuts and bolts presentations regarding the formation, funding and operation of mural community programs.

The first California Mural Symposium was conducted in Lompoc, a community with approximately 60 murals, by the Lompoc Mural Society. Unfortunately, the catastrophic events of the World Trade Center preceded the symposium by about two weeks. Although there were several cancellations, the event was a tremendous success and paved the way for future symposiums. A definitive 'How To' book titled "From Start to Finish" was introduced at the Lompoc symposium. Written by Lompoc City Attorney David Hirsch and compiled by Gene Stevens, the Lompoc Mural Project Coordinator, the book consists of 86 pages of sample agreements, contracts, fund raisers, liability concerns, legal issues and restoration concepts for mural programs. This is by far the most definitive book on California mural programs that is available.

The Lindsay Mural and Public Arts Society with 20 fine art murals, took up the banner for 2003 and hosted a very successful 5 day symposium. This event attracted more than 100 attendees from 5 different countries and 14 different states. The presenters represented the top artists, muralists, art communities and art experts in the world. From Karl Schutz, Architect of the Chemainus Mural Project, to Baron Dr. Gordon Prestoungrange, Chairman of the Global Arts and Tourism Association the presentations were fantastic. Muralist Art Mortimer completed a mural in a day and trompe l'oeil master John Pugh was declared the "Outstanding Mural Artist of the Year" In California. Lompoc was voted the "Most Successful Mural Community" in California for 2003. Ten professional muralists from Canada and the U.S., completed in a 4 day Mural Art Showdown won by Colleen Mitchell-Veyna of Visalia.

The Bishop Mural Society, boasting 19 murals, hosted the 2005 California Mural Symposium in October of 2005 and it too was a huge success with three murals by John Pugh, Art Mortimer and Janet Essley being completed and dedicated at the symposium. Art historian and author James Prigoff impressed the attendees with his extensive presentation on the history of public art. There were several presenters discussing various materials and types of paint to be used in murals and an onsite evaluation regarding mural maintenance and restoration. The formal introduction of the California Public Arts and Mural Society was also made by Bill Drennen, Gene Stevens and Ray Kinsman. A CalPAMS Application and Member Benefit Schematic are available on this web site.

The tentative host community for the 2007 California Mural Symposium is Manteca, California.

Any communities interested in hosting future mural symposiums are encouraged to contact Bill Drennen at 559-647-1352 or e-mail at bdrennen@calpams.org, for further information.